Advantage Arts Academy
Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 03.24.2026
In Attendance: Suzy Mortenson, Crystal Thomas, Darren Marshall, Meche Mellor
Excused: Chris Joyce
Others in Attendance: Kelly Simonsen, Dawn Benke, Heidi Bauerle, Hannah Jones
Teleconference: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86394276391

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER Suzy Mortenson called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

CONSENT ITEMS

- January 20, 2026, Board Meeting & Closed Session Minutes
  Crystal Thomas made a motion to approve the January 20, 2026, Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes. Darren Marshall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This was the second public comment opportunity for the proposed 2026-2027 Fee Schedule. There were no comments on the Fee Schedule. This was also the first public comment opportunity for the Literacy Curriculum. There were no comments made on the Literacy curriculum.

BOARD TRAINING

- Open and Public Meetings Act Training

Heidi Bauerle facilitated the Open and Public Meeting Act Training for the board. This training is required for board members annually. Board members participated in the training and discussed the requirements for Open and Public Meetings.

REPORTS

- Director Report

Kelly Simonsen reported on enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. There are currently 358 students enrolled with 64 openings left. Universal media has played a vital role in marketing efforts for enrollment. The February attendance challenge was a success with attendance increasing over the months of January, February, and March. There has also been a significant decrease in tardiness. The 2026 talent show included different student performances including music, dance, and martial arts. Spring family paint night had a great turn out, with families who are enrolled for the next school year attending. The glow run raised nine-thousand dollars which will be put towards sound panels for the school gymnasium. After a thorough review process for a new reading literacy program the evaluation committee recommends ARC Core literacy curriculum to be implemented as the new reading curriculum. The curriculum aligns directly with USBE requirements, there is strong evidence of student growth and engagement,

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supports student growth and ownership, and is flexible for arts integration. Arc Core aligns with the mission of Advantage Arts Academy. Board members will continue to evaluate the curriculum, and it will come back for public comment at the next board meeting before approval.

Meche Mellor joined the meeting at 4:18 PM.

- Finance Report

  Dawn Benke reported on the financial position of the school. At this point of the fiscal year, Advantage Arts Academy is performing in line with budget expectations. Total revenue is slightly above 675 benchmarks, while expenses remain below the threshold making for a strong year-to-date net income. Total revenue is $3.5 million representing 74% of the annual budget. Local revenue totals $95,000 which exceeds expectations due to increased facility rentals, student lunch sales, and other miscellaneous revenue from fundraisers. State revenue is $2.9 million, slightly higher than the guideline. Federal revenue is $75k and in line with the budget for this time of year due to federal funds being reimbursement based. Total expenses are $2.9 million or 65% of the annual budget and includes the expenses for refinancing. Net income has significantly exceeded the annual budgeted net income year-to-date being at $526,999 compared to the budgeted $162,475. Operating has also increased by approximately $487k.

VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2026-2027 Fee Schedule

  There were no changes made to the 2026-2027 School Fee Schedule. Administration is making efforts to keep fees affordable for families. There were no questions or concerns from board members.

  Darren Marshall made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Fee Schedule. Meche Mellor seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye, Meche Mellor, Aye.

- Paradigm Articulation Agreement

  The board previously discussed the Paradigm Articulation Agreement and had determined at the time to ask additional questions regarding the agreement. After receiving more information from Paradigm, the board discussed the agreement again and decided at this time they will not be entering into an agreement with Paradigm. No action was taken on this item.

- Amended Administration of Medication Policy

  New legislation added provisions with respect to the storage and administration of glucagon kits in schools. If a school employee becomes trained to administer a glucagon kit to a student in response to a potentially life-threatening condition resulting from abnormally low blood glucose levels, the school may make glucagon kits available to such trained employees. In addition, other legislation renamed

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"epinephrine auto injectors" to 'injectable epinephrine rescue medication". There were no other changes made to policy.

Crystal Thomas made a motion to approve the Amended Administration of Medication Policy. Meche Mellor seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye, Meche Mellor, Aye.

CALENDARING

The next board meeting will be held on April 28th, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURN

AT 5:23 PM Meche Mellor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darren Marshall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye, Meche Mellor, Aye.

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