

Scholar Academy Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 01.29.2026

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85086026933>

In Attendance: Dusty Griffith, Johanna Leonelli, Jacob Howarth, Neil Garner, Traelle Gailey, Collin Post

Others in Attendance: Jeff Hall, Priscilla Stringfellow, Jon McQueary, Hannah Jones, Ken Jeppesen

Scholar Academy is committed to creating a learning environment that fosters in students the development of divergent thinking and problem-solving skills, providing opportunities which enable all students to develop a sense of civic responsibility and achieve their highest potential.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER Dusty Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

BOARD TRAINING

Eide Bailly has completed the annual independent audit of the school's financial statements and compliance for the fiscal year ending June 30. Their audit was conducted in accordance with required standards, and they found that the financial statements fairly represent the school's financial position and activity. They met with the Board to review the audit results, including the financial statements, compliance testing, and this year's required communications.

Ken Jeppesen left the meeting at 5:12 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This was the first public comment period for the proposed 2026-2027 Fee Schedule. There were no public comments.

CLOSED SESSION - to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(a).

This item was tabled.

REPORTS

- Director's Report

Jeff Hall said that the 2026-2027 School Calendar is aligned closely with Tooele school district. There were two key adjustments made to the 2026-2027 school calendar; instead of having a teacher workday before break and returning to students immediately after, it was swapped so the teacher workday is after the break. This change was strongly supported by staff. The other difference to note is the one additional break day in February the Friday before President's Day. There were no changes made to the 2026-2027 proposed Fee Schedule. Efforts to reduce school fees have been a big focus and the school only charges fees for non-curricular or outside school fees when necessary. School Land Trust Funds were supportive of the Tetons trip and the physics day at Lagoon. The Wellness Policy was amended to reflect a change to the committee meeting three times per year to once per year. The LEA is requesting 2 LEA Specific Licenses for educators. Discussion surrounding the school's charter are ongoing and there are some exciting upcoming proposed changes involving the charter. Plans for math curriculum are to gather data classroom data and determine if implementation of a new math curriculum will be possible for the teachers to pilot next year. There has been significant academic growth in the lowest 25 percent of students. One second grade classroom low math group now has zero students off target.

Johanna Leonelli joined the meeting at 5:20 PM.

- **Budget Report**
Jon McQueary highlighted important aspects of the budget. Operating cash is up year over year. Both current and long-term liabilities have decreased year over year. This has led to an overall increase in the school's fund balance. Current operating cash consists of approximately \$1.7 million in the Zion's operating account and \$3.84 million in the PTIF. The school's cash position is very strong. Total revenue is at 49.3 percent and will begin to tick upward as federal funds get drawn down in the next couple of months. Total expenditures are at 43.6 percent of the budget.

CONSENT ITEMS

- **November 20th Board Meeting & Closed Session Minutes**
Neil Garner made a motion to approve the November 20th Board Meeting and Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Traelle Gailey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye.

VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Flooring Services Quote**
Board members reviewed the quote for flooring services. The budget will be adjusted to include the costs of replacing the carpet in all the classrooms in the elementary school building.

Neil Garner made a motion to approve the Flooring Services Quote not to exceed \$114,000. Jacob Howarth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye.

- LEA Licenses

The license areas, and endorsements shall be valid for three (3) academic years as indicated on the attached spreadsheet which contains the associated educator information and rationale for the request. All LEA-Specific licenses will expire on June 30th of the final academic year approved. The Scholar Academy Board of Directors additionally acknowledges that LEA-Specific educator licenses, license areas, or endorsements may be renewed by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE). These renewals will be approved or denied on a case-by-case basis.

Traelle Gailey made a motion to approve the LEA Licenses as discussed. Neil Garner seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye.

- 2026-2027 School Calendar

Annually, the governing board approves the upcoming School year's Calendar. The board reviewed the proposed calendar presented by Jeff Hall.

Neil Garner made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. Collin Post seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye.

- Legislative Updates

Priscilla Stringfellow provided the board with a document that guides them through 2026 Legislative bills to watch.

Jacob Howarth left the meeting at 5:59 PM.

- Amended Student Conduct and Discipline Policy

- Amended Wellness Policy

SB 170 from the 2025 legislative session and corresponding revisions to USBE rule R277-608 (effective November 2025) brought about changes to the rules and requirements related to the use of emergency safety interventions (physical restraint and seclusion) with students. These new rules and requirements have been built into the Student Conduct and Discipline Policy. Other updates and clarifications have also been added to the policy to increase its compliance with new and existing laws and updates to USBE rules, including those related to due process for student disciplinary actions, reinstatement of students after suspension, reintegration plans,

administrative student conduct and discipline plans (plan requirements have decreased), corporal punishment, definitions of suspension and expulsion (as described in R277-609) and the alternative education service requirements related thereto, and state reporting requirements for suspensions and expulsions. The wellness policy amended verbiage to clarify the frequency of committee meetings. There were no other changes to the policy.

Neil Garner made a motion to approve the Amended Student Conduct and Discipline Policy and the Amended Wellness Policy. Traelle Gailey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye.

CALENDARING

The Next board meeting is scheduled for March 26th, 2026, at 5:00 PM in person at the school.

ADJOURN

At 6:04 PM Collin Post made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Neil Garner seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye.