

Syracuse Arts Academy Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 26, 2026

Location: North Campus, 357 S 1550 W, Syracuse, UT 84075



In Attendance: Rene Dreiling, Nate Schow, Neil Garner, Mary Johnston, Art Hansen (via Zoom @ 6:00 p.m.),

Others In Attendance: Heidi Bauerle, Dawn Kawaguchi, Angie Young, Brad Taylor, Kellie Mudrow

SAA Mission Statement

The purpose of Syracuse Arts Academy is to develop respectful, confident citizens in a solid educational environment enriched by artistic expression.

Minutes

2025-2026 Board Vision Plan

CTE/CCA Pathway Funding Access Policy Project
Lunch & SpEd Budget Management
Close Specific Curriculum & Learning Gaps
Build a Business Case for Phased-In Campus Expansions
Engaging Externally

5:37 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Welcome & Roll Call – Mary Johnston
 - Board Mission – Kellie Mudrow
 - School Mission – Neil Garner

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT. This was the first public comment period for the 2026-2027 School Fee Schedule and the Proposed Amended Fee Waiver Policy. Kellie reported that they removed the activity fee for next year due to new legislation. There was a discussion on the sports fees.

REPORTS

- **Board of Directors**
 - Update on School Bonding – Brad Taylor provided an update on the bond issuance process, noting that a state finance meeting is scheduled for 10:00 tomorrow to discuss bonds with the Utah Charter School Finance Authority. He mentioned that the bond offering would be the largest under the credit enhancement program and expressed confidence in the process, despite some concerns about bond rates. Brad also discussed potential questions that could arise during the meeting, particularly regarding student enrollment projections and capacity, and emphasized the importance of having plans in place for small expansions if needed. Brad also gave

a timeline of what to expect in the next couple of months. Closing will most likely be the end of May.

- Financial Update – Rene Dreiling welcomed Angie Young and presented the financial summary which is a little modified from the one Jon had presented last meeting. The board continues to appreciate the summary and there were no further questions.

➤ **Administration**

- State of the School – Kellie Mudrow reviewed the current enrollment and the upcoming year’s enrollment. We are growing with projections showing continued growth of approximately 50 students annually in the jr. high.
 - ✓ Celebrations! – Kellie celebrated that we had five 9th graders from the junior high qualified for FBLA nationals. She also presented a well-organized proposal from the 6th graders at the North campus for a potential pool location with multiple site options and a commitment to help with implementation. The discussion highlighted positive morale and educational environment at the school, with teachers showing strong engagement despite current challenges in education. Kellie shared celebrations about the North Campus Administration's initiatives, including a spring break activity where staff receive ducks to take photos with and post on Facebook. She highlighted the strong morale and passion among staff and teachers, attributing it to the people and the charter's focus on arts integration. Kellie also celebrated the high staff retention rates, reporting an 88% average over the last three years, with most departures due to personal reasons rather than job dissatisfaction. She highlighted that their school is in a good position, with high application numbers and plans to hire more staff due to increasing enrollment. Neil Garner shared positive experiences from recent school events, including Informances and a grandparents' luncheon. Kellie also added a personal connection through her son-in-law who teaches at Career Path High who brought his class to tour the HAFB museum and had Rene as their tour guide.

CONSENT ITEMS

- February 27, 2026 Electronic Board Meeting Minutes – There was no further discussion. **Nate Schow made a motion to approve the consent items. Rene Dreiling seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**
- Mary Johnston – Aye**
 - Neil Garner – Aye**
 - Rene Dreiling – Aye**
 - Art Hansen – Aye**
 - Nate Schow – Aye**
- Motion passed unanimously.**

VOTING ITEMS

- Amend 2025-2026 TSSA Plan for Jr. High – Kellie Mudrow reviewed the amended 2025-2026 Jr. High TSSA Plan which made a change to the budget percentages.

- 2026-2027 School LAND Trust Plans (incl. signature pages) – Kellie Mudrow noted that the plans and signature pages are included in the packet and emphasized that each campus principal approaches this funding with great care, as the plans are tailored to the unique needs and student-success priorities of their individual schools. Mary inquired about the rationale for the larger carryover amount projected for next year. Kellie explained that, while the overall carryover has been kept below 10%, some principals exercised additional caution in their spending. Mary expressed a preference for seeing more of the available funds utilized rather than carried over.
- Award RFP for Landscaping Services – Kellie Mudrow reported that, following a thorough review of the RFP scoring, Adair was awarded the landscaping services contract. She noted that Adair is a new provider and not the company currently performing the landscaping work. Nate asked whether there were plans to install turf, and Kellie confirmed that turf installation is scheduled for this summer using bond funds.
- Award RFP for E-Rate – Kellie Mudrow presented information on the E-Rate program, which provides reimbursement opportunities for data infrastructure in the new annex building. With support from Emily at AW, an RFP was issued for E-Rate services and is scheduled to close tomorrow at 1 p.m. Kellie, Mary, and Nathan will serve on the committee responsible for reviewing and scoring the proposals to select a vendor, ensuring the school receives partial reimbursement for the project. Due to the tight application timeline, approval will authorize Kellie to award the contract, which will then be brought to the Board for ratification at the next meeting.
- Amend Administration of Medication Policy – Heidi Bauerle reviewed the amended Administration of Medication Policy and gave Platte all the props for the work that he did on this. These updates were triggered from recent changes in legislation with respect to the storage and administration of glucagon kits in schools. In addition, other legislation renamed “epinephrine auto injectors” to “injectable epinephrine rescue medication.” Other changes made to bring it into better compliance with applicable law, including the addition of a section on adrenal crisis rescue medication.

Neil Garner made a motion to approve the following items.

- **Approve the Amended 2025-2026 Jr. High Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA) Plan;**
- **Approve the 2026-2027 School LAND Trust Plans for the North Campus, South Campus, Antelope Campus and Jr. High as presented including each campuses signature pages;**
- **Award the contract for Landscaping Services to Adair Landscaping and authorize the lead director to negotiate and sign, on behalf of SAA, a contract for a period of up to five years at the Lead Director’s discretion;**
- **Authorize the Lead Director to award the contract for the purchase of the items specified in the RFP to the offeror whose proposal receives the highest score from the evaluation committee and to take any action necessary to apply for reimbursement through the federal E-rate program. The Board will then ratify this action at the next board meeting; and**
- **Approve the Amended Administration of Medication Policy.**

Rene Dreiling seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

Mary Johnston – Aye

Neil Garner – Aye
Rene Dreiling – Aye
Art Hansen – Aye
Nate Schow – Aye
Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ Calendaring Items – ALL

- Next Pre-Board Meeting on April 16th @ 12:30 p.m.
- Scheduled Electronic Board Meeting April 16th @ 2:30 p.m.
- Next Board Meeting on May 7th @ 9:00 AM @ AW [Strategic Planning]
- PreBoard Meeting on June 4th
- Annual Board Meeting on June 18th
- NCSC26 New Orleans, LA June 24-26 (Wed-Fri) – Art and Kellie will be attending.

6:44 PM – Neil Garner made a motion to ADJOURN. Art Hansen seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

Mary Johnston – Aye
Neil Garner – Aye
Rene Dreiling – Aye
Art Hansen – Aye
Nate Schow – Aye
Motion passed unanimously.