

Advantage Arts Academy Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 04.28.2026

In Attendance: Suzy Mortenson, Crystal Thomas, Darren Marshall, Chris Joyce

Excused: Meche Mellor

Others in Attendance: Kelly Simonsen, Dawn Benke, Heidi Bauerle, Hannah Jones

Teleconference: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89687660736>



ADVANTAGE ARTS
ACADEMY

MINUTES

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

CONSENT ITEMS

- o March 24, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
Crystal Thomas made a motion to approve the March 24, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Darren Marshall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This was the second public comment period for the literacy curriculum. There were no public comments.

REPORTS

- o Director Report
Total current enrollment stands at 355 students with 27 openings remaining across grades. First grade is full of a waitlist of 11 students. Kindergarten has the most availability (10 openings), followed by 3rd and 6th grades (5 each), 2nd and 4th grades (3 each), and 5th grade (1). Marketing efforts include billboard advertising through Universal Media featuring the "Cure for the Common Classroom" campaign. Administration recommends adopting ARC Core as the literacy curriculum based on its alignment with USBE requirements, evidence of student growth and engagement, support for student choice and ownership, flexibility for arts integration, and ability to meet diverse learner needs. The curriculum supports small group instruction, data-driven teaching, and differentiation while providing training and resources for teachers. It aligns naturally with AAA's arts integration mission and whole-child education approach. Materials are available for public review at americanreading.com/arc-core.
- o Finance Report
The school is performing in line with budget expectations at the three-quarter point of the fiscal year. Total revenue is tracking slightly above the 75% benchmark while expenses remain below it, resulting in a strong year-to-date net income. Total revenue stands at \$3.8 million, representing 73% of the annual budget. Total expenses are \$3.3 million, or 73% of the annual budget (this figure includes refinancing expenses).

VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2026-2027 School LAND Trust Plan
The School LAND Trust council voted to approve the 2026-2027 School LAND Trust plan. Funds will be used to fund the instructional coach position. There were no questions or concerns from the board about the plan.
Crystal Thomas made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 School LAND Trust Plan. Darren Marshall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.
- 2026-2027 TSSA Plan
The Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA), established by SB 149 (2019), requires the board to adopt a Student Success Framework and annually review and approve a Teacher and Student Success Plan. The plan outlines how funds will be allocated to support student achievement and teacher effectiveness, with periodic amendments made as needed to better align spending with identified priorities, ensure effective use of funds, and address evolving school needs.
Chris Joyce made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 TSSA Plan. Crystal Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.
- 2026-2027 Sex Education Committee Membership
The School's Board of Directors will review and approve the membership of the committee on or before August 1 each year. This committee shall be composed of parents, health professionals, school health educators, and administrators, with at least as many parent members as school employee members. Kelly Simonsen provided the makeup of the committee in the board documents. There were no questions or concerns from the board.
Chris Joyce made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Sex Education Committee Membership. Crystal Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.
- Literacy Curriculum
The Arc Core Knowledge Building Curriculum has gone through two public comment periods. Board members reviewed the proposals provided by ARC Core. Administration is requesting an approval amount not to exceed \$150,000.
Darren Marshall made a motion to approve the ARC Core Knowledge Building Literacy Curriculum not to exceed \$150,000. Chris Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.
- Eide Bailly Statement of Work
Eide Bailly is a regional certified public accounting firm that has performed the school's audit attestation services in prior years. Such attestation services include the audited financial statements, agreed-upon procedures for student enrollment,

state compliance procedures, and possibly a single audit. A single audit will be required if the school incurs more than \$1M in federal expenditures. Each year the school is required to approve the services.

Crystal Thomas made a motion to approve the Eide Bailly Statement of Work and authorize Suzy Mortenson to execute the contract. Darren Marshall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.

- Policies
 - Review Sex Education Instruction Policy and Recent Sex Education Data Every two years the Board of Directors will (a) review this policy; and (b) review data for the county in which the school is located regarding teen pregnancy, child sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections, and the number of pornography complaints or other instances reported in the school. Board members reviewed the policy and the data that were provided in the board meeting documents.

CALENDARING

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2026, at 4:30 PM.

ADJOURN

At 4:47 PM Chris Joyce made a motion adjourn the meeting. Darren Marshall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.