SCHOLAR ACADEMY
ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Scholar Academy
Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 05.28.2026
Location: 928 N 100 E Basecamp 1, Tooele, UT 84074
In Attendance: Dusty Griffith, Johanna Leonelli, Collin Post, Jacob Howarth, Sandy Shepard
Excused: Traelle Gailey
Others in Attendance: Jeff Hall, Priscilla Stringfellow, Hannah Jones, Jon McQueary

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 5:07 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

- Director's Report
  Scholar Academy had a strong year on RISE assessments, improving in all three tested areas after last year's declines, with Language Arts and Science each up 5% and Math up 2%; because Math showed the smallest gain, it will be a primary focus next year. The board reviewed several items for possible approval, including parking lot asphalt and striping ($35,326.75), student device monitoring software (about $5,000/year, comparing Go Guardian and LanSchool), Kagan staff training ($10,690), enVision Math curriculum ($19,168.62), and the Reading Horizons literacy renewal ($13,783.20), while a future student information system (Skyward) was noted but held for now. Staff retention was strong, with three new teachers joining and several changes including one retirement, one non-renewal, one teacher taking a year off, and the middle school counselor leaving for family reasons; Mrs. Fidler is moving into a part-time instructional coach role, and Brandon Heaton ("Mr. B") is becoming Vice Principal, with Mrs. Tignor leading instruction and Mr. B overseeing discipline and front office operations. Looking ahead, next year's Strategic Plan focuses on two goals — improving math through curriculum review and stronger foundational instruction and increasing student engagement through whole-staff Kagan training — and the updated TSSA grant now emphasizes early intervention, supported by new Panorama software to help identify and address student needs proactively.
- Budget Report

As of April 30, 2026, Scholar Academy has collected $6,839,802 in revenue, about 81% of its annual budget of $8,463,709, with most funding coming from state sources; federal revenue is running low at 17% but typically arrives later in the year. Total expenses stand at $6,139,234, or 79% of the $7,760,750 budget, leaving a net income of $700,568 — almost exactly on target for the projected annual net of $702,959. Most spending categories are tracking as expected, with the notable exception of Property, which is over budget due to capital purchases. The school's financial position remains strong, with about $5.76 million in operating cash, $933,519 in restricted cash, and a fund balance of $5.28 million, up from $4.0 million the prior year. Completed annually using the Utah State Auditor's questionnaire, this assessment confirms the school's internal financial controls are sound. Scholar Academy scored 355 out of 395 points, placing it in the lowest ("Very Low") risk category. The school earned full credit for separation of duties, board-adopted financial policies, a fraud hotline, an audit committee, and qualified financial staff. It was signed by CAO Jeff Hall and CFO Jacob Howarth on 5/28/2026 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.Each year, board members sign a written statement affirming they have read the school's Ethics Policy and commit to acting ethically, upholding high standards of conduct, and complying with applicable law.

CONSENT ITEMS

- March 26th Board Meeting & Closed Session Minutes
  Sandy Shepard made a motion to approve the March 26th Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes. Johanna Leonelli seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Policies
    - Amended Fee Waiver Policy
    - Amended Administration of Medication Policy
    - Review Donations and Fundraising Policy
    - Review Sex Education instruction Policy and Sex Education County Data

HB 344 from the 2025 legislative session separates out courses for school fee charging purposes into "non-fee courses" (ELA, health education, math, science, and social studies) and "fee courses" (all courses that are not non-fee courses) This new law restricts what types of fees can be charged for such courses. It also specifies that beginning with the 26-27 school year, schools that have secondary students (students in grades 7-12) and award them credit toward graduation must provide at least one option for each graduation credit requirement that does not require the payment or waiver of a fee. However, there is an exception for charter schools that only offer the following for a given graduation requirement: an AP, IB, or CE course. HB 344 also extends the annual deadline by which schools must approve their fee schedules for the following school year, changing it from April 1 to June 1. The changes from HB 344 and R277-407 (which was last revised in December 2025) have been worked into the school's Fee Waiver 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 "epinephrine auto injectors" to "injectable epinephrine rescue medication." The school's Administration of Medication Policy has been revised to comply with these new laws. Some additional revisions have been made to the emergency administration of medication portion of the policy to bring it into better compliance with applicable law, including the addition of a section on adrenal crisis rescue medication. Under Utah governance requirements, certain Board policies must be reviewed periodically. The Donation and Fundraising and Sex Education Instruction policies are currently due for scheduled review along with the most recent sex education county data. Currently, no revisions are recommended. *Jacob Howarth made a motion to approve the Amended Fee Waiver Policy and the Amended Administration of Medication Policy. Collin Post seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.*

- Purchases
    - Asphalt Maintenance
    - Go Guardian Purchase
    - EnVision Math
    - Reading Horizons
- Kagan Professional Development Training Costs

The school's asphalt maintenance plan for 2026 includes preventative maintenance and targeted repairs intended to extend the life of the existing pavement and address areas showing deterioration. The proposal notes that the parking lot was last seal coated in 2021, and with the recommended maintenance approach, the school can typically expect approximately five additional years of pavement life before another full seal coat would likely be needed. The proposed work includes replacement of a damaged section of asphalt on the north side of the property, crack sealing, AP4 surface treatment, and updated line striping. The proposal also includes color-coded maps identifying the specific areas of work for ease of review and project planning. The total proposed cost for the project is $35,326.75. Student device monitoring software is used to support classroom management, student safety, and appropriate technology use. The current GoGuardian renewal is approximately $5,355 annually. Administration is also reviewing LanSchool as a potential alternative due to concerns with the current platform before making a long-term recommendation. The enVision Math curriculum is being considered as a math pilot and potential curriculum purchase to support improved student math progress and instructional consistency

across grade levels. The quote includes curriculum materials, digital licenses, and professional learning support for teachers, with a total cost of $19,168.62. The proposed Reading Horizons purchase supports Scholar Academy's literacy instruction through a combination of digital reading intervention software, instructional materials, and student transfer books for multiple grade levels. The package includes the Reading Horizons Discovery online site license, supplemental Elevate software, and print resources designed to support phonics, fluency, comprehension, and differentiated instruction for students. The total cost of the purchase is $13,783.20, including shipping. The program also includes ongoing support resources and online accessibility for both school and home use. Kagan training is a whole-staff professional development opportunity focused on student engagement and cooperative learning strategies. The training is part of the school's Strategic Plan for the upcoming year and is intended to support instructional consistency and classroom engagement across the school. The total cost for the full-day training is $10,690, inclusive of materials and trainer travel fees.
Sandy Shepard made a motion to approve the Asphalt Maintenance Purchase, Reading Horizons Purchase, and Kagan Professional Development Training Costs, and table the Envision Math Purchase, and table the Go guardian Purchase. Jacob Howarth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

- Mental Health Grant
- 2026-2027 Sex Education Committee
- 2026-2027 TSSA Plan

The Board is asked to review and approve the school-Based Mental Health Qualified Grant and associated funding allocation. This optional grant program provides funding for schools to support additional student mental health and behavioral services through qualified personnel, counseling support, intervention strategies, and proactive student support systems designed to improve student well-being, reduce disruptive behaviors, and increase student success and engagement within the school environment. Approval of the grant will allow the school to utilize the awarded funds as outlined in the application and budget allocation presented to the Board. 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.
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.

Collin Post made a motion to approve the Mental Health Grant, the 2026-2027 Sex Education Committee, and the 2026-2027 TSSA Plan. Sandy Shepard seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

- Board Member Terms & Elected Officers
  In accordance with the school's bylaws and standard board governance practices, board officer positions are reviewed and elected annually. This annual action allows the board to formally designate officer roles, including positions such as Chair, Vice Chair, and Financial Coordinator, for the upcoming year. While officer positions are renewed annually, the current board members' individual board terms are not expiring currently. This item is strictly related to the annual election and confirmation of officer assignments and does not impact the existing terms of service for current board members.
  Dusty Griffith made a motion to approve the Board Member Terms & Elected Officers as discussed. Jacob Howarth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

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

At 6:38 PM Dusty Griffith made a motion to enter a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(I)(a) at Scholar Academy in Tooele, UT. Johanna Leonelli seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

At 7:33 PM Dusty Griffith made a motion to leave the closed session and enter the general meeting. Johanna Leonelli seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

- Administrative Compensation
  There was no vote or discussion on Administrative Compensation in the general session of the meeting.

- 2026-2027 Director Employment Agreement
  The Board reviews and approves the Director's annual employment agreement to ensure compensation is appropriate and aligned with organizational performance. This process includes reviewing salary and compensation details, using a standard HR-provided agreement template, and discussing terms in a closed session. The

Board determines performance pay and any end-of-year bonuses before formally approving and signing the agreement. Finalized documents are submitted to HR, and compensation records are updated accordingly to ensure accuracy and compliance.
Dusty Griffith made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Director Employment Agreement as discussed in closed session. Jacob Howarth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

CALENDARING

- 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar
  The board discussed the proposed 2026-2027 Board Meeting calendar.
  Dusty Griffith made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar. Johanna Leonelli seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

  The next board meeting is June 16th at 4:30 PM on Zoom.

ADJOURN

At 7:46 PM Dusty Griffith made a motion to adjourn. Collin Post seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

SCHOLAR ACADEMY
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Board of Directors Closed Session

Meeting Date: 05.28.2026
Location: 928 N 100 E Basecamp 1, Tooele, UT 84074

CLOSED SESSION SWORN STATEMENT:

At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for __Scholar Academy____ entered a closed session for the sole purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in accordance with Utah Code Ann. 52-4-2(1)(a).

I declare under criminal penalty under the law of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on the 28th day of May, located in Tooele, UT.

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Dusty Griffith, Board Chair