Syracuse Arts Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
August 20, 2026
Location: SAA North Campus- 357 S 1550 W, Syracuse, UT 84075
Time: 5:30 PM
In Attendance: Mary Johnston, Neil Garner, Rene Dreiling, Art Hansen, Nate Schow
Others In Attendance: Kellie Mudrow, Krystal Taylor, Angie Young, Brad Taylor, Heidi Beauerle, Wendy Long, Tami Oliver, Michelle Parry, Jeff Marchant

MINUTES

INTRODUCTORY

Mary Johnston called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.
Neil Garner shared the board mission statement and Kellie Mudrow shared the school mission statement.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

- Finance Reports
  - Financial Update – Rene Dreiling/Angie Young
    July 2026 financials were reviewed. As of July 31, 2026, the school is 8% through fiscal year 2027. Auditors are on site at Academica West and the SAA trial balance is due by the end of August. The Board was advised that the July 2026 statements do not yet reflect accurate budget percentages in every category because the preliminary FY2027 budget was submitted in June and will require amendment once the bond proceeds, the purchase of the South campus, and the APEX grant award are reflected. A budget amendment will be brought back to the Board following the close of FY2026.
- Administration Reports
  - State of the School – Kellie Mudrow
    Ms. Mudrow introduced the Syracuse Arts Academy administrative team. Sentiments were shared expressing the excitement in the air for all who have returned for a new school year. Enrollment numbers are very strong and increasing. The turf field has now been installed, cement is being poured for the new gymnasium and other construction efforts are successfully underway.
- Board Chair Report—Mary Johnston
  - 360 Advantage
    The Board received an informational overview of 360 Advantage, an enterprise payroll optimization and preventive care management program. As presented, the program is designed to reduce employer payroll tax burden and increase employee take-home pay without disrupting existing health benefit plans, and pairs a message-based preventive, behavioral, and chronic care support platform with a MassMutual whole life insurance component.

CONSENT ITEMS

- June 17, 2026 Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes
- July 22, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

  Rene Dreiling made a motion to approve the June 17, 2026 Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes and the July 22, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Neil Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Mary Johnston, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Art Hansen, Aye; Nate Schow, Aye; Rene Dreiling, Aye.

VOTING ITEMS

- Into Math Purchase

  Syracuse Arts Academy Antelope Elementary requested approval to purchase HMH Into Math K–6 Version 2, including student and teacher materials, digital licenses, and instructional resources, for a two-year period. The proposal totals $38,764.69, consisting of $31,407.80 in materials and $7,356.89 in shipping and handling.

- Retention Wall- Luxe Landscape

  The Board reviewed a proposal from Luxe Landscape for construction of a retaining wall south of the turf field at the South campus. The scope of work includes soil and rock removal, site preparation with road base, compaction, and installation of a block retaining wall to retain soil and stabilize the area. The total estimated cost is $29,500.

- Bleacher Purchase

  The Board reviewed a proposal from ADP Lemco, Inc. for the purchase and installation of new Irwin Seating telescopic bleachers at the Antelope campus. The bleachers provide an estimated seating capacity of 302 seats plus six wheelchair-accessible spaces and include self-storing end rails, aisle rails and steps, and a 120 VAC single-phase IDS power system. The purchase is available through State Contract with an estimated cost of $68,898.

- Meal Charge Increase

  Ms. Mudrow proposed increases to student and adult meal prices. Student breakfast and lunch prices will each increase by $0.10. Adult meal prices will increase from $4.00 to $5.00.

- Policy Amendments

  The Board reviewed the following policy amendments, presented for approval:

  - Capitalization and Expense

    Federal regulations and the Utah Division of Finance Capital Assets Policy were amended to increase the capitalization threshold from $5,000 to $10,000. The school’s Capitalization and Expense Policy has been revised accordingly. The school’s accountant supports this change.

  - Electronic Resources

    The policy and corresponding administrative procedures have been revised to comply with changes in law, including SB 88 from the 2026 legislative session. Revisions specify that the policy must be reviewed and approved at least every three years; that all rules and procedures applicable to the policy must be available for review at the school; that AI glasses are included in the definition of “electronic device”; and that parents may request that administration allow their student to briefly use a privately-owned electronic device during non-instructional time at a location designated by the school. The revisions also clarify the definitions of "obscene" and "harmful to minors" and explain that the school's technology protection measures include a parent-accessible monitoring system allowing parents to review their child's activity on school-owned devices.

- Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery

  HB 329 from the 2026 legislative session expanded paid leave benefits for qualified LEA employees. The bill requires LEAs to provide an additional three weeks of paid leave to a qualified employee who adopts a child under six years of age, in addition to the three weeks of parental leave already available, and creates a separate category of foster leave requiring four weeks of paid leave for a qualified employee who becomes a foster parent. The policy has been revised to incorporate these changes and retitled the Paid Parental, Postpartum Recovery, Adoption, and Foster Leave Policy.
- Procurement

  The Procurement Policy has been revised to comply with changes to R33-105, including requirements for quotes on purchases between $5,000 and $50,000, professional services, and construction projects. A provision was also added regarding the school following federal procurement requirements, when applicable, for goods and services procured with federal grant funds.
- Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators Policy (SHiNE)

  By law, the school must update or re-approve its SHiNE Policy annually. No changes are recommended to the school's designated high-needs areas. In consultation with accounting and legal counsel, provisions were added regarding payment of the salary supplement, including that a teacher whose employment ends before the supplement is paid will receive only a prorated portion based on the portion of the school year worked, and that a teacher hired after the certified list of recipients is finalized is not automatically entitled to a supplement but may, at the administrator's discretion and subject to SHiNE funding, receive a prorated supplement. Other minor revisions were also recommended.
- Sex Education Instruction

  HB 281 from the 2025 legislative session revised the definition of "sex education instruction," modified the list of prohibited sex education related topics and revised health curriculum requirements for junior high and high school students, including instruction in "situational awareness" and the "success sequence." The policy and administrative procedures have been revised to comply with these requirements, which take effect July 1, 2026, and to specify that parent or staff complaints regarding sex education instruction materials be addressed under the school's applicable grievance policy.
- Weapons on School Property

  HB 84 clarifies that individuals may not carry a firearm on school property, whether openly or concealed, unless authorized by law, and that an individual with a concealed firearm permit may carry only in a concealed manner unless lawfully responding to an active threat or another statutory exception applies. The Weapons on School Property Policy has been amended to reflect these changes.

Neil Garner made a motion to approve the Into Math purchase in the amount up to $40,000; the retaining wall project with Luxe Landscape in the amount up to $30,000; the purchase of bleachers from ADP Lemco, Inc. in the amount up to $70,000; the meal charge increase of ten cents to student breakfast and lunch costs and one dollar for adult meals as presented; and the amendments to the Capitalization and Expense, Electronic Resources, Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery, Procurement, Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (SHiNE), Sex Education Instruction and Weapons on School Property policies as presented. Art Hansen seconded. Votes were as follows: Mary Johnston, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Art Hansen, Aye; Nate Schow, Aye; Rene Dreiling, Aye. Motion passed.

CALENDARING

- Next Board Meeting
  The next Board Meeting will be held on October 1, 2026 at 5:30 PM at the SAA North Campus.

ADJOURN

At 6:51PM, Nate Schow made a motion to adjourn. Rene Dreiling seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Mary Johnston, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Art Hansen, Aye; Nate Schow, Aye; Rene Dreiling, Aye.