

Advantage Arts Academy Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 09.28.2026

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82943150336>

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

Excused: Meche Mellor

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



ADVANTAGE ARTS
ACADEMY

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER Suzy Mortenson called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.

CONSENT ITEMS

- August 10, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
Darren Marshall made a motion to approve the August 10, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Crystal Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

- Director Report
Director Kelly Simonsen reported that Advantage Arts Academy has met the state's requirements to exit Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) status. The school entered ATSI in 2022 to give extra support to one group of students, and that group has now improved enough to leave it. She also shared early results from the state School Report Card. Current enrollment is 338 students, with 27 open seats. She reviewed why 49 students withdrew, finding that most chose another local school or moved. She also asked the Board for ideas on how to attract and keep families. Recent events included Literacy Night and a Star Student Breakfast, and the school's annual fundraising carnival is on Friday, October 16.

VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Schedule Change for 2027-2028 SY
Continuing the discussion about a possible four-day school week, administration shared that about 64% of families who answered a spring survey preferred a four-day week, and that absences so far this year are higher on Fridays than on other days. Kelly

Simonsen asked the Board to support more research into a four-day week. This would include talking with other schools that use one and with the state, then reporting back. The board is open to continue the discussion surrounding the schedule change and supports administration in the plan presented and to present more information upon further research. No action was taken on this item.

- Finance Report

Dawn Benke reported on the current financial position of the school. Year-to-date revenue is \$918,798 (19.2% of the \$4.79M annual budget), and expenses are \$425,043 (9.2% of the \$4.64M budget), for a year-to-date net income of \$493,755. Operating cash stands at \$1,355,038, up from \$919,224 at the same time last year, with total assets of \$12.9M. There were no questions or concerns regarding the school's financial position from board members.

VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Amended TSSA Framework

Board members reviewed the TSSA Framework. The TSSA framework is required to be updated to include a Literacy Achievement in accordance with SB 241 (2026) and State Rule R277-927. The Plan has been updated to address the school's progress toward statewide literacy proficiency goals and if the school fails to meet statewide literacy goals, the school must dedicate at least 50% of TSSA funds toward evidence-based literacy interventions and practices as described in 53G-7-921304(2)(e).

Crystal Thomas made a motion to approve the Amended TSSA Framework. Chris Joyce seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.

- Policies

- Amended Attendance Policy
- Amended Bullying and Hazing Policy
- Amended Capitalization and Expense Policy
- Amended Electronic Resources Policy
- Amended Fee Waiver Policy
- Amended Financial Reporting Policy
- Amended Lottery and Enrollment Policy
- Amended Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave Policy
- Amended Procurement Policy
- Amended Religion and Education Policy & Procedures
- Amended Sex Education Instruction Policy
- Amended Student Conduct and Discipline Policy
- Amended Weapons on School Property Policy

Chris Joyce made a motion to approve the Amended policies listed. Crystal Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.

CALENDARING

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2026, at 4:30 PM.

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).

Item tabled.

ADJOURN

At 5:23 PM Darren Marshall made a motion to adjourn. Crystal Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Suzy Mortenson, Aye; Crystal Thomas, Aye; Darren Marshall, Aye; Chris Joyce, Aye.