

**Syracuse Arts Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
October 1, 2026**

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

Time: 5:30 PM

In Attendance: Mary Johnston, Neil Garner, Art Hansen, Nate Schow

Others In Attendance: Kellie Mudrow, Krystal Taylor, Angie Young, Heidi Beauerle, Platte Nielsen

Excused: Rene Dreiling



MINUTES

INTRODUCTORY

Mary Johnston called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

- Welcome & Roll Call
 - Board Mission
 - School MissionNate Schow shared the board mission statement, and Kellie Mudrow shared the school mission statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

- Finance Reports
 - Financial Update – Angie YoungAugust 2026 financials were reviewed. As of August 31, 2026, the school is 17% through fiscal year 2027. Financial statements for the close of fiscal year 2026 are wrapping up. Neil Garner requested clarification on construction costs. Angie Young explained that the budget shown in the financial statements has not been adjusted for bond proceeds, the purchase of the South building, the APEX grant, and other grant funds that were not known when the preliminary budget was approved. The auditors from Eide-Bailey have been reviewing the trial balance and final efforts are being made to certify actuals.
- Administration Reports
 - State of the School – Kellie MudrowEnrollment is currently 2,116 students. North Campus had initially loaded all grade levels at 27 students per class, but adjustments have been made to reduce class sizes. SAA North Elementary was recognized as a 2026 Readers' Choice Award recipient in the Best of Davis County, with a plaque to be presented to the administration at an upcoming school-wide assembly. The Davis County Sheriff's Office continues to utilize SAA facilities for trainings, supporting a strong partnership and commitment to student safety, and SAA Jr. High will also be participating in an upcoming safety exercise.

CONSENT ITEMS

- August 20, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

Nate Schow made a motion to approve the August 20, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Art Hansen seconded. Motion passed. Votes were as follows: Mary Johnston, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Art Hansen, Aye; Nate Schow, Aye.

VOTING ITEMS

- **Amended Teacher Student Success Act (TSSA) Framework**

Ms. Mudrow presented the amended TSSA Framework, which is required to be updated to include 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. If the school fails to meet statewide literacy goals, it must dedicate at least 50% of TSSA funds toward evidence-based literacy interventions and practices as described in Utah Code 53G-7-1304(2)(e).
- **LEA Specific Licenses**

The Board considered approval of LEA-Specific license requests for Syracuse Arts Academy educators in various license areas and endorsements. The licenses will be valid for three (3) academic years, as indicated on the accompanying spreadsheet, which includes the associated educator information and rationale for each request. All LEA-Specific licenses will expire on June 30 of the final academic year approved and may be considered for renewal by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) on a case-by-case basis.
- **Bleachers Purchase**

A portion of bleachers were previously approved. The board has opted to not extend the number of bleachers at this time and hold to the prior number approved. Item tabled.
- **Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreements with Syracuse City**

The Board reviewed two Interlocal Cooperation Agreements with Syracuse City related to Syracuse Arts Academy facilities. The first provides for the expansion of the North Campus parking lot, with the Syracuse City Redevelopment Agency reimbursing SAA for eligible construction costs up to \$1,000,000. The second allows the Syracuse City Arts Council limited use of SAA's auditorium, amphitheater, and new theater facility at no rental charge, with the City responsible for associated staff costs, damages, and insurance. Both agreements outline the responsibilities of SAA and Syracuse City related to the use, funding, and maintenance of the respective facilities. After discussion, the board will continue to work with legal to finalize the proposed agreement. This item will be brought back to the board for further discussion at the next board meeting.
- **Policy & Plan Amendments**

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

 - **Attendance Policy**

The Attendance Policy and administrative procedures were revised to reflect bills enacted during the 2026 legislative session. HB 145 amended the definition of a "valid excuse." HB 502 authorizes schools to include attendance as up to twenty percent (20%) of a student's final course grade for students in grades 7 through 12. SB 58 revised several attendance-related definitions, including "instructional hours" and "chronic absenteeism," and requires

schools to regularly review attendance data to identify students at risk of chronic absenteeism, train relevant staff, and implement attendance monitoring and intervention practices. It also requires governing boards to annually review attendance data, evaluate the effectiveness of attendance interventions, and ensure adequate resources are available to support attendance monitoring and intervention programs.

- **Bullying & Hazing Policy**

The USBE recently published a model Bullying Policy. Although the school's existing policy was already largely consistent with the model, several provisions were incorporated to strengthen and clarify it, including definitions for "accountability practice" and "restorative justice practice"; a requirement to leave a voicemail and send an email to a parent who cannot be reached by telephone regarding an incident involving the parent's child; clarification that a student's age, development, maturity, and other relevant factors are considered when determining appropriate discipline; and expanded provisions on annual reporting, employee training, and bullying incident reporting.

- **Fee Waiver Policy**

HB 142 permits students to receive fee waivers for no more than two (2) school-sponsored trips per school year. To qualify for a waiver for a second trip in the same school year, a student must request the waiver and, in coordination with school administration, complete an action plan describing how the student or the student's family will contribute to the school or community through work or other service in lieu of paying the trip fees. The policy was revised to reflect these statutory changes.

- **Financial Reporting Policy**

Audits of the school's financial reporting must now be conducted in accordance with both Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS). Because the policy referenced only GAAS, it was revised to also require compliance with GAGAS.

- **Financial, Debt, and Risk Management Plan**

Updates to the plan include correcting its reference to the "Financial Accounting Standards Board" (FASB) to the "Governmental Accounting Standards Board" (GASB), as well as a few other minor changes.

- **Lottery & Enrollment Policy**

The changes bring the policy into compliance with current law and the school's charter and Schedule A (if applicable) regarding enrollment preferences and reflect current law governing the denial of student admission based on prior disciplinary issues and misconduct (SB 131 and SB 167, 2026 legislative session). Additional revisions clarify the school's procedures for addressing material misrepresentations or omissions in lottery applications discovered after a student has been enrolled.

- **Student Conduct & Discipline Policy**

SB 167 revised requirements governing the reintegration of students involved in serious offenses, including the timing and required contents of reintegration plans. SB 181 established new physical standards for seclusion rooms (size, ceiling height, construction materials, lighting, ventilation, audio and video recording equipment, and door locks), the circumstances under which seclusion may continue when a parent cannot be reached after 15 minutes and the 30-

minute limit has expired, and new requirements when violations relating to seclusion or physical restraint are alleged. HB 188 revised the circumstances under which a school may refer a student to court for a drug offense, generally prohibiting a referral until after a third allegation that the student committed a drug offense on school property. The policy was revised to reflect these changes.

- **Tuition Reimbursement Policy**

The proposed changes specify that only licensed educators of the school are eligible for tuition reimbursement; increase the reimbursement rate from \$150 to \$250 per credit hour; clarify that the Board President handles tuition reimbursement requests of the Lead Director; and state that approvals are at the discretion of the Lead Director (or the Board President if the Lead Director is the employee seeking reimbursement). The corresponding Tuition Reimbursement Agreement was also amended to be consistent with these changes and to explain how pro rata repayment will work for employees who do not remain employed at the school for three years after receiving a reimbursement payment.

Nate Schow made a motion to approve the Amended Teacher Student Success Act (TSSA) Framework; the LEA Specific licenses as presented; and the amendments to the Attendance, Bullying & Hazing, Fee Waiver, Financial Reporting, Financial, Debt, and Risk Management Plan, Lottery & Enrollment, Student Conduct & Discipline, and Tuition Reimbursement policy with minor adjustments as discussed. Neil Garner seconded. Motion passed. Votes were as follows: Mary Johnston, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Art Hansen, Aye; Nate Schow, Aye.

CALENDARING

- The next board meeting will be held on December 3, 2026. The board will explore options for a winter social on November 5th.

ADJOURN

At 6:48 PM Art Hansen made a motion to adjourn. Neil Garner seconded. Motion passed. Votes were as follows: Mary Johnston, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Art Hansen, Aye; Nate Schow, Aye.