

# Syracuse Arts Academy Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 4, 2021

Place: Academica West, 290 N Flint Street, Kaysville, UT 84037



**In Attendance:** Mary Johnston, Rene Dreiling, Bryan DeGrange, Jerrad Pullum, Nate Schow

**Others in Attendance:** Janey Stoddard, Platte Nielson, Dawn Kawaguchi, Jon McQueary, Tim Phillips, Judy Nixon, Dale Pfister, Leigh Schwartz, Jane Ann Kammeyer, Mike Geilmann (via Zoom), Kim Dohrer (5:48 p.m. via Zoom), Brad Taylor (6:10 p.m.)

The purpose of Syracuse Arts Academy is to develop respectful, confident citizens in a solid educational environment enriched by artistic expression.



## Minutes

### 2020-2021 School Priorities

Schoolwide Unity, Cooperation & Collaboration  
Expansion of Arts Integration

Maximize All Data Sources to Improve Student Instruction and Performance

#### **5:14 PM** – Call to Order

- Welcome by Bryan DeGrange
- “Traditions” – The SAA Way
  - School Vision – Mary Johnston
  - Storytelling – Jane Ann Kammeyer shared a video with the board that was a collage of all the wonderful integrated arts that the Antelope Elementary participated in during December. She stated that we have amazing people working for us that are trying to help kids feel a sense of normalcy and experience in some ways some of the things that we have had to try and change this year.

**There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.** This was the second public viewing period for the 2021-2022 School Fee Schedule and the Fee Waiver Policy.

## **REPORTS**

➤ **Administration**

- State of the School – Dale Pfister thanked the administration team for their hundreds of years of combined experience except for Tim but he’s going to get there. He also thanked the board for their support. The administration tries to tell the stakeholders what a supportive board they have. Dale gave a COVID update. We have amazingly low numbers. We have less than five people total in all three buildings out right now. Overall, we have had more adults out than students. Our contact tracing people in each building have done a yeoman’s job of keeping up with everything. Missa Deller is now certified to do rapid testing. She has received (80) new kits. If a teacher has been exposed then they can come back 5-7 days and take the test without having to stay away longer.
  - ✓ Dale gave an update on BOR, Ring Road, and Syracuse City Property. The construction on the canal has caused additional gridlock to our drop off and pick up traffic. We have notified our parents to inform that to the best of our ability the situation with the BOR and what the plan is for next year. The Syracuse land purchase agreement has been signed by both parties and the earnest money is on its way to the title company. We still haven’t figured out the financing. The ring road must be done. We have a meeting with UDOT and BOR scheduled for tomorrow. Drawings should be sent out and we should be ready to get bids. The drawings were held up by the city fire marshal and the state fire marshal. Platte gave a brief update on the delay in the land purchase agreement. The final boundaries have been set. It came out to be about 15 acres which is less than originally stated. The cost has been decreased quite a bit. He is currently working with Dale on the BOR ring road and parking lot that has been unofficially approved going onto their easement. We are working on completing an official application permit for the easement. The last thing we will need to do is the cost to cure. There was a discussion on the northeast corner and the land needed for the ring road. There was a discussion on all the costs that the school has incurred to get everything ready for the cost to cure including all the Silverpeak work.
  - ✓ Enrollment & Lottery – Dale stated that Syracuse Arts Academy is now the 7<sup>th</sup> largest charter LEA of (114) charter schools in Utah.
    - ★ February 2019, we had 1,777 students.
    - ★ February 2020, we had 1,748 students
    - ★ February 2021, we have 1,738 studentsDale stated that 1,752 is the magic number. Dale gave a brief update on the number of distance learning kids which is now about half of what we started with.

➤ **Board of Directors**

- Financial Update – Rene Dreiling reviewed the financials as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. He reviewed the statement of activities and the statement of financial position. Days cash on hand is about 179 days. Jon stated that the local revenue is going to be down because you are not collecting many fees from students or collecting lunch money etc. But all the COVID money is really going to boost your state and federal funding. Once we start to draw that money down those funds are going to go up.

There was a discussion on the days cash on hand and if it's typical or different for this year.

➤ **Academica West**

- AW Recap – Platte has been working on a lot of the property and UDOT issues. He has been working with Dale on some policies reviews and revisions. There have been some HR issues. There have been some extra ESSR2 funding that we have been working on to work with Dale on a grant that was a quick turnaround. Janey gave an update on the ESSR2 grant application that was recalled due to the state sending out language that was not in Senate Bill 1 which is the funding for COVID relief. We are in a holding pattern until the revisions are in for SB1 and then we will reapply the ESSR2 application. We will follow SB1's guidelines so that we won't have to repay the funds back. Platte also stated that our HR department has been working on gathering bids from payroll and benefits companies because the current agreement with Helpside is about to expire.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

➤ New Hires

- Lacey Amparan, SPED Paraprofessional
- Valerie Ljungberg, Kitchen
- Amanda Weston, Paraprofessional
- Heidi Baranowski, SpED Paraprofessional
- Janson Michelsen, SpED Paraprofessional
- Danielle Bosserman, Elementary Math TA

➤ December 3, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes – There was no further discussion. **Nate Schow made a motion to approve the consent items. Mary Johnston seconded the motion.**

**The votes were as follows:**

**Bryan DeGrange – Aye**

**Nate Schow – Aye**

**Rene Dreiling – Aye**

**Mary Johnston – Aye**

**Jerrad Pullum – Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**BUSINESS ITEMS (To Be Discussed and/or Voted Upon)**

- Discuss & Vote on 2021-2022 School Fee Schedule – Dale Pfister stated that this is the same fee schedule from last year. No changes were made. We did not charge any fees this year. Jerrad expressed his opinion on charging fees. There was a discussion on what do we do for families who don't pay for their fees. There was a discussion on the fee waiver process. Dale doesn't think that they have never denied a fee waiver. Dale explained how they handle non-payment families. Next year we may still not collect fees depending on how things pan out. There was discussion book fees, how much you charge and how you track the fees.
- Discuss & Vote to Re-Approve Fee Waiver Policy – Dale Pfister stated that nothing has changed on this policy. It must be reviewed and re-approved every year.
- Discuss & Vote on Amended Buildings & Facilities Rental Policy – Dale Pfister stated that he has been working with Platte on this policy. They cleaned up the language on the policy

and made a few fee changes. The language is clearer for the renter to understand. Tim Whipple has been hired as the amphitheatre manager. We are pretty booked through June and July. Jerrad asked about the money that was used to fund the building of the amphitheatre and since we didn't use all the funds that were set aside for it. Jon will investigate this.

- Discuss & Vote on Winter Purchasing Plan – Dale Pfister stated that this was created contingent on the ESSR funds so we are planning on spending it on technology. However, it may change due to the outcome of SB1. Dale would still like to move forward on approving this hoping that it will be approved for technology. There are also looking at getting all jr. high students on a 1:1 electronic device and smartboards for teachers. If we can't use the ESSR money for technology, Dale will revise this plan.
- Discuss & Vote on Helpside Agreement – Dale Pfister stated that Helpside has done a great job on the payroll side. They do a great job with our bonus checks. They do charge \$7 per check but the other companies charge around \$45 per check.
- Discuss & Vote to Re-Approve EARS Definition – Dale Pfister stated that our original definition was rejected. It has been reworked and we recommend the board approve this *At Syracuse Arts Academy, at-risk of academic failure means any student who:*
  1. *Scores below proficient on a Board or LEA approved assessment and/or*
  2. *Exhibits behavioral, social-emotional concerns that impact academic achievement and/or*
  3. *Chronically absent, defined by number of absences in a semester and or have difficulty attending 80% of classes. Measured by attendance.*

**Nate Schow made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 School Fee Schedule. Rene Dreiling seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

**Bryan DeGrange – Aye**  
**Nate Schow – Aye**  
**Rene Dreiling – Aye**  
**Mary Johnston – Aye**  
**Jerrad Pullum – No**

**Motion passes with a majority vote.**

**Nate Schow made a motion to re-approve the Fee Waiver Policy; approve the Amended Buildings & Facilities Rental Policy; approve the winter purchasing plan not to exceed \$720,000; approve the Professional Employer Agreement between the school and Helpside and authorize the Board President to sign the agreement on behalf of the school; and re-approve the proposed definition of an “at-risk” student in regards to EARS (Enhancement for At-Risk Students) funding. Mary Johnston seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

**Bryan DeGrange – Aye**  
**Nate Schow – Aye**  
**Rene Dreiling – Aye**  
**Mary Johnston – Aye**  
**Jerrad Pullum – Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**6:12 PM – Jerrad Pullum made a motion to BREAK for dinner. Mary Johnston seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

**Bryan DeGrange – Aye**

**Nate Schow – Aye**

**Rene Dreiling – Aye**

**Mary Johnston – Aye**

**Jerrad Pullum – Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**6:46 PM – Rene Dreiling made a motion to RECONVENE. Jerrad Pullum seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

**Bryan DeGrange – Aye**

**Nate Schow – Aye**

**Rene Dreiling – Aye**

**Mary Johnston – Aye**

**Jerrad Pullum – Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **BOARD TRAINING**

- *Governance vs. Management* – Kim led a discussion on governance vs. management 3.0. Since this board knows the basics of GvM, this training was more about the gray areas. She gave some scenarios and asked the board what the gray area is. Here were some of the questions to ask yourself (board or admin) to see if you are in a gray area and/or to help you get out of a gray area. Sometimes priorities aren't clear or there aren't clear directions. These questions generated great discussion.

- Who am I going to hold accountable for this?
- Has the board set some financial priorities?
- What do you want to know?
- Why do you want to know it?
- What hat am I wearing? A parent hat or a board hat?
- Am I trying to fix it?
- Is this ethical?
- Why do I think the principal/director needs help?
- What does this look like down the road?
- What is the final outcome?

- *Priority Plan* – Kim asked board members and administration to write down three financial priorities that are important to them.

- **BOARD**

- ✓ Happy people and staff retention

- ★ Reduced class sizes

- ★ Working culture

- ★ Sustainability to the organization (ensuring transitions)

- ★ All-day kinder

- ✓ Inviting spaces where there's room for everyone (Stakeholders of community and families & students)

- ★ Facility improvements

- ✓ Arts integration and expansion+
  - ★ Falls under their charter because it's the main focus of charter
  - ★ More students have more access for more opportunities
- **ADMIN**
  - ✓ Facilities as the centerpiece
    - ★ The administration believes that we need a state-of-the-art high quality learning environment that will allow for diverse educational, artistic and athletic programs for diverse student populations that will attract students to SAA
      - ♣ Learning environment which is facilities
      - ♣ Education programs
      - ♣ Attracting students and financial stabilities

There was a discussion on how these items overlap. There was a discussion on the financial limitations. Dale passed out his priority plan on what he would like to do with future expansion or construction project ideas/priorities (mainly for the Antelope Campus). He worked with the administration on this and met with Bryan and Rene to review this plan before tonight. Dale briefly went through the long-term plan. There are also some areas of expansion for the North campus as well. They would like the committee to meet again and have more concrete information for the rest of the board by the April board meeting. Dale will work with the administration to bring a more concrete plan.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS (Items for Discussion Only)**

- Calendaring Items – ALL
  - Schedule Electronic Board Meeting for March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 p.m.
  - Next Pre-Board Meeting – March 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Next Board Meeting – April 8<sup>th</sup>
  - NCSC21 Virtual – June 20-23
- Audit Committee Training – Email forthcoming
- REMINDER: Online Introductory Training for School Board Members (Fraud Risk) – Just Nate

**8:13 PM – Mary Johnston made a motion to ADJOURN. Rene Dreiling seconded the motion.**

**The votes were as follows:**

**Bryan DeGrange – Aye**

**Nate Schow – Aye**

**Rene Dreiling – Aye**

**Mary Johnston – Aye**

**Jerrad Pullum – Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**