SALT LAKE ARTS ACADEMY
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Board Members Present
Anneliese Booher
Greg Ostrander
John Bakken
Joy Pierce
Julie Bartel
Kelly Goff
Lon Huntsman
Matt Nelson
Suyin Chong

Board Members Excused
Julie Livers
Leanne Hawken
Rob Scott
Tatiana Mixco

Staff Present
Amy Mautz
Deborah Candler
Jen Burrow-Sanchez
Jen Guillory
Katy Andrews
Markell McCubbin
Moni Schwaerzler (via Zoom)

Guests Present
Gina James, Utah Association of Public Charter Schools

1. **Welcome**
Board Chair Lon Huntsman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Approval of Pending Minutes from January 21, 2022**
Joy Pierce moved to approve the Pending Minutes from January 21, 2022. Kelly Goff seconded that motion. With one abstention—Lon Huntsman—all others present voted to approve the Pending Minutes.

3. **Introductions**
Board Members introduced themselves to Gina James, visiting observer from the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools.

4. **Principal's Update**
Deborah Candler provided an update on a variety of issues, including:

   a. **Masking.** Though no longer mandatory in view of the CDC's guidance, the vast majority of students are still wearing masks at school.

b. **Fees.** Incoming 8th graders will attend Teton Science School in the fall. The fees have gone up by about $100. The school has surveyed parents whose kids will attend to learn about their ability to pay. 71.4% are able to pay for it. 15% needed a payment plan over time. 12% needed assistance. And 12 parents have offered to cover another student's fees, which will come very close to covering those who need assistance.

Regarding fees in general, Deborah Candler and Gina James commented that a ban on school fees did not pass in the legislature, as there was no funding to replace the fees. Gina helped explain certain distinctions between curricular and other fees.

Deborah introduced the proposed fee schedule. Jen Guillory commented that we do not have set fee information from UTA yet. Katy commented that we may need to amend the fee schedule if needed. Some discussion ensued. In the end, the line item for the UTA pass was amended to state that it is still approved if UTA increases the price up to 10% (for the TRAX fee only).

Matt Nelson moved to adopt the fee schedule, amended with 10% allowance for an increase in TRAX costs. John Bakken seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **Calendar.** Deborah presented the proposed calendar for next year, explaining that when Salt Lake School District releases their calendars, we will work on having three years of calendars in place. As of now, SLARTS will start August 22, and go through June 2. Winter Break will be December 26-January 6, 2023. Deborah has been working on finding more in-depth time for professional development, and has found three days: 9/30, 11/1, 2/17. Those days will be asynchronous learning days (remote, independent, with kids logged in, but not necessarily on a strict schedule).

Suyin Chon moved to approve the proposed calendar for 2022-2023, and Kelly Goff seconded that motion. The motion unanimously passed.

5. Admissions update

Deborah and Katy reported great turnout for prospective student "shadow days." Jen Guillory reported that the school has a waitlist. 105 offers have been sent to prospective 5th graders, and 80% accepted. A second round of offers has been sent. Other grades have waitlists. We are where we want to be.

6. **Policy Updates**
    a. **Gender Policy.** Anneliese Booher reported that the Utah State Board has not yet acted on their previously-drafted policy. We are hoping to see that before we draft ours, if possible.

    b. **Investment Policy.** Greg Ostrander provided an updated policy draft, which the Board reviewed. Joy Pierce asked what the amount is that must stay in the account. John Bakken responded it must be over $100. Greg moved to put the Investment Policy on the next Board Meeting agenda as a voting item, and John Bakken seconded that motion. Katy pointed out that a vote was not needed to get that item on the agenda, and no vote was taken.

7. **School Land Trust Funds Update**

Katy presented a report on how the school has used School Land Trust funds, reminding the Board that in March 2020 members voted on a plan to use funding for the 2020-2021 school year. The school continues to use Trust Lands funding (meant to be used for measurable academic needs) for: 1) student engagement, 2) professional development, and 3) special support for kids.

Markell McCubbin offered a visual presentation on the Student Engagement Report from Fall 2021, looking at cognitive, social-emotional, and behavioral factors, and the four broad categories of engagement:

1. Intrinsic: the highest level engagement. Students show real effort, and they enjoy school and learning. 5% of SLARTS students are in this category.
2. Tactical: includes subcategories of High and Low Tactical. These students are interested in doing what it takes for grades. High tactical students are motivated by their future. They make up 35% of SLARTS' student body. Low tactical students are motivated by their parents. 37.5% of SLARTS students are categorized as Low tactical.
3. Compliant: these students are comfortable with being in the middle. 22% of SLARTS students are in this category.
4. Withdrawn: these students don't find school meaningful, are disengaged and distracted, and may be close to failing. .4% of SLARTS students are withdrawn.
5. Defiant: 0% of SLARTS students fall within this category.

Markell then discussed data on three types of engagement (cognitive, social, behavioral) and student perspectives. She stated she viewed the survey information as a helpful springboard for teachers and staff to help students. She took questions and comments from the Board and staff.

Gina commented that the State is starting personalized-based competency learning.

Deborah reported that in addition to student engagement we are reevaluating math and reading assessments next year, looking at student reflections and building digital student portfolios, creating feedback for the faculty, and behavior tracking.

Katy explained that the Board Members will receive an email confirming review and acceptance of the plan.

Matt Nelson moved to accept the trust lands plan for 2022-23 (though Board Members must individually approve the plan via email). Joy Pierce seconded the motion, which was then unanimously approved.

8. Committee Updates

a. Finance

John Bakken provided an update on the last Finance Committee meeting. Things look good, and we are on track to be within our debt coverage.

Moni Schwaerzler, appearing remotely, reported on a variety of issues, including a weighted pupil update from USBE, our annual campaign, and that SLARTS has started collecting money from our summer program. All federal and state funds requiring reimbursement requests have been processed. A plumbing company has replaced a water pipe, and theatre lights will be installed.

John Bakken reported that we are approaching the need to replace 25 computers in our computer lab. $35,000 is the estimate.

Matt Nelson commented on debt coverage ratio, to inform the Board that when we refinanced the bond, we did so under favorable terms. We are required to have enough money on hand to service the debt (yearly payments). Some discussion ensued. Katy suggested we have a presentation on this issue at the May Board meeting.

Joy Pierce asked Moni about free or reduced lunch offerings. Moni responded that we utilize a declaration of income to determine students who will receive a fee waiver, and this generally hovers at around 30-40 kids. We have students who would

qualify for those free or reduced lunches, and they get breakfast or lunch from the school. It is not a formal lunch program.

b. Academic Achievement

Deborah reported on the Committee's work, which primarily involved discussing the engagement survey and the committee's purpose. Committee members determined the Committee should be dissolved at this time, though it may revive as a teacher-based Committee next year.

Matt Nelson asked how faculty and staff are feeling. Deborah reported they are tired but collaborating well. Katy commented they have felt supported regarding masking. Deborah reported she believes the teachers feel supported. An evaluation on Deb's performance is forthcoming and will go to the teachers. A survey also will go to all students and parents to review teachers. There are some anticipated teacher changes for the coming year. There will be a new special education director, and there are currently several excellent candidates.

c. Development/Outreach

Katy reported that the Development/Parent Committee had a productive recent meeting. The school has raised $108,000 towards a $120,000 goal. Looking forward to SLARTS 24—a 24 hour online fundraising event—which will take place on April 28, Katy reported that all dollars are matched. She asked the Board members to consider those they know who may donate. The event will kick off the night before, on April 27, at a host-less parent party at Beehive Distilling.

9. **Requests to Speak**

Lon reported there were no requests to speak.

10. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be on May 20, 2022. In June, we may do a quick zoom. And in August the Board will hold a meeting with a possible social aspect.

11. Closing/Adjournment

Matt Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Joy Pierce seconded. Upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.