SALT LAKE ARTS ACADEMY

Governing Board Pending Minutes

November 19, 2021, at 3:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting - https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8630303593

Board Members Present

Anneliese Booher
Greg Ostrander
John Bakken
Joy Pierce
Julie Bartel
Julie Livers
Lon Huntsman
Matt Nelson
Rob Scott
Suyin Chong
Tatiana Mixco

Guests Present

None.

Staff Present

Deborah Candler
Katy Andrews
Moni Schwaerzler
Markell McCubbin
Jen Guillory
Jen Burrow-Sanchez
Elizabeth Wilson

Note

Attendance of participants joining during the Zoom meeting may not be recorded above.

1. **Welcome**

Board President Lon Hunstman welcomes all to the meeting. He notes there are no requests to speak from the public.

2. **Approval of proposed minutes from September 24, 2021**

Joy Pierce moves to approve the minutes, and Julie Livers seconds that motion. A vote is taken. There is no opposition, but Tatiana Mixco, John Bakken, and Lon Huntsman abstain from voting as they did not attend the meeting and/or did not review the minutes. The motion to approve the minutes passes.

3. **Principal's Update from Deb Candler**

a. **RISE and other testing**

Deb reports that RISE data is not public yet, though she has reviewed it, and SLARTS is well above the state averages. More data will be forthcoming, including internal school data.

b. Engagement Survey

Deb and Katy Andrews report that students took a survey in December 2020, looking at five categories of engagement: 1) Intrinsic, 2) High Tactical, 3) Low Tactical, 4) Compliant, 5) Withdrawn. Only a small fraction were withdrawn. The vast majority were in the first three categories. Markell McCubbin notes the results were encouraging, as there were a great number of responses, and those responses will provide a good benchmark for evaluating future engagement.

Lon questions if there is more to do to get children more intrinsically engaged. Katy responds it is a goal to get all children motivated, including with their individual portfolios, and the survey will help in that. She reports we are using digital teaching and learning grant money to work on this survey. Markell adds that it is important for adults to impart that what we truly care about is the children's' personal growth as opposed to simply grades. Deb echoes those comments and notes the school is beginning to engage students in habits of the creative mind/habits of a studio mind. Katy notes this creative way of thinking has been in existence for a while, but is becoming more formalized at the school

Lon further comments that students appear less intrinsically engaged as they progress through grades. Deb and Katy confirm that SLARTS will do additional surveys shortly—in December 2021 and May 2022—and more data will be helpful.

John Bakken asks how SLARTS might bring students from one category up to the others. Deb responds that it is a goal to get students from the 'Compliant' category –the bare minimum-to other categories. It is a challenge for teachers, but there are ways to do it, including when students feel connected to the teachers and with what they are learning.

c. Gender Inclusion Policy

Deb reports that gender inclusion issues have been a subject of discussion between her and at least one teacher. SLARTS needs a policy in place. Anneliese Booher reports on legal aspects of the need for such a policy, particularly under recent interpretations of Title IX. The Salt Lake School Board has a policy, and the Utah State Board of Education is working on a policy now as well. Anneliese will be working on a policy.

4. LEA-Specific License

Lon clarifies we are an LEA—Local Educational Authority—with unique rules on how we can grant approval for teachers. Deb explains that within certain parameters (ie, a degree and ethics training), SLARTS can grant approval to teach for those who have come to the school on a more non-traditional route. But some teachers on this route need licenses. Jason Call's

license expired, and he needs one for this year. So does Kathleen Ferdon and Denny Jo Rowe to teach 7th and 8th dance. Julie Livers moves to accept all three teachers with an LEA-specific license. John Bakken seconds that motion. The motion passes unanimously.

5. **Finance committee report.**

Lon reports he met with the committee last Friday, and the school is in good hands.

Moni has shared reports with the Board but reviews some highlights. We had a clean audit. We are exceeding the budget in fees coming in. But we will need to increase the budget for substitute teachers. We paid half the interest portion of the bond in October. In November we will get a new allotment.

Moni also offers a construction update. Lights are still in transit. Chris Mautz will help to rig something for school performances. North side doors were being yanked open by students. Moni admonished them.

Moni has included a list of the reports she prepares to educate the Board on what needs to be done to remain in compliance on bond issues.

The Fire Marshals visited the school We must fix the ceiling in the control room that overlooks the commons. We have a year to do this.

Julie Livers reports on the Annual Campaign, noting we have raised $15,000 out of a goal of $75,000. If we reach that goal, SLARTS will receive an additional $10,000 grant. Katy is happy to see most of the gifts so far are from 5th grade families. And there may be a challenge for a $15,000 grant in the Spring. SLARTS is applying to the Sorensen Legacy Foundation for another $10,000 grant. We will know about that grant in February. Matt Nelson and Katy discuss how Board members can donate, and Katy encourages the Board to donate via the website.

Katy offers updates on admissions and COVID issues. There have been 117 applications so far. This is back to an encouraging pre-pandemic application pace. There are 9 COVID cases now in the school, with 5 in the 5th grade. Katy encourages those traveling over Thanksgiving to get tested when they return, and Katy and Deb encourage all not to not send kids to school with any signs of illness. There have been 19 total cases since the school year began. Parents have been great with the quarantine protocol overall.

6. Board Member Nominations

Lon begins a discussion about the composition of our Board now and in the future. We would be happy to add an accountant, particularly a CPA, to the Board to help with the finance committee. We also don't seem to have many operating committees working on projects at the moment.

Katy recommends the Board get in agreement about the process of adding members. Katy also reports Matt Nelson will be leaving the Board this year. And, next year (2023) we lose Lon and Julie Livers. Katy will provide the Board with a grid of our different backgrounds. The Board can evaluate needs based on that. A connection to the Utah arts community, and possibly someone with grant/development background, might be helpful. There is a prospective 5th grade parent who may be a helpful connection to the Utah arts community.

Katy proposes a timeline, and that we consider the timeline as an agenda item in January. She suggests with a vote on members after January, and new members able to attend the June meeting.

John Bakken states we should not simply look to fill gaps in our skills, but also for those who are simply great people who want to contribute. Katy adds that volunteers can serve on the committees as parent volunteers, without formally joining the Board.

Lon adds that some of our past challenges in filling Board openings were from losing Board members unexpectedly.

7. Winter Social

The Board discusses holding a winter social in January 2022, with most of the Board seemingly favoring the idea. Julie Livers notes an expert from the University of Utah states if everyone is vaccinated, it is generally safe to be together.

8. Requests to Speak

There are no requests to speak.

9. Upcoming meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2022.

10. Adjournment.

John Bakken moves to adjourn the meeting. Lon Huntsman seconds the motion. The motion unanimously passes. The meeting is adjourned.