



## Board Retreat Minutes - Midway, UT

Approved October 2, 2008

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**Attendance:** Chris Dallin, Dave Hall, Andrea Larkin, Cameron Almond, Jan Whimpey (Principal), Trent Brown (Academica), Gavin Hutchinson (Academica), and Dawn Kawaguchi (Academica)

### August 8, 2008

10:24 AM Welcome by Chris Dallin

- Jan highlighted the accomplishments of 2008. She also reviewed the preliminary numbers for the end of level testing - see handout. Jan would like to be at 92% for reading. The math core was changed in 2007 for all grades (6<sup>th</sup> grade geometry went to 4<sup>th</sup> grade). Jan discussed the things that she wants to implement for the coming school year. Focus on integrating arts to the curriculum. They purchased an Art Core so students can get a good “arts” experience - projects will be per grade and not repeated.
- *Getting to Know You* – Chris had all Board Members “create” visually ten things that describe themselves. Chris asked all board members to read SAA’s Charter to understand what the agreement is between the state and the school.
- *Working Lunch* – Guest Speaker - Mornie Sims spoke on the “Responsibilities of a Board Member”
- Chris would like to readdress the Jr. High Governance Discussion & Programs and Design & Construction in the morning in order to stay on the agenda schedule.

*Syracuse Arts Academy - Visioning and SWOT Analysis* - Collaboratively the Board came up with the following SWOT Analysis:

#### STRENGTHS

- Parents
- Staff
- Building
- Management company
- Site Base Management
- Students
- Financial Status
- Board Relationship

- Charter – school concept (integrated arts)
- Board Support of Vision
- Location – Western Davis County (large growth & young parents)
- Lack of teacher turnover
- Student engagement – Extra curricular activities
- Deanna Gardner
- Special program & attention
- Raise Funds
- Children involvement in activities
- CREED
- Uniforms
- Outside recognition for
- Parents ability to be involved - higher level of commitment to education
- Classroom size
- Jan – good mix of education and business
- Sound System
- Visiting Artists

#### WEAKNESS

- School Culture
- Charter not well-understood
- Perception than Jan not approachable
- Bullying
- Front Office Staff “unapproachable”
- Parents
- Relationship between the staff and POEC
- Expecting the school to be part of a district
- Lack of economies of scale
- Not 100% part of the community
- Understanding of the lottery
- Parking
- Under construction
- Contract services sometimes a challenge
- Principal Evaluation
- Website

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Contract/Goal for Jan’s evaluation
- Offer availability for parents
- Road crew duty for bullies
- Communications with parents
- Training
- “If Disney ran your school”
- Visiting Artist
- Safety Training

- Integrated Arts - We ARE ART! (i.e. quotes from artist around the school, hide and seek mural, etc.) Would like to look more like an art school.
- Growth

### THREATS

- Competition
  - Union
  - Misinformation
  - Mismanagement of money
  - New construction
- Chris reviewed SAA's Visioning and SWOT Analysis. The Board voted on what they felt was the most important to SAA:
1. "If Disney ran your school?" - 7 pts.
  2. Understanding of the school's purpose and function - 5 pts.  
Relationship between staff & POEC - 5 pts.
  3. Integrated Arts - 4 pts.
  4. Staff - 2 pts.
  5. Board support of mission - 1 pt.  
Special programs & attention - 1 pt.  
Academic Achievement - 1 pt.

Chris would like to work on these items for the 2008-09 school year. He would like to address at least one item each meeting.

6:45 PM Adjourned for the day

### August 9, 2008

8:35 AM Chris called the meeting to order.

- *SAA Jr. High School Governance Discussion & Programs* – We need to decide which direction that we want to go with the Jr. High as far as a principal. What can we afford? What is the best fit for what we have? Jan would like to have someone who has some expertise in the Arts but not necessarily for administration. The Board would like Jan to have her recommendations by the next board meeting.
- *POEC discussion and issues* - Cameron spoke as a moderator to determine ways in which the POEC, Board, and School can support each other. There are still positions that need to be filled on the POEC. Cameron is concerned about the parent volunteer hours. He does not want to see the extreme drop off as in other schools. We need more recognition to the parents who **are** volunteering (i.e. hand written thank you note). Cameron would like to see the online registration change. Can we incorporate a part that explains what is expected as far as parent volunteering? Jan suggested that we make a video where Cameron explains the parent volunteering expectations, uniform policy, etc. and then you must check the box that you've watched the video and understand what to expect. There is still a problem with hoodies. This needs to be addressed in the Deep Dive Committee.

Cameron would like to work on the POEC and staff relationship. He would like to see the staff come to their meetings and get involved. POEC would like to see more press releases on big things that they do at the school to get more exposure for SAA. What about a marquee? Board would like to get involved in cabinet meetings. A suggestion was made that there should be a procedure on how to make a proposal and take to the Board when you'd like to see a change.

- *Budget and Finance Discussion* – Dave discussed SAA's financial overview - see attachment. Are there grants out there that SAA can apply for? The Board asked Cameron to have a POEC member search for grants that can be counted for their volunteer hours.

Chris discussed the possibilities of a lease conversion to be refinanced through Schoolhouse Foundation. The Board needs to decide on legal counsel to review the lease.

- *SAA Jr. High School Design and Construction* – Trent presented Board with building drawings of Jr. High. All concerns have been addressed. There has been some changes made. The Board is concerned about two 2<sup>nd</sup> level classrooms on 5-6<sup>th</sup> side that will not be receiving natural light. There was a suggestion of skylights in two classrooms. Jan expressed her concerns about Jr. High students needing a blacktop area to play before and after school (basketball). The Board expressed their concerns about the drop off area during construction.

Chris would like to move the *Goals and Metrics for 2008/2009* to the next board meeting.

10:56 AM      Adjourned