

Syracuse Arts Academy Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 6, 2020

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

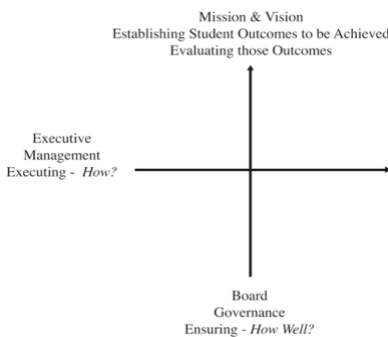


In Attendance: Bryan DeGrange, Rene Dreiling, Jerrad Pullum, Mary Johnston (via Zoom), Nate Schow (5:35 p.m.)

Other in Attendance: Kim Dohrer, Jon McQueary, Dawn Kawaguchi, Tim Phillips, Jane Ann Kammeyer, Dale Pfister, Leigh Schwartz, Mike Geilmann (via Zoom), Josh Spilker (via Zoom), Judy Nixon (5:56 p.m.)

NOTE: *It is possible that the SAA Board of Directors may be utilizing an electronic meeting component with one or more of their members.*

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

5:31 PM – Call to Order

- Welcome by Bryan DeGrange
- “Traditions” – The SAA Way
 - School Vision – Jane Ann Kammeyer

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Heather Christensen made a public comment. She was last year’s POEC Director and she wanted to publicly introduce this year’s POEC Director Kim Judd, but she didn’t make the meeting. The POEC has been receiving a lot of feedback on the reopening plan. Heather

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thanked the Mr. Schwartz for the excellent job on the video that he made to keep the parents up to date. They have had several requests for something similar for the elementary campuses. Heather stated that they have had several inquiries from the parents who have chosen distance learning regarding how specials were going to work in the elementary. Since public comment cannot be addressed, the administration will contact Heather to address her questions at a later date.

There was no need for a CLOSED SESSION. Jerrad stated that we haven't heard from UDOT so there is nothing to discuss. There is a meeting tomorrow morning and we may need to have an electronic board meeting before our October Board Meeting.

REPORTS

➤ Board of Directors

- Financial Update – Rene Dreiling stated that the final numbers for FY20 are not in yet. He noted that the three areas of interest will be the average daily membership (1749 is the projected number vs. 1740 last year), the updated budget is showing about \$170k higher than the projected budget and the audit is going on and everything is looking good right now. There was a discussion on how ADM is going to work with the distance learning and how an accurate attendance is going to be taken. *Mary Johnston was excused on Zoom at 5:43 p.m.*

➤ Administration

- State of the School – Dale Pfister
 - ✓ Dale thanked the administration for great work and cooperation throughout the summer. They have been working hard and getting along very well.
 - ✓ Dale thanked the board for having the electronic board meeting last week to approve the reopening plan and supporting the administration
 - ✓ Dale thanked the SAA parents. They have lost very few families due to their reopening plan. Parents have been very supportive of the school.
 - ✓ We have purchased and are stocked with PPE, safety equipment, face shields, extra tables, hand sanitizers, spray bottles, disinfectants, etc. They have made a lot of adjustments to prepare classrooms and the lunchroom for social distancing. We have been working on traffic flow for students as they move from class to class, recess and lunch.
 - ✓ There have been some updated standards to the State School Guidelines.
 - ✓ Working with ETS and administration for our technology checkout plan and how we are going to check out devices to students. We are still working out details to have enough computers for all students.
 - ✓ Tim and IT dept has been working with a group of teachers to train them on CANVAS and we will continue to do teacher trainings.
 - ✓ Enrollment update. We are down 77 students, but the secretaries will be running a lottery next week and we are confident that we will get the numbers up to where they need to be by the time school starts. We have a pretty good wait list. We are currently at 1741. Lex's magic starting enrollment number is approximately 1805.

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- ✓ Our teachers have been great through all of this. We have had a lot of Zoom meetings and teachers coming in for CANVAS lessons. We just have an amazing faculty.
- ✓ Jerrad recommended advertising on the website that we are still accepting applications so that people know. Dale also mentioned that we have the ½ mile radius preference for the lottery.
- ✓ There was a discussion on how many lunches they are going to have to run to social distance.
- ✓ There was a discussion on how the CANVAS is going to be implemented schoolwide. Dale also mentioned that we have heard that the state will be purchasing Zoom Classroom for all schools.
- Storytelling – Judy Nixon shared that last spring they loaned out 90 Chromebooks/iPads to students and they actually received every single one back without any issues.

➤ **Academica West**

- AW Recap – Kim Dohrer
 - ✓ Kim echoed what Dale said that they have to make decisions fairly quickly only to have the state come out they day after they’ve made the decision asking for something different or with more new information. It’s not only the constant decisions they’ve had to make over the summer, it’s that there have been changes daily. Kim commended the administration and stated that we have been working with them a lot on re-opening plans, waivers for 990, etc. We’ve had more Directors’ Meeting this summer than we’ve had all year.
 - ✓ We have still been doing all of the things that we do over summer such as working with secretaries on Clearinghouse which is a huge job. Our handymen have been able to get in early to work on patch and paint in each of the buildings.
 - ✓ We got some new information today from the Aspire user group that will affect attendance. They state wants to more accurate attendance data so they will be adding “pulls” to the data and the first pull of the data will be in September instead of October. Accurate data will need to be taken and cleared sooner than it’s typically done. This is not tied to funding.
 - ✓ Kim stated that AW is aware, and we are following through our lobbyist the likelihood that the online charters in the state will get a cap removal. We don’t know how that will affect the brick and mortar schools but we are confident that SAA has a strong reputation and community presence. We are trying to keep track of what is going on at the state.
 - ✓ Dale thanked AW for all of the help that they have given him. They are definitely doing a great job for us.
 - ✓ There was a discussion on the reopening plans and whether or not SAA will receive feedback on it.

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Nate Schow made a motion to approve the CONSENT ITEMS. Jerrad Pullum seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ New Hires

- Emilee Brooks – Reading Aide
- Rebecca Reimann – SpED Paraprofessional
- Einsten Arguello – Custodian
- Rachel Reeder – Part-time Custodian
- Beverly Gams – 4th Grade Teacher
- Melissa Manley – Reading Aide
- April Brunner – Reading Aide
- Becky Jensen – Math Aide
- Dahson Arave – Math Aide
- Lisa Briggs – Math Aide
- Morgan Linebarger – Speech Language Therapist/SpEd Eligibility Coordinator
- Sariah Taylor – SpED Teacher
- Becca Stephens – SPED Paraprofessional
- Raymond Lucas – SPED Paraprofessional
- KAeri Jarvis – SPED Paraprofessional
- Angela Ball – SPED Paraprofessional
- Rebecca Reimann – SPED Paraprofessional
- Janine Saunders – SPED Paraprofessional
- Suzanne Bolar – Reading Coach
- Jodi Hansen – 2nd Grade Teacher
- Kylie Puffer – 2nd Grade Teacher
- Dawn Sadler – 6th Grade Teacher
- Kyara Trahan – Recess Aide
- Melody Hokanson – Custodian
- Kristy Smith – Math Aide
- Johanna Christopherson – Reading Aide
- Nicole Murri – Reading Aide
- Amy Degraw – Reading Aide
- Heidi Stone – Language Arts Teacher
- Robin Stoddart – Art Teacher

➤ July 30, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

➤ July 30, 2020 Closed Session Affidavit

6:20 PM – BUSINESS ITEMS (To Be Discussed and/or Voted Upon)

- Discuss and Vote on 2020-2021 Early Literacy Plan – Dale Pfister stated that this is essentially the same as last year because we were unable to collect our end of the year data. We had it preapproved, but it still needs to be formerly board approved. Hopefully we will be able to make our goals due to the soft closure last year. Our teachers are working very hard to reach these goals.

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- Discuss and Vote on Technology Purchase for Wireless Upgrade – Dale Pfister stated that through the CARES Act they are offering a wireless improvement. It will upgrade our wireless access points to the latest and greatest. We will be reimbursed for this purchase if we received the grant. There was a discussion on if the grant is guaranteed, the new product devices (which are still under testing) and if the school is required to do an RFP.
- Discuss and Vote on LEA-Specific Educator License Policy – Dale Pfister stated that with the new licensing changes this allows each Board to approve an LEA-Specific educator license for our employees as long as the board adopts this policy.
- Discuss and Vote on LEA-Specific Educator License for Candice Dallin – Dale Pfister recommended as a second part of the policy is to approve Candice Dallin for the LEA-Specific Educator License. There is no state praxis exam for her to take to be able to teach dance. It requires a PE endorsement with an emphasis in dance. Once we adopt the policy, we can approve Candice for a LEA-Specific Educator License which will only be authorized at SAA. Kim stated that there have been many different paths for teachers to become highly qualified and she thinks it will continue to change. Dale is recommending a 3-year license. There was discussion on the various specific educator licenses.
- Discuss and Vote on Amended Civil Rights Policy – Dale Pfister reviewed the amended Civil Rights Policy. The changes include the new federal regulations for Title 9 that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs that receive federal funding. Kim stated that Gabe felt like this was the best place to put the new Title 9 requirements. It also requires an outside investigator.
- Discuss and Vote on Amended Fee Waiver Policy – Dale Pfister reviewed the amended Fee Waiver Policy. The changes to the policy mostly involve revising and adding definitions of different kinds of items and activities that will help in administering the policy and determining what fees can and cannot be charged. Dale stated that this is the first year that we will be coding the fees to each department. He also explained that they are working on adjusting the fees this year especially for the students who will be on the distance program. Jerrad recommended letting parents know about possibly waiving or adjusting fees for this year.
- Discuss and Vote on Amended Student Conduct & Discipline Policy – Dale Pfister reviewed the amended Student Conduct & Discipline Policy. State law has changed to require new provisions to this policy concerning discipline for student use or possession of electronic cigarette products. There was discussion on destroying or getting rid of the e-cigarette.

Rene Dreiling made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Early Literacy Plan; approve the technology purchase for wireless upgrade not to exceed \$45,000; approve the LEA-Specific Educator License Policy, approve LEA Specific Educator License for Candice Dallin to teach Dance at Syracuse Arts Academy for the next three years; approve the amended Civil Rights Policy; approve the amended Fee Waiver Policy; and approve the amended Student Conduct & Discipline Policy. Nate Schow seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS (Items for Discussion Only)

- Calendaring Items – ALL
 - Electronic Meeting TBD
 - Next Pre-Board Meeting – September 17th
 - Next Board Meeting – October 1st
- REMINDER: Online Introductory Training for School Board Members

6:34 PM – Jerrad Pullum made a motion to ADJOURN. Nate Schow seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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