



Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2024

Board members present: Angela Bailey, Marilyn Highland, Terry McGannon, Michaela Macdonald, Liz Shannon, Angel Shideler

Board members present via ZOOM: Lee DeLieto Jr., Steve Kamm, Susan Wilhelm

Board members absent: Danes Solomon, Matt Wenzel

Guests present: Tara Tahmosh, Kevin Corwin, Kylie Gannon, Tanya Jones, Kristen Pulfer

Guests present via ZOOM: Kelli Anderson, Brenna Hanley, Carolyn Hyatt, Ben Pulfer, Carl Williams

- I Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dr. Highland.
- II Meeting Minutes – Board members reviewed the meeting minutes presented. Mr. McGannon made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2024, Ms. Macdonald 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Board approved unanimously.
- III Open to the Public – Mrs. Pulfer expressed how much her family admires SSA+S and that is the best middle school in Sarasota County. During 6<sup>th</sup> grade schedule pick up last week they discovered that we have classroom pets and that SSA+S did not offer accommodations for her child. Dr. Highland assured the family that SSA+S is trying to accommodate their child.
- IV President of the Board Report – Dr. Highland
  - a) Nominating Committee – Discussed during Closed Session
  - b) Board Governance Training – 2 hr. refresher course – Mr. Corwin will be sending the training link to Ms. Wilhelm to complete training by the end of August.
  - c) Non-Agenda Item – Dr. Highland attended the awards ceremony for Top Workplaces sponsored by the Herald Tribune. Ms. Tahmosh received two individual awards for Innovative Ideas and Communication.
- V Principal's Report –
  - a) Enrollment – Ms. Tahmosh updated the Board on the first few days of school. She shared a copy of the weekly staff Team News and will continue sending a copy to the members of the Board. A new mural of Emma E. Booker has been approved and funded. She share a copy of the rendering. Our page on Niche.com has been updated with photos. Ms. Miller has been updating our new website this summer. Ms. Tahmosh also shared a copy of a Letter to the Editor that was

published in the Herald Tribune clarifying inaccurate references about charter schools in the paper's latest articles, comments and letters to the editor.

- b) House Bill 1473 – Ms. Tahmosh provided the Board with a copy of an overview of School Safety changes. One major change is that all point of entries must remain locked. Each classroom has a door key for student use when using the restroom to minimize instructional time.
- c) Updates – Scores & Awards – Ms. Tahmosh presented a PowerPoint breaking down the school's test scores and grade for last year.
- d) Climate Surveys – A copy of the 2024 surveys were provided to the members of the Board. Ms. Tahmosh reported that the school did very well and an in-depth discussion could be held next month.

VI Staff Report – Ms. Shannon stated that teachers received new desktop Macs to start the school year. They are great, but have a bit of learning curve. The bathroom keys are working great and Ms. Shannon thanked Mr. Footland, Ms. Craft, Ms. Ferguson and Ms. Nelsen on their hard work on the key holders. Ms. Shannon stated that the staff is upbeat and ready to get back into the groove. Dr. Highland and the Board wished everyone a superb year.

VII Parent Involvement Representative (PIR) Report –

- a) HR Updates – Ms. Gannon announced that Kristen Sharp started as the new 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science Teacher and that Erica Glisson, formerly Aghoian, returned to SSA+S. Ms. Glisson will be part of the PE Department.
- b) Benefits Update (Insurance & 401K) – Ms. Gannon – Our renewal from CoAdvantage came in between 8%-9% for the new plan year. SSA+S increased their per employee cost to \$700 to allow for many plans to be offered for free to those selecting the “Employee Only” option. SSA+S will be matching, up to \$250 per month, for employees taking advantage of the Dependent Care FSA and will also contribute \$50 per month to an employee's Healthcare HSA account if they chose the High Deductible medical plan. Ms. Gannon also stated that all staff members received a 5% raise for the 24/25 school year.
- c) Dogs in the Classroom Policy – The a copy of the policy, that was approved during the 22/23 school year, was provided to Board members to review.

VIII PTSS Report – None

IX Treasurer's Report –

- a) Financial Statement – Year End, June 30, 2024 Preliminary – Mr. McGannon discussed the year-end financials. Even after paying our second installment on the new property, our current assets are in great shape.
- b) 2024-2025 Capital Outlay Plans – State – Mr. Corwin reviewed the plan for the \$862,562.00 capital funds. They include our land purchase, remodeling projects and replacement of equipment.

X Old Business – None

XI New Business – None

XII Adjourn Meeting – Dr. Highland adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm to the public and the Board members began a closed session. The next Board Meeting will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> on ZOOM.

Submitted by:

Tanya Jones on behalf of Susan Wilhelm  
Secretary Date

Approved by:

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President of the Board Date