



Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024

Board members present: Angela Bailey, Tameka Howard, Marilyn Highland, Terry McGannon, Michaela Macdonald, Becky Polizzi, Angel Shideler, Matt Wenzel, Susan Wilhelm

Board members present via ZOOM: Steve Kamm & Susan Wilhelm

Guests present: Tara Tahmosh, Kevin Corwin, Kylie Gannon, Vanessa Pinon, Tanya Jones, Wade McVay

Guests present via ZOOM: Liz Shannon & Sarah Hubbard

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 September 11, 2024, Ms. Macdonald 2nd and the Board approved unanimously.

III President of the Board Report – Dr. Highland

- a) Nominating Committee – Dr. Highland stated that one new application had been submitted.
- b) Board Governance Training – 2 hr. Refresher Course and New Board Member 4 hr. Training – Dr. Highland stated that only new Board members will need to take the training. All other Board members are current.
- c) New Board Member Application – Wade McVay – Dr. Highland presented an application from Wade McVay to join the Board. He has a 36-year career in law enforcement and has coached high school athletics for many years. A discussion was held, and a vote will be held during new business.

IV Principal's Report –

- a) Enrollment – Ms. Tahmosh stated that our October count was 747. We lost 3 gifted students due to the count date being changed. We will pick them up during the February count. Ms. Gannon was able to get some of our ESOL students tested for gifted. Ms. Tahmosh shared that SCS will start charging SSA+S \$5000 per school year for SCS to sell their lunches to our students. SSA+S will also be charged for the nurse that comes from the Department of Health, she signs off on paperwork for medications and assists with annual health screenings. Ms. Tahmosh offered Ms. Schlabach the opportunity to take the RN test. The quarterly PTSS meeting for Q2 will be for our 8th Grade families as local high schools will be doing their presentations. Mr. Mapes and Ms. Masoud will go over the process and how information will be distributed to students and their families.

- b) Hurricane Aftermath & Insurance – Ms. Tahmosh updated the Board on damages from Milton. It's around \$15,000 total. Ms. Tahmosh thanked Mr. Wenzel for getting the gate fixed immediately to ensure that the campus was safe. Many poles that hold the awnings were bent in the storm and will be replaced at a later date. 741 Central sustained some damage to the exterior patio roof. Currently getting estimates for a vinyl or steel replacement.
- c) School of Excellence – Ms. Tahmosh reported that SSA+S was once again named a School of Excellence, 1 or 4 middle school in the Sarasota County School District.
- d) Response to email to Board – A discussion was held with all Board members regarding an email that was sent by a parent. Dr. Highland will reach out to set a meeting with the parent.

V Staff Report – Ms. Howard played a slide show of all the goings on at SSA+S these past few months. Slides included performances at Senior Centers by chorus, band night at SHS, newsletter from TV Production and Digital Art, Beach clean up at Lido, glow math and restaurant math projects in 6th grade Math, sports championships, the ribbon cutting ceremony at our new neighborhood public park and a picture of Mr. McGannon working hard at the polls.

VI Parent Involvement Representative (PIR) Report –

- a) HR Updates – Nothing to report
- b) Raises (Newspaper Article) – Ms. Gannon addressed a recent article in the Herald Tribune about the bargaining agreement between the union and the school board. SSA+S started with a 5% raise for everyone.
- c) Education Assistance – Tabled for another meeting

VII PTSS Report – Ms. Polizzi reported that Q1 Honor Roll Social has been scheduled. The PTSS is hosting Bingo and raffles by grade. They had enough funding that they did not need to ask for any donations. Concessions will be available during volleyball and basketball seasons. A sign up for pie donations will go out to parents and in December the PTSS will hold a sign up for gift cards to fill teacher stockings. They plan to pass out cookies to students during lunch before Winter Break. The annual UnFundraiser has been pushed to February and will be all online.

VIII Treasurer's Report –

- a) Financial Statement – September 30, 2024 – Mr. McGannon presented the September 30, 2024 Financial Statement, noting that we are starting the year off strong. The school will receive a capital check in January that will offset costs.
- b) Audit completed – Mr. Corwin updated the Board that the annual audit had been completed. There were no findings to discuss.
- c) Non-Agenda Item – SSA+S maintained its "A" and will be receiving Florida Recognition Funds. Mr. McGannon made a motion to divide the funds for each returning employee as years prior, Ms. Shideler 2nd and the Board approved unanimously.

IX Old Business –

- a) S&P Rating Update – Mr. Corwin reported that SSA+S should maintain its BBB rating. The purchase of 741 Central posed several questions but should not change the school's rating. Our cash on hand the referendum passing were positive factors to the rating the same.

X New Business –

- a) Board Member Application – After a short discussion, Mr. Wenzel made a motion to accept the application for Wade McVay to become a member of the Board, Mr. McGannon 2nd and the Board approved unanimously.

XI Open to the Public – None

XII Adjourn Meeting – Dr. Highland adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held on January 15, 2024 via ZOOM.

Submitted by:

Tanya Jones on behalf of Susan Wilhelm
Secretary Date

Approved by:

President of the Board Date