

Board of Education Meeting Minutes - Southwest Leadership Academy

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING SOUTHWEST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the public, that the Governing Board for Southwest Leadership Academy will hold a meeting open to the public as well as a Board retreat as specified below. The Board reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, with the exception of public hearings. One or more Board members may participate telephonically. The meeting will be held via video conferencing.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02 (H), the Board may discuss and take action concerning any matter listed on the agenda.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A) (3), the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice concerning any item on this agenda.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Bridget Carrington at (480) 987-9700 ext 5898. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

DATED AND POSTED this 18th day of December 2023.

By

Miqala Salinas, Compliance Coordinator

AGENDA

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

December 22nd, 2023

11:00 AM

Topic: SLA December Board Meeting
Time: Dec 22, 2023 11:00 AM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rop.zoom.us/j/83072966297>

Meeting ID: 830 7296 6297

Board of Education Meeting Minutes - Southwest Leadership Academy

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://rop.zoom.us/j/83072966297>

All items on this agenda are open for discussion and possible action, including reports and action items. Public comment will be acknowledged at the end of the agenda items.

A copy of the Agenda and Meeting Minutes are available for review on our website: www.southwestleadershipacademy.com

If authorized by a majority vote of the members of the Governing Board, any matter on the open meeting agenda may be discussed in executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice thereon, pursuant to A.R.S. 38431.03 (A)(3). In addition, the Board, by majority vote may enter Executive Session for discussion and consultation with administration regarding student matters pursuant to A.R.S. §§15-342, 15-521, and 15-843; A.R.S. §38431.03 (A)(2) (consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection); legal advice/instruction to attorney pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 Subsections (A)(3) and (A)(4). The executive session will be held immediately after the vote and will not be open to the public.

*Additional information regarding any of the items on this agenda may be obtained prior to the meeting by calling Bridget Carrington at (480) 987-9700 ext 5898. Also, you can attend the foregoing meeting by teleconference.

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Board of Education Meeting Minutes - Southwest Leadership Academy

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call (President Gantt):** Mike Gantt, Board President; Drew Ainsworth, Treasurer/Secretary; Brian Heath, Ex-Officio Member; Dr. Molly Schloderback, Member; Emily Beard, Member.

Brian Heath called the meeting to order at 10:07AM on 12/22/2023. No quorum present at time meeting was called to order.

Attendance: Brian Heath, Ex-Officio Member; Dr. Molly Schloderback, Member present at beginning. Emily Beard, Member & Drew Ainsworth, Member arrived tardy but present.

2. **Introduction of Visitors (President Gantt):** Bridget Carrington, Superintendent; Christae Spivey, SLA Principal; Miqala Salinas, SLA Compliance Coordinator; Jennifer Gentle, Assistant Principal; Cheryl Myers, Accounting Manager; Alicia Sullivan, Senior Accountant

Attendance: Bridget Carrington, Superintendent; Christae Spivey, SLA Principal; Miqala Salinas, SLA Compliance Coordinator; Jennifer Gentle, Assistant Principal; Cheryl Myers, Accounting Manager; Alicia Sullivan, Senior Accountant; Tonya Franklin, HR Manager

3. **Pledge of Allegiance (President Gantt):**

Brian Heath presented Pledge of Allegiance

4. **Approval of Agenda (President Gantt):**

Motion: Move to approve the December 22nd agenda as submitted.

Discussion: A motion was made by Molly Schloderback, seconded by Drew Ainsworth to approve the December 22nd. This item was presented again once quorum arrived. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Approval of Board Minutes (President Gantt):** Minutes for September 26th, 2023

Motion: Move to approve the SLA Board Meeting Minutes for September 26th as presented.

Discussion: A motion was made by Emily Beard, seconded by Molly Schloderback to approve September 26th board minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Financial Review (Cheryl Myers):** Review of September, October, and November 2023 financial reports (attached) and review of the proposed budget revision.

Motion: Move to receive the September, October, and November 2023 financial reports as submitted and proposed budget revision.

Discussion:

Board of Education Meeting Minutes - Southwest Leadership Academy

Financial Review: Brian Heath moved to accept 5 month financials as submitted ending 11/30/2023. A motion was made by Drew Ainsworth, seconded by Emily Beard. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revision: Molly Schloderback proposed to not accept revised budget, but to review and reconvene on January 25th, 2024 at 4:00PM. Emily Beard 2nd motion. Unanimous passing.

Financial Review Overview: Cheryl Myers presented financial presentation. Reviewed 5 months financial ending with November 2023. Operation costs, transportation, admin expenses are all under budget. Personnel expenses over budget due to staffing issues & outsourcing.

Drew Ainsworth questioned the ESSER III grant stipends. Principal Spivey answered that this was due to the budget not reflecting the appropriate grant funds. Advised this large expense is staff retention.

Brian Heath asked about "Other Grant Revenue" that was not spent. Senior Accountant, Alicia stated that this was due to budgeting a grant that was not actually approved/provided.

Brian Heath questioned specific grant (IDEA-Part B). Senior Accountant, Alicia stated that this was due to the grant being finalized. Additionally, Principal Spivey stated that this was due to lack of staffing for Special Education Teacher.

Proposed Budget Revision Overview:

Cheryl Myers presented budget revision, showing the actual numbers reflected from July-November 2023. This budget revision would attempt to adjust according to actual student count from 230 students count to reflect accurate student enrollment average, currently at 198. We estimated 2.35 million at 230 student count. This budget revision would put SLA at a loss of \$161,000.

Brian Heath made a mention to recommend to revisit the budget again from a management perspective & we would like to review that reduce the total loss. This will need to include the total grant revenue.

Drew Ainsworth asked if halts the operation of the school by postponing the proposed revision. Also mentioning that this is 5% deviation. Brian Heath advised that this budget is a guide, and provides estimates on the spend.

Molly Schloderback mentioned that it would be okay to halt the revision & review again in January at impromptu board meeting.

7. **School Report (Christae Spivey):**
 - a. School Year Update
 - i. Enrollment at 189

Board of Education Meeting Minutes - Southwest Leadership Academy

- ii. Attendance Program initiated to increase enrollment
 - iii. 18 McKinney-Vento Students
 - iv. 21 Special Education Students
 - v. 24 English Language Learner Students
- b. Academic Programs and Achievements
- i. Saw 7% growth in Math
 - ii. 28 food handlers' cards issued in Culinary program
 - iii. ADE offering Tutoring – 12 students are receiving currently
 - iv. Growth in benchmarks (i.e. 9 transitioned from Minimally Proficient to Partially Proficient)
- c. Sports/Activities/Clubs Update
- i. Boys Basketball current record 7-1; #1 in CAA Division 2; schedule to be emailed
 - ii. Girls Basketball current record 0-5; Math Teacher & Chef are coaches
 - iii. Wrestling – 2 new wrestlers won last week
- d. New Staff/Staffing Changes
- a. Chris Fitterer – New Math Teacher
 - b. DaManique Ruiz – Family/Community Paraprofessional
 - c. Tommy Lunetta – IT Specialist
 - d. Andrea Rhoda – SPED Teacher
 - e. Noel Barraza – 1to1 Tutor

Discussion: Brian Heath mentioned attendance and that it's not heading in the direction needed, but questioned if that count comes into play for the state funding.

Christae Spivey spoke on the 100th day is where they are getting the snapshot of total enrollment that will fall into the funds. Also mentioning the 10-day drop & how that also plays a large factor in the enrollment. However, SLA is revamping a large marketing plan to enrollment and attendance increased.

8. **Announcements:**

No announcements presented.

9. **Adjournment:**

Brian adjourned meeting at 12:00PM.