

# 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 20<sup>h</sup> day of January 2026.

By

Alejandra Herrera, Administrative Assistant

### AGENDA

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

3:30 PM

Topic: SLA January Board Meeting

Time: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 03:30 PM Arizona

Christae Spivey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SLA Education Board Meeting

Time: Jan 21, 2026, 03:30 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

# Board of Education Meeting Minutes - Southwest Leadership Academy

<https://rop.zoom.us/j/81811372732>

Meeting ID: 818 1137 2732

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## One tap mobile

+13462487799,,81811372732# US (Houston)

+14086380968,,81811372732# US (San Jose)

## Join instructions

[https://rop.zoom.us/meetings/81811372732/invitations?signature=6b85bMvyxhl7-dyJEIyTOqZW5HJGMPLPw\\_LSz\\_3nIU](https://rop.zoom.us/meetings/81811372732/invitations?signature=6b85bMvyxhl7-dyJEIyTOqZW5HJGMPLPw_LSz_3nIU)

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](http://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

## January 2026 Minutes

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

Meeting was called to order by Drew Ainsworth at 3:38 PM

Attendance: Drew Ainsworth – Treasurer/Secretary; Brian Heath – Ex-Officio Member; Dr. Molly Schloderback – Member; Emily Beard - Member

Absent: Mike Gantt – Board President (Message was sent by Brian Heath)

2. **Introduction of Visitors:** Bridget Carrington, Superintendent; Christae Spivey, SLA Principal; Keith Chilton, Director of Business Operations and Initiatives; Alejandra Herrera, Administrative Assistant

All visitors were in attendance

3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Drew Ainsworth led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda for January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Motion:** Move to approve the January 21<sup>st</sup> agenda as submitted.

**Discussion:** A motion was made 1st by Emily Beard and seconded by Dr. Molly Schloderback.

5. **Approval of Board Minutes:** Minutes for October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, approval

**Motion:** Move to approve the SLA Board Meeting Minutes October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as presented.

**Discussion:** A motion was made 1st by Dr. Molly Schloderback and seconded by Brian Heath

6. **Financial Review:** Director of Business and Operations to review SLA financials from October 2025, November 2025 and December 2025.

**Motion:** Move to receive the previous month's financial reports as submitted.

**Discussion:** Mr. Keith Chilton reported that the organization remains in good financial standing, noting strong fund management by SLA principal. Student enrollment is currently over 200, exceeding the typical range in the 190s. Proposition 301 revenues continue to exceed budget expectations. Ms. Christae Spivey inquired about Proposition 301 funds not appearing in the bank account in November; this was attributed to timing differences. It was noted that the prior fiscal year ended with a loss. Mr. Drew Ainsworth raised a question regarding previously high water bills and whether the issue had been resolved. No ongoing issues have been identified, and Mr. Brian Heath will follow up to confirm.

A motion was made 1st by Brian Heath and seconded by Drew Ainsworth

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## 7. Update on FY26 Isaac Lease: Brian Heath

**Discussion:** The Board discussed the lease with Isaac School District, noting that the District received the terms they requested. While some adjustments were sought by our organization, there is an acknowledged risk related to water utilities. It was noted that we remain a tenant and that the District continues to need the tenancy. Mr. Drew Ainsworth asked about the lease renewal timeline; renewal was scheduled for July. Although a fully executed legal agreement is not yet in place, counsel has advised that prior email correspondence is sufficient to maintain tenancy at this time. Mr. Brian Heath will follow up to obtain a fully executed agreement.

## 8. School Report:

### a. Enrollment

#### i. Currently at 218 Students

1. Referral program has been kicking up enrollment. Raffle tickets have been awarded and prizes such as 75" TVs, VR System, & headphones have been raffled. They were purchased during Black Friday, which saved us lots of money.

#### ii. EL – 50

#### iii. IEP – 22

#### iv. MV - 29

### b. Accountability Dashboard

We are working toward earning an "A" letter grade and improving overall proficiency, with targeted classes in place to address identified gaps.

### c. Update on Grants

- i. There's an increase in funds in Title I & Title II, which will allow for more instructional supplies.

### d. Sports/Activities/Clubs

- i. We have "National School Choice" next week

- ii. We will be having a ceremony on January 29<sup>th</sup>, to recognize students with high Academic Achievement

### e. Staffing

- i. Guidance counselor is doing an amazing job in increasing our grad rate. Our credit recovery success rate has increased as well.

- ii. Cassandra Leyva was promoted to Compliance, and has been going great

1. This promotion has reinforced our mission as we are promoting within

### f. Community Events

Question by Dr. Molly Schloderback – Do we have a follow up on the purchase of Vans? Ms. Christae Spivey answered that it was concluded that it would be a better option to lease the vans.

Question by Drew Ainsworth – Can people make donation of items for our raffle prizes? Ms. Christae Spivey answered yes, items can be donated.

## 9. Announcements:

- a. We need to submit our Emergency Operations Plan to ADE. Ms. Christae Spivey will confirm whether ADE will accept the plan without prior Board approval and will advise if an earlier meeting is required ahead of the currently scheduled March 2026 meeting.

## 10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm