

Board of Education Meeting Agenda - 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 14th day of October 2025..

By

Leandra Wood, Compliance Coordinator

AGENDA

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

October 15th, 2025

3:30 PM

Topic: SLA October Board Meeting
Time: October 15th, 2025 03:30 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rop.zoom.us/j/82910053544>

Meeting ID: 829 1005 3544

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

Meeting was called to order by Mike Gantt at 3:30 PM

Brian Heath and Dr. Molly Brann arrived at 3:35 PM

2. **Introduction of Visitors:** Bridget Carrington, Superintendent; Christae Spivey, SLA Principal; Leandra Wood, SLA Compliance Coordinator; Keith Chilton, Director of Business Operations

All visitors were in attendance.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance: (President Gantt):** President Gantt led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda for October 15th, 2025

Motion: Move to approve the October 15th agenda as submitted.

Discussion: A motion was made 1st by Emily Beard and seconded by Drew Ainsworth.

5. **Approval of Board Minutes:** Minutes for July 19th, 2025.

Motion: Move to approve the SLA Board Meeting Minutes for July 19th as presented.

Discussion: A motion was made 1st by Brian Heath and seconded by Molly Brann.

6. **Discussion of FY26 Isaac School District Lease & Rite of Passage Management Agreement**

Brian continues to work through negotiations with Isaac School District, the main issue is the utilities. The highest bill was over \$22,000, this could have been caused by a couple of different reasons- Homelessness, our meter on the outside of our property and the field was watered when we did the new grass. In September we managed the water and the bill was \$7,000 which is an improvement, but Brian does not feel it would be fair to the school to have to cover such high utility expenses each month, and does not want to sign a lease until the terms are fair for both parties. As of now we do not have a contract agreement at the school and we won't sign an agreement until terms are agreed. Brian will continue to provide updates.

7. **Financial Review: (Keith Chilton)** Review of July 2025, August 2025, and September 2025 financial reports as presented.

Motion: Move to receive the July 2025, August 2025, and September 2025 financial reports as submitted.

Discussion:

- Still have a substantial amount of assets and the school is still strong financially.
- 9/1 Ratio to current liabilities

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- We decided to do smoothing on the financials due to more compliance with accounting principles to give a more realistic financial statement.
- Pays off of estimates of enrollments, we always underestimate
- Payments from these estimates would have totaled \$450,000 YTD.
- ADE has estimated the October equalization payment will be \$205,000.
- Net loss YTD at September 30 is \$724.13.
- 1st 3 months of enrollment is always low, but we make up for it throughout the year which makes up the cost, and we will end up breaking even.
- Even if we did not have student growth, we would still be in good hands with about \$50,000 per year.
- 190 students the Department of Education (ADE) has based payment on.

Question from Drew Ainsworth- With Washington trying to shut everything down with education will this affect us financially? Grants would be where we might see disruption, Arizona Department of Education won't be disrupted.

- Christae and the team have done a great job managing the budget and sticking to it.

Christae Spivey: We have 199 students and last year around this time we had 215, we do have events on campus and off campus to get the number up.

A motion was made 1st by Emily Beard and seconded by Drew Ainsworth.

8. Approval to purchase new vans from reserve funds (Bridget Carrington)

Motion: Move to use reserve funds to purchase new vans.

Discussion: Q&A was recently completed and it was recommended to look into replacing the vans used for transportation for students. These vans are used for students to get to and from school, for the sports events and college tours. The vans are not safe and have many issues that are costing over \$500 at least a month in repairs. When traveling to further events we have to rent vans which is also costing money out of our budget. A grant cannot cover the cost of vans. Christae, Bridget and Keith looked into the finances and it was determined there are funds that can be used.

- \$601,836.98 cash in bank
- \$1,220,834.35 fund balance
- Recommendation initially was suggesting to purchase 2 vans and repair one of the newer vans currently to save in cost.
- Used vans run about \$60,000.00 per van for a 12 passenger van.

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- Right of Passage will have to make sure we are in compliance with everything once purchase is made.
- Depreciation and operations funds will be covered in the 2026 budget.

Brian Heath thinks the board should approve 3 vans, but with a budget of \$150,000.00.

Mike Gantt suggested once we get the new vans to get them with our logo.

Drew Ainsworth 1st to motion of 3 vans with the budget of \$150,000, Brian Heath 2nd to motion.

9. School Report: (Christae Spivey)

- Enrollment-
 - Currently at 199 students
 - ELL- 43
 - ESS- 17
 - McKinney Vento - 21
- Guidance Counselor events
 - Amazon tour
 - Accelerated pathways College lunch visit
 - Army, National Guard, Navy, Marines and Air Form Presentations
 - GCU, NAU & Phoenix College Senior Meeting Presentations
 - 50 by Fall FASFA Initiative, this will help the students complete FASFA before college.
 - AZ Construction Career Fair Day
 - ASU Tour
- Social Worker events
 - Botkin Life Skills
 - Bully Prevention
 - CPR Training
 - Managing Stress & Anxiety
 - *Friendly House
 - Opioid & Alcohol Presentations
 - Vaping Presentation
 - Love Notes Curriculum
- Update on Love notes
 - help with building strong and healthy relationships with expectations.
- Upcoming school events
 - October 17- Homecoming/ Fall Dance
 - October 30- Halloween Community Event
 - November 20- Thanksgiving DDay lunch w/ Families
 - December18- Santa's Workshop & 2nd Quarter Assembly

64 Academic Awards were given recently to students (Principal/ Honor roll, A/B Honor Roll & attendance.

Attendance is at 82.74%

On track to graduate- 56%

45 Credit Recovery

RAMS of the Month has been going well. 1st Teacher for RAMS of the Month was Mr. Peters and 2nd teacher for this month was Mr. Fertig.

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Sports that have started are Volleyball, Cheer and Football. Really impressed with the Volleyball team, they have great team spirit and sportsmanship, really motivating to watch.

Brian Heath suggested updating the website under the staff picture of all special duties they do for the school. Such as Coaches that are coaching and all of the work Priscilla does with the students.

Brian asked how Priscilla liked the Aiming for Change Training. Priscilla really liked it and is scheduling training at lunch. She feels a lot of students will benefit.

10. **Announcements:** None

11. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM.