

# **Board of Education 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 Brian Heath at (480) 987-9700. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

DATED AND POSTED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

By

Christae Spivey, Superintendent

### **AGENDA**

Southwest Leadership Academy Governing Board

June 17<sup>h</sup>, 2026

3:00pm

Topic: June Board of Education Meeting.

Time: June 16, 2026 @ 3:00 pm Arizona

## Board of Education Agenda- Southwest Leadership Academy

Topic: Southwest Leadership Academy Education Board Meeting

Time: Jun 17, 2026 03:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rop.zoom.us/j/83613581380>

Meeting chat link

<https://rop.zoom.us/launch/jc/83613581380>

Meeting ID: 836 1358 1380

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,83613581380# US

+12532158782,,83613581380# US (Tacoma)

Join by SIP

- 83613581380@zoomcrc.com

Join instructions

<https://rop.zoom.us/meetings/83613581380/invitations?signature=3ORJJcghg2JyrwJeYYCO4i6YGzwcGpiV9BelflubfB4>

## **Board of Education Agenda- Southwest Leadership Academy**

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 Brian Heath at (480) 987-9700. Also, you can attend the foregoing meeting by teleconference.

\*\*Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Brian Heath at (480) 987-9700. Requests should be made as early as possible to arrange the accommodation.

## **Board of Education Agenda- Southwest Leadership Academy**

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

**Attendance:** Mike Gantt, Board President; Drew Ainsworth, Treasurer/Secretary; Brian Heath, Ex-Officio Member, Dr. Molly Brann, Member, Emily Beard, Member

**Meeting called to order at 3:04pm**

2. **Introduction of Visitors:** Christae Spivey, Principal; Keith Chilton, National Director of Business Operations and Initiatives; Marcia Pruitt, School Finance; Cassandra Leyva, Compliance Coordinator; Esme Martinez, Registrar; Veronica Sanchez, Office Assistant, Lola Donaldson, Instructional Coach; Greg Peters, Director of Special Education; Myles Jackson, Student Support Coach.

**Attendance:** Christae Spivey, Principal; Cassandra Leyva, SLA Compliance Coordinator; Veronica Sanchez, Administrative Assistant, Myles Jackson, SLA Student Support Coach, Esme Martinez, Registrar, Lola Donaldson, Instructional Coach; Greg Peters, Director of Special Education; Myles Jackson, Student Support Coach, Lauren Genevro, SLA Guidance Counselor

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

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

**Motion:** Move to approve June 17, 2026, agenda as submitted.

**Discussion:** Motion to approve June 17, 2026 agenda as submitted made by Drew Ainsworth, seconded by Emily Beard.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Approval of Board Minutes:** Minutes for April 14<sup>th</sup>

**Motion:** Move to approve April 14, 2026, SLA Board Meeting Minutes as submitted.

**Discussion:** Motion to approve April 14, 2026, SLA Board Meeting Minutes as submitted by Brian Heath, seconded by Molly Brann.

**Board of Education Agenda- Southwest Leadership Academy**  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

**6. School Report (SLA Staff)**

a. Summary of school year 2026-2027 accomplishments

- i. Enrollment
  - Average 225-230 Enrollment
- ii. Attendance Rate
  - Attendance rate 90% for the year
- iii. Transportation
  - New Vans received
- iv. School Safety Grant
  - Approved for the 2026-2027 school year and continue contracted social worker services for Ms. Priscilla Ayala and continued support from SSO.
- v. Graduates
  - 59 and 1 junior graduate
  - Graduation rate from 63% to 78%
- vi. Summer School Updates
  - 4 summer graduates
  - 57 in person 5 online= 145 credits earned
  - 10 New Enrollment
- vii. Athletics
  - Volleyball New Coach Rivera won 3 games
  - Boys Basketball won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in CAA competition
  - Playoffs for Girls Flag Football

**Discussion:** Mike Gantt asked if pickle ball would be an option for a new sport that welcomes both genders and all grades.
- viii. Programs & Events
  - Presented a PowerPoint with school year events.
- ix. Key Positions-
  - Bridget Carrington retired from Superintendent of LEA Southwest Leadership Academy in May 2026.
  - Kassandra Leyva, Administrative Assistant was promoted to Compliance Coordinator in March 2026.
  - Veronica Sanchez was hired in May 2026 as Front Office Assistant.

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7. **Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of employment of a Superintendent candidate (Brian Heath):** Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding the selection and hiring of a Superintendent.

**Motion:** Move to select Christae Spivey as Superintendent of Southwest Leadership Academy.

**Discussion:** Brian Heath recommendation to select Christae Spivey as Superintendent.

Mike Gantt questioned if Ms. Spivey will continue to be Principal.

Brian Heath mentioned that we will be in the process of recruiting a new Principal as Christae Spivey will be serving as SW Region Education Director and Superintendent for ROP.

Motion to approve Christae Spivey as Superintendent of Southwest Leadership Academy made by Drew Ainsworth, seconded by Molly Brann.

Brian abstained from voting as he made the recommendation.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **Approval to add/remove authorized individuals on the ASBCS Portal:** Requesting approval to update authorized individuals within the ASBCS Portal as follows:

**Remove the following individuals:**

- Bridget Carrington, Contact and Charter Representative
- Janet Melton, Charter Representative
- Leandra Wood, Charter Representative

**Add the following individuals:**

- Christae Spivey, Contact
- Molly Brann, Contact
- Kassandra Leyva, Charter Administrator

**Motion:** Move to update authorized individuals in the ASBCS Portal by removing Bridget Carrington, Janet Melton, and Leandra Wood, and adding Christae Spivey, Molly Schloderback, and Kassandra Leyva, as presented.

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**Discussion:** Motion made to update authorized individuals in the ASBCS Portal by removing Bridget Carrington, Janet Melton, and Leandra Wood, and adding Christae Spivey as a Contact, Molly Brann as a Contact (amending her last name from Schloderback to Brann – update contact as board member) and Cassandra Leyva as Charter Administrator, by Brian Heath, seconded by Emily Beard.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

9. **Financial Review (CJ Bower):** Review of April 2026 and May 2026 financial reports as presented.

**Motion:** Move to receive April 2026 and May 2026 financial reports.

**Discussion:** April 2026 \$9k down, revenue is consistent.

May 2026 \$21k down

School safety grant revenue approved.

Mike Gantt mentioned possible wrap or marketing efforts on new vans.

Motion to approve April 2026 and May 2026 financial reports as submitted by Brian Heath, seconded by Drew Ainsworth.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

10. **Discussion to Schedule the Review and Approval of the FY 2027 budget:** A proposed budget is required to be submitted to ADE by 7/5/2026. The Board approved budget deadline for submission is 7/15/2026.

- a. **No school budget prepared at the moment per Brian Heath would like to reconvene soon to go over proposed budget to review and approve. CJ will complete FY27 budget and will submit it for meeting date.**

11. **Approval of Annual Auditors (CJ Bower):** Seek to gain Board approval for the engagement of Fester and Chapman as auditors for FY27 for Southwest Leadership Academy.

**Motion:** to approve annual auditors Fester and Chapman

**Discussion:** Motion to seek board approval to continue engagement with annual auditors Fester and Chapman made by Brian Heath, seconded by Emily Beard.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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12. **Code of Ethics & Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Forms (Christae Spivey):** Annually the Board is required to file a conflict-of-interest form. The Code of Ethics will be reviewed as well. Both copies will be distributed to the Board at the meeting for FY27.
- a. **Mike Gantt asked if everyone has received the copy to sign and submit as soon as possible.**
13. **Review Isaac School District lease (Brian Heath):** The attached lease agreement has been negotiated by Rite of Passage for review by the Board. The agreement ends on June 30, 2027.

**Motion:** Move to approve Isaac School District lease & sub-lease between ROP & SLA.

**Discussion:** ROP in process of negotiating current lease requesting 2% increase  
Brian Heath abstained from voting.

Motion made to approve sub-lease between ROP & SLA reflecting 2% increase, by Emily Beard, seconded by Molly Brann

**Motion passed unanimously.**

14. **Approval of 2026-2027 Calendar (Christae Spivey):** Please see attached.

**Motion:** Move to approve the calendar for FY27 as presented.

**Discussion:** Only addition was a teacher in service day after the break.

Motion made to approve the calendar for FY27 as presented by Molly Brann, seconded by Brian Heath.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

15. **Approval of 301 funding for the 2026-2027 school year (Christae Spivey):**

**Motion:** Move to approve the Prop 301-teacher incentive for 2026-2027 school year. (remained the same as last year)

Motion made to approve the Prop 301-teacher incentive for 2026-2027 school year by Brian Heath, seconded by Emily Beard.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## Board of Education Agenda- Southwest Leadership Academy

16. **Scheduled Board Meetings for SY 2025/2026 (Christae Spivey):** The Board plans to meet quarterly but the President or multiple members of the Board may call special meetings as necessary. The dates provided below are recommended meeting dates, but the Board can change them based upon the availability of the Board. The Board may also want to meet between regularly scheduled Board meetings for budget adjustments if circumstances require.

- a. Video Conference on September 16, 2026 at 3:00pm
- b. Video Conference on December 16, 2026 at 3:00pm
- c. Video Conference on March 17, 2026 at 3:00pm
- d. In-Person June or July 2027 meeting TBD \*Recommended Board Retreat as well.

**Motion:** Move to establish dates and times for regularly scheduled board meetings as agreed upon.

**Discussion:** Motion made to approve established dates and times for regularly scheduled board meetings with addition to emergency meeting for budget approval by Brian Heath, seconded by Emily Beard.

Note to update March 17, 2026 to 2027

**Motion passed unanimously.**

17. **Announcements:** Board approved expansion application. Plan to develop on 180 acres on Queen Creek for Desert Mountain, asked to extend expansion efforts to start FY28.

**Discussion:** Brian presented possible options to launch Desert Mountain on an existing building in Mesa. Would like to put an offer on the building as soon as possible due to competition.

Per Molly Brann approves temporary location change. All fixtures, furniture included, ready to move in.

Motion to approve the charter amendment for Desert Mountain location change from Canyon State Academy to 960 N Stapley Dr Mesa Az 85203, if ROP secures the property made by Emily Beard, seconded by Molly Brann

**Motion passed unanimously.**

18. **Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:34pm.

# **Board of Education Agenda- Southwest Leadership Academy**