



Arizona School for the Arts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
On Campus: Building A, Room 129

Attendance (Voting Members in **Bold**)

Dr. David Garcia, President	P	Alexander (Alex) Laing, Vice President	A	Dr. Heidi Jannenga, Secretary/Treasurer	A
Kevin Allen	A	Michelle Buckley	P	Andrei Cherny	P
Michelle Davidson	P	Betty Hum	P	John O'Neal	A
Allison Otu	P	Nonnie Shivers	A	John Snider	P
Elizabeth (Liz) Guzman, Honorary Arts Faculty	P	Jeffrey (Jeff) Steinert, Honorary Academic Faculty	P	Ian Elder, Honorary Student	P
Ingrid Martinez, Honorary Student	P	Leah Fregulia, Head of School/CEO	P	Leslie Tan Religioso, Development Director	P
Elizabeth (Liz) Shaw, Business Director	P	Carolyn Smith, Executive Assistant	P		

Agenda Items

| Call to the Public

| Mission Moment

- "A Poem About Room" by Joshua Elder based on the poem by Brad Montague
- Performed by the ASA Concert Choir, Directed by Jessica Elder

| Board Recognition

Introduction of Guests

| Discussion Items

Enrollment and Recruitment

- Dashboard - Enrollment
- Dashboard - Applications for SY 2024-2025

Strategic Plan Update

Resource Development Committee

- Development Dashboard
- ASA Rising Campaign

Finance Committee

- Financial Reports
 - August
 - September
- Review of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit Report

Governance Committee

- Board Succession Planning and Recruiting

| Consent Agenda

Head of School Report

| Action Items

Approval of the September 18, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Approval of the October 4, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit via Roll Call Vote

Approval of the Letter of Engagement for the Board-approved Educational Consultant

| The Board of Directors will vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(1) Personnel

| The Board of Directors may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Board's attorney on any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(3) Legal Advice

Minutes

Board President Dr. David Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Call to the Public

David asked if members of the public attending the meeting wished to make a comment pertaining to the agenda. Nobody came forward, so David moved to the next agenda item.

Mission Moment

The Board viewed a video recorded at the October 5th High School Choir concert. The Concert Choir performed "A Poem About Room" an original piece by Joshua Elder based on the poem by Brad Montague, under the direction of Jessica Elder.

Board Recognition

David recognized Leola Abraham, Carrie Larson, Lorisa Pombo, and Annette Zinky who were invited as guests by Leah Fregulia to observe the workings of an ASA Board meeting. David asked each guest to introduce and tell a little about themselves.

Discussion Items

Enrollment and Recruitment

Leah showed the Board the current enrollment number as of the 40th day of the 2023-2024 school year and said that we seem to be holding at this level with the possibility of two new enrollments,

which would be the final ones for this year as we do not allow new enrollments past the first quarter, it being too difficult for new students to catch up beyond that point. She then reviewed the current applications for the 2024-2025 school year in comparison to the same month the five prior school years. With eleven days to go in October, we are slightly ahead of the entire month of October last year, but still well behind 2022-2023 and earlier. However, sibling applicants this month alone are just one student behind the entirety of October through January of last year. Leah asked John Snider to share the public and charter school enrollment trends he has observed over the past couple of years in his role at RBC. John explained that post pandemic, there has been a precipitous decline in enrollments nationwide in favor of online and home school, among other alternative education methods.

Strategic Plan Update

Leah updated the Board on the current status of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. To date, Leah and Principal Elma Džanić Bass have consolidated the notes from the Strategic Planning Retreat to seven goal areas that need to be addressed going forward. Leah shared the goals and plans for the internal work that will be school leadership driven as well as those of the external work that will be Head of School, Development Team, and Board driven. She then explained the immediate next steps for the preparation and execution of the plan document.

Action Item

Due to the need for two voting Board members to leave the meeting early, the roll call vote for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit was brought forward in the meeting.

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit

Betty Hum made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit. The motion was seconded by John Snider and passed unanimously via roll call vote without further discussion. [Garcia, Buckley, Cherny, Davidson, Hum, Otu, and Snider voting in favor.]

Discussion Items

Resource Development Committee

Leslie Religioso reviewed the reconciled Annual Fund total as of the end of September and gave an update of the percentage of Board and family giving as of October 16th. Additionally, she noted that as of that same date, giving is trending \$25K higher than the same time last year. Leslie then discussed the "ASA Rising" campaign to raise funds for campus improvements, letting the Board know the current results and plans for future notifications during this limited drive period and notified them about the upcoming year-end giving campaign. David then reminded the Board of upcoming events where their presence and/or support would be welcome including the amphitheater ribbon cutting on December 14th. Leslie closed with a reminder about corporate sponsorship opportunities for both Showcase and Signature Series performances and thanked Michelle and Brian Davidson for their Department Series sponsorship.

Finance Committee

John Snider let the Board know that the reports for August and September that were shared with them reflect the adjusted student count that Leah presented earlier. John stated that due to conservative budgeting and careful expense management, the school finances continue in good shape, however the drives for the Annual Fund that Leslie discussed are important to the school to help make up for any necessary funds not provided by the state, especially since the State is having trouble balancing their budget and next year all of the extra Federal funding will sunset. John added that the Audit numbers aligned with the August and September numbers and the Audit was clean with the exception of two small compliance notes. John thanked Elizabeth Shaw and her staff for all of their great work on the Audit.

Governance Committee

Betty Hum shared the Committee's discussion about the current Board composition and the need to have future members with desired skill sets in the pipeline as some current members roll off the Board. She also said the Committee discussed the current onboarding process and what can be

done to make the experience better for new members. Betty then gave a brief preview of the annual review process for policies and staff/faculty contracts.

Consent Agenda

Head of School Report

Leah said that her complete report is on the Board Portal, but wanted to highlight that the amphitheatre work is about 95% complete with the exception of a few punch list items and hanging the light and sound equipment. The inaugural performance is to be the High School Band concert the following night, and Liz Guzman added that not only does the amphitheatre look good, the sound is really good.

Additionally, Leah wanted the Board to know that the school's 5-year certification through Cognia is coming up next year so she and Principal Bass have just started the Cognia training in advance of the extensive certification process. In response to a query if anything was expected of the Board during this process, Leah let them know that nothing is expected now, that there may be surveys in the future, but Leah would inform them in advance.

Action Items

With the early departure from the meeting of two voting Board members, a quorum no longer existed, so the remaining Action Items were tabled until a future meeting.

Adjournment

Michelle Buckley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Betty Hum and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Garcia, Buckley, Hum, Otu, and Snider voting in favor.]

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Minutes reviewed and accepted on: November 20, 2023

Signed by:  _____, Board Member