



Attendance (Voting Members in **Bold**)

Allison Otu, President	P	Michelle Davidson, Vice President	P	Leola Abraham, Secretary	P
Scott S. Stone, Treasurer	P	Melvin (Mel) Brown	P	Michelle Buckley	P
Carrie Larson	P	Michael Medici, AIA	P	Dr. Lorisa Pombo	A
Marcelino Quiñonez	A	Nonnie Shivers	P	Annette Zinky	P
David Alderslade	P	Jennifer Delgado	P	Elizabeth (Liz) Goodman	P
Joshua Pierce, Honorary Arts Faculty	P	Todd Webster, Honorary Academic Faculty	P	Eva Luz Pombo, Honorary Student	P
Liam Wohlert, Honorary Student	P	David Lujan, Executive Director	P	Leslie Tan Religioso, Development Director	P
Elizabeth (Liz) Shaw, Business Director	P	Carolyn Smith, Executive Assistant	P		

Agenda Items

 Call to the Public	
	Allison Otu
 Mission Moment	
Tri-M Talent Show	Eva Pombo & Liam Wohlert
 Board Recognition	
	Allison Otu
 Discussion Items	
Resource Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Dashboard • Showcase Sponsorship 	Allison Otu & Leslie Religioso
Governance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Handbooks 	Nonnie Shivers & David Lujan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexuality Education Curriculum 	Eva Pombo

 Consent Agenda	
Board President Updates	Allison Otu
Executive Director Report	David Lujan
Development & Marketing Director Report	Leslie Religioso
 Action Items	
Approval of the January 26, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	
Approval of the Percussion Ensemble Trip to Field of Steel in Tucson	
 The Board of Directors may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(7) Property	
 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 Allison Otu called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Call to the Public

No members of the public were present in the Zoom meeting at that time; Allison moved to the next agenda item.

Mission Moment

Liam Wohlert let the Board know that ASA's music honor society, Tri-M, will be bringing back the school's talent show. Student and faculty acts will perform at the show produced by Tri-M on April 24th at 6:00pm in the Leah Fregulia Amphitheatre. This is a benefit show for the PV Community Food Bank, so admission is payable with a non-perishable food item.

Board Recognition

Since Liz Goodman was not able to attend the February meeting, Allison took the opportunity to thank her in person for arranging two tour groups of parents from Desert View Learning Center in Paradise Valley. Liz said the tour was very successful and there is interest in applying to ASA among some of the families who came on the tours.

For the month of March, Allison recognized Jennifer Delgado for arranging a meeting for David Lujan with a local foundation. The meeting was productive and David was able to secure a funding pledge for some much-needed musical instruments as well as some marketing and long-range planning assistance. Allison also thanked Marcelino Quiñonez for securing a Signature Series sponsor for the Mainstage Play, *I Need My Monster*.

Discussion Items

Resource Development

- Allison told the Board that they should have received their individual fundraising dashboard via email from Leslie Religioso prior to the meeting. They will be receiving their confidential individual dashboards every month to aid them with a more targeted approach with their fundraising efforts. Leslie added that the general Development Dashboard was shared on the Board Portal; it has been redesigned for more clarity and legibility.

- Leslie and Allison went over the fundraising priorities for the next few months, assigning “homework” to the Board:
 - Based on their personal dashboards those board members who have not paid their Annual Fund pledges are requested to do so by April 1st.
 - We are still in need of a sponsor for the Spring Dance Recital at the Ballet Arizona Dorrance Theatre; Signature Series sponsorship opportunities close on April 11th.
 - The Annual Parent Meetings for returning families are happening this week. This is our main occasion to set expectations and gauge, via pledge and donation, where the Annual Fund will stand at the beginning of next school year.
 - April 15th is the final day for Tax Credit donation, so this is the last opportunity for board members to make network outreach to Arizona residents who can still benefit from this donation.
 - As we move rapidly toward Showcase and the end of the fiscal year, corporate sponsorship is very important to help close the Annual Fund gap. Board members were asked to make introductions of corporate connections to David and Leslie if they were not comfortable making the sponsorship ask themselves.
- Leslie reminded the Board that the school will be applying for some grants and an important component in being considered is the percentage of board and staff members -- along with families -- that donate to the school. It illustrates the stakeholders’ belief and engagement in ASA and makes an application more favorable.
- Several more Showcase sponsors have been secured since the February meeting including the Presenting Sponsor. The Showcase reception will take place before the May 27th show at a reception room in the Orpheum Theatre; this remains a great cultivation opportunity to introduce possible new benefactors to ASA.

Governance Committee

David informed the Board that the first drafts of all of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 school handbooks are under review by the Governance Committee. There will be minimal changes to all of the handbooks and the Board will receive drafts for review at the April meeting with the final drafts to be approved at the May meeting.

Sexuality Education Curriculum

Eva Pombo presented her research on expanding ASA’s sexuality education curriculum to be more LGBTQ+ inclusive. Eva was able to articulate the student population’s desire to be more comprehensive based on ASA’s longstanding culture of acceptance and the fact that a large portion of our student body identifies as LGBTQ+. She cited state law regarding sexuality education in public schools and requested that the Board and Administration consider a more inclusive approach.

Consent Agenda

Board President Updates

Allison presented a summary of a convening she attended at the Flinn Foundation entitled “Capitalization in a Changing Environment”. The thrust of the seminar was to help arts-centered nonprofits understand how to monetize in an era of inflation, changing altruistic behavior, and changing audience demographics. Allison shared the shift in focus and mindset that ASA needs to adopt in order to have fundraising success in a changing arts philanthropy environment.

Executive Director Report

David wanted to focus on the enrollment portion of his report. Student enrollment is the success driver of the school. We have a promising enrollment number for the next school year, the past three Shadow Days have been full and we are seeing applications as a result. When applicants are asked, they still indicate word-of-mouth as the predominant recruiting tool of ASA. David requested that as the school’s best ambassadors, that board members continue to suggest ASA as an option to people they know with school-aged children.

Enrollment has a direct impact on the budget and as it has been down over the past few years, ASA needs to pare down faculty and staff to reflect the lower student count. Our current staff structure is based on 850 students; during this contract period thirteen teachers were sadly informed that their

contracts are not being renewed for the 2026-2027 school year in order to balance class ratios and preserve our current cash reserves. The goal has been to not scare stakeholders from ASA; negative rumors have been circulating about ASA future viability. Nothing is further from the case; these measures are being taken in order to *keep* ASA financially healthy and provide ASA students with the quality educational programs we have provided all along.

David reported that ASA has almost completed the 15-year review with the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools (ASBCS). All required documents have been submitted, the ASBCS came for a pop-in visit to the school in February, and the desk review with members of Administration was performed on March 17th. ASBCS will have a final report within 30 days and it may affect a few minor policy changes. David will share the report with the Board when it is completed and sent to ASA.

Development & Marketing Director Report

Leslie said that she continues to be blown away by the students' performances at events like Masterworks. The next Signature Series performance is the Mainstage Play, *I Need My Monster*. ASA will host a pre-show reception on Saturday, March 28th for the playwright, Anne Negri, and board members are encouraged to attend the reception along with the Saturday performance followed by a talkback session with Ms. Negri. ASA is mounting the first-ever production of this play and this is a wonderful opportunity to invite possible donors to see an ASA production.

Action Items

Annette Zinky left the meeting before the Action Items.

Approval of the February 23, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michael Medici moved to approve the February 23, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Carrie Larson and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Medici, and Shivers voting in favor.]

Approval of the Percussion Ensemble Trip to Field of Steel in Tucson

Scott Stone moved to approve the Percussion Ensemble Trip to Field of Steel in Tucson. requested clarification on the differences in the fees from this year to next. The motion was seconded by Michelle Davidson and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Medici, and Shivers voting in favor.]

Executive Session

At 6:40 p.m. Allison Otu moved that the Board of Directors commence an executive session in order to discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of real property pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(7). The motion was seconded by Michael Medici and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Medici, and Shivers voting in favor.]


The executive session ended at 6:55 p.m.

Adjournment

Leola Abraham moved to end the meeting. The motion was seconded by Michelle Davidson and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Medici, and Shivers voting in favor.]

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes reviewed and accepted on: April 27, 2026

Signed by:  _____, Board Member
Leola A. Abraham (Apr 30, 2026 16:14:24 PDT)