



Attendance (Voting Members in **Bold**)

Allison Otu, President	P	Michelle Davidson, Vice President	A	Leola Abraham, Secretary	A
Scott S. Stone, Treasurer	P	Melvin (Mel) Brown	P	Michelle Buckley	P
Carrie Larson	P	Michael Medici, AIA	P	Dr. Lorisa Pombo	P
Marcelino Quiñonez	A	Nonnie Shivers	A	Annette Zinky	P
David Alderslade	P	Jennifer Delgado	P	Elizabeth (Liz) Goodman	A
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outgoing SHBM Reflections Introduce Incoming SHBM 	Eva Pombo & Liam Wohlert
 Board Recognition	
	Allison Otu
 Discussion Items	
Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Reports Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Draft 	Scott Stone & Elizabeth Shaw
Resource Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Dashboard Showcase 	Allison Otu & Leslie Religioso

Governance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Handbook Drafts 	Nonnie Shivers; David Lujan & Elma Bass
Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Review 	David Lujan and Elma Bass
 Consent Agenda	
Board President Updates	Allison Otu
Executive Director Report	David Lujan
Development & Marketing Director Report	Leslie Religioso
 Action Items	
Approval of the April 27, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	
The Board of Directors may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(1) Personnel	
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 5:33 p.m.

Call to the Public

Fifth grade parent Niya Ferrante-Gima asked to address the Board regarding an item on the agenda and another issue that was not. Allison gave a brief review of the rules for public comment and allowed Ms. Ferrante-Gima her allotted time to speak. Ms. Ferrante-Gima stated that she and other parents that she has spoken with are worried that Honors courses are being eliminated next year; the rigor and challenge that they offer is a fundamental reason that they attend ASA. She added that should this level no longer be available some would reconsider their children attending ASA. Her second point was that, as an educator of 23 years, she has a grave concern about the amount of screen time students have in the classroom as it is proven to be bad for kids; ASA has a good policy regarding mobile phones as she asked that Administration consider lessening computer use in favor of more paper-based learning.

Ms. Ferrante-Gima was thanked and her comments acknowledged; David Lujan said that her concerns about Honors credits would be addressed in the Discussion Items and screen time suggestion would be taken to Administration.

Mission Moment

Allison began by thanking Joshua Pierce for coordinating the special extended Mission Moment last month and Eva Pombo and Liam Wohlert for facilitating the Q&A with the high school students at the end; the Board found it enjoyable and enlightening. She also thanked them for the impactful insights they have given over the course of their tenure.

This month, Liam and Eva shared their reflections on the two years they served as Student Honorary Board Members (SHBM). Liam stated that he is extremely grateful for the incredible experience of serving, especially the opportunities to impact the school community like Strategic Planning which allowed him to see that everyone wants the best for ASA even if they do not agree how to get there all the time. He also said how thankful he was for his time at ASA; the inviting culture, the teachers, and learning about music helped shape his plans to be an engineer. Eva echoed all of Liam's sentiments and added that she also appreciated being met with a listening ear in Administration about her sentiments regarding the Sex Education curriculum and the opportunity to share her presentation to the Board. She said this is a role model on what leadership should be.

Eva and Liam then introduced their successors for the 2026-2027 school year, Lola Morales and Promise Ndayiragije, both from the Class of 2027. Lola and Promise each gave an overview of their involvement in ASA and what they hope to accomplish as SHBMs in the coming year.

Board Recognition

Allison recognized Eva and Liam for all of their hard work on the board and for their scholastic success at ASA and wished them well at Stanford and Swarthmore, respectively.

Discussion Items

Finance Committee

Liz Shaw said that the April financial reports show the school holding steady and the financials where they were expected to be with expenditures at a minimum. David and Scott Stone let the Board know the budget draft will need some more adjustment; it is built on 620 students and as of now, we are looking to start the year with 600 students, which would go down with attrition by the 100th day. The budget is in the black, but will need more cuts if ASA is to meet the bond covenants. David then discussed the Annual Fund's importance to the budget and some Strategic Planning expenses and how they may be covered by an outside education coalition so as not to impact the balance of the budget.

Resource Development

Leslie Religioso stressed that the primary focus right now is Showcase. She shared out current sponsorship and ticket sales and asked the Board to continue promoting Hearts for the Arts and ticket purchases. Showcase profits directly benefit the Annual Fund and it is an impactful contribution to help make up some of the shortfall this year. Allison encouraged the board members to make one last outreach to their networks and to invite people who could be interested in getting involved with ASA to the reception.

Governance Committee

David gave an overview of the minor changes to the majority of the Fiscal Year 2027-2028 handbooks, predominately name and title changes. More changes were made to the Student Code of Conduct to offer additional clarity around discipline policies. The Community Handbook did present a policy change to Honors courses, but far from getting rid of them as expressed earlier, *all* courses will have increased rigor with advanced work available as a subset to students who want and/or need it. The distinction of Honors versus regular courses was a relatively new invention to bring students with post-pandemic academic deficiencies back up to pre-pandemic standards.

There will be forums and surveys over the next few weeks to keep students and families informed as the syllabi and master schedule is finalized, but the expectation is that ASA will be able to offer *more* Honors opportunities than in the past with increased standards for all students.

The Board then discussed the need for and methods of effective communication so this and other important messaging is not lost and that parents and students clearly feel that they know what is happening and that they have a stake. To do otherwise comes with a risk of losing students to gossip and confusion. Administration will review communication plans with members of the Board.

Strategic Planning

The draft strategic plan provided to the Board incorporates key themes from feedback sessions and establishes four key strategic priorities:

- ASA school redesign (ASA 3.0)
- Build a sustainable funding and facilities strategy
- Redesign the student experience for retention and agency
- Strengthen talent and capacity

The goal is to have a final document over the summer. This is a 3-year plan that lays the framework for ASA's ongoing future and how to meet the needs of today's students and what they will need to meet ongoing socioeconomic change.

Consent Agenda

Board President Updates

Allison again stressed the importance of the final push towards Showcase. She also thanked the Board for their contributions towards the Board-sponsored lunch during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Executive Director Report

David did not have anything to add to his written report.

Development & Marketing Director Report

Leslie did not have anything to add to her written report, but expressed her gratitude to the Board for their support.

Action Items

Approval of the April 27, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michael Medici moved to approve the April 27, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Carrie Larson and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Medici, Pombo, and Zinky voting in favor.]

Executive Session

At 6:41 p.m. Annette Zinky 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) and for the purpose of discussing personnel matters pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(1) Personnel. The motion was seconded by Michelle Buckley and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Medici, Pombo, and Zinky voting in favor.]

The executive session ended at 7:15 p.m.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Minutes reviewed and accepted on: June 22, 2026

Signed by: _____, Board Member