



**Attendance** (Voting Members in **Bold**)

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

**Agenda Items**

<b>  Call to the Public</b>	
	Allison Otu
<b>  Mission Moment</b>	
Showcase Reel	Leslie Religioso
<b>  Board Recognition</b>	
	Allison Otu
<b>  Discussion Items</b>	
Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 2026 Reports</li> <li>• Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget</li> </ul>	Scott Stone
Resource Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showcase Update</li> </ul>	Allison Otu & Leslie Religioso
Governance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Handbook Final Drafts</li> </ul>	Nonnie Shivers & David Lujan

Fiscal Year 2027-Fiscal Year 2029 Strategic Plan	David Lujan
<b>  Consent Agenda</b>	
Board President Updates	Allison Otu
Executive Director Report	David Lujan
Development & Marketing Director Report	Leslie Religioso
<b>  Action Items</b>	
Approval of the May 18, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	
Approval of the June 12, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	
Approval of Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget via Roll Call Vote	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Community Handbook	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Employee Handbook	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Emergency Operations Plan	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Facility Use Handbook	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Teacher Evaluation Handbook	
Approval of the Revised Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Special Education Policies & Procedures Manual	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Special Education Policies & Procedures Manual	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2027-Fiscal Year 2029 Strategic Plan	
Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Head of School Contract	
<b>  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</b>	
<b>  The Board of Directors may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing confidential records pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(2) Confidential Records</b>	
<b>  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</b>	

## Minutes

Board President Allison Otu called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

### **Call to the Public**

There were no members of the public present who wished to comment. Allison welcomed Juliana Montes, a Secondary Education Licensure Candidate at GCU who was present to observe the board meeting.

## **Mission Moment**

Leslie Religioso shared a highlight reel from the Showcase performances on May 27th and 28th. The reel was created by Marketing and Communications Manager Jess Downs from still photos taken by an ASA parent.

## **Board Recognition**

Allison recognized Board Treasurer Scott Stone for all the work he has been doing to keep the school's finances on track..

## **Discussion Items**

### *Finance Committee*

David Lujan introduced ASA's new finance contractor, Forrest Valora of Impact Business Solutions. Forrest reviewed the Year to Date Monthly Forecast as of May. Forrest noted that school leadership is making all the correct decisions to keep the school financially stable. Scott Stone gave an overview of the satisfaction of the school's bonds covenants regarding debt service ratio and necessary cash on hand. Scott then reviewed the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget summary vs Fiscal Year 2025-2026; David noted that we are projecting a net income that is \$857k below FY26, but it is based on a very conservative budget of 620 vs. 682 students. David added that enrollment projections show a possible increase in the number of students on the 1st day of school, but the budget will stay at 620 out of caution. David is still working with the bond holders to adjust the school's payment for the coming year to help with budget expenditures.

### *Resource Development*

Leslie Religioso reviewed the ticket and sponsorship revenue and net profits from Showcase. Leslie explained that the net ticket revenue was down from last year due to two main contributing factors: 1.) To make the tickets more attainable for families, the base price point was lowered and ASA ate some of the fees that are charged by the Orpheum for online ticket sales and also further reduced ticket prices for families in need; 2.) To counterbalance the fact that we had two nights of ticket sales as compared to one last year, we also had two days and nights worth of front- and back-of-house support to pay the Orpheum out of the gross ticket revenue. The extra sponsorship sold over goal helped make up some of the budget shortfall; Showcase netted out to \$13.5k budget shortfall. For next year, the Showcase planners will negotiate an estimated night-of expenses up front to help mitigate any surprises on the back end. Marcelino Quiñonez said that he appreciated that the school helped families in need see their children in Showcase; Leslie added that when sponsors are not using all of the tickets that they are allotted as part of their package, she asks them to donate the seats back and gives them families who cannot afford tickets at all. Allison said that this is an excellent philanthropic point to make with potential sponsors next year and David said that he and Leslie will have the 2026-2027 sponsorship packets ready at the beginning of the school year.

Leslie let the Board know that the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Report is on the board portal for their review and use. She told them that it is a good touchpoint for potential sponsors and families because it highlights all of the great things that occur at the school over the course of a year. She noted that it is being released later than anticipated, but the FY26 report should be ready by the late fall of the coming year.

Allison informed the Board that the Ad Hoc Communications Council continues to work with Elma and the Development Team to work on unified communications strategies.

### *Governance Committee*

David noted that the majority of revisions in the final drafts of the handbooks reflect recent title changes, expanded information on Honors Credit and Honors Extensions, and Credit Recovery and Attendance. He shared some additional clarifying language for the Honors Credit and Honors Extensions section in Community Handbook that Jennifer Delgado contributed; if agreed, the board would approve the CHB in during the Action Items with the amended language.

### *Strategic Planning*

David said the final version of the Fiscal Year 2027-Fiscal Year 2029 Strategic Plan that was made available on the board portal incorporates all of the points shared with the Board in the draft version the previous month. If approved the school will move forward with the strategic plan with measurement tools in place to ensure goals are achieved to move towards ASA 3.0. We will be working with Transcend Education to help map out what ASA will look like for the next 30 years using the strategic plan as a springboard.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### *Board President Updates*

Allison shared information she gleaned from a report published on June 17th by Education Forward Arizona which concluded that Arizona's Fiscal Year 2027 budget for education is grossly underfunded to attain Arizona's educational goals. As of now just 31% of 3-4 year olds are in a quality early learning setting, 36% of 3rd graders are proficient or highly proficient in ELA, and 27% of 8th graders are prepared to be successful in high school math. David noted that Elma Džanić Bass will be presenting the school's test scores at the August meeting which will compare favorably to the state average; as previously stated, many 5th and 6th graders come to us from other districts and the 5-6 teaching team work hard over the course of the school year to close learning gaps.

#### *Executive Director Report*

David said that his report included a conservative school year 2027 enrollment projection by grade which currently projects 619 students on the first day of school. Not included are current families who have not completed and submitted paperwork or students who are in danger of being retained in their SY26 grade; we do not want to assume they will be coming back and overinflate the enrollment number. There are also a few new families in the pipeline who applied before Administration went on break on June 18th when enrollment for the year was closed, and may start in the new school year. Conservatively, the starting count could go up to 625. A discussion followed on grades levels that have a waitlist and a healthy number of 9th graders who will begin high school at ASA which was an important goal for this year.

#### *Development & Marketing Director Report*

Leslie did not have a report this month in light of the FY25 Annual Report.

### **Action Items**

#### *Approval of the May 18, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

Mel Brown moved to approve the May 18, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Marcelino Quiñonez and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

#### *Approval of the June 12, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

Michelle Davidson moved to approve the June 12, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mel Brown and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

#### *Approval of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget via Roll Call Vote*

Annette Zinky moved to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget via roll call vote. The motion was seconded by Michelle Davidson and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Community Handbook*

Mel Brown moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Community Handbook with the proposed additions. The motion was seconded by Annette Zinky and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct*

Scott Stone moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct. The motion was seconded by Mel Brown and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Employee Handbook*

Michelle Davidson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Employee Handbook. The motion was seconded by Marcelino Quiñonez and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Emergency Operations Plan*

Annette Zinky moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Emergency Operations Plan. The motion was seconded by Mel Brown and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Facility Use Handbook*

Michelle Davidson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Facility Use Handbook. The motion was seconded by Scott Stone and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Teacher Evaluation Handbook*

Lorisa Pombo moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Teacher Evaluation Handbook. The motion was seconded by Marcelino Quiñonez and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Special Education Policy & Procedures Manual*

Michelle Davidson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Special Education Policy & Procedures Manual. Marcelino Quiñonez posed a question whether this was an error since FY26 is almost over; Carolyn Smith explained that the current book needed to be updated with a recent state policy published via memo, before submitting the manual to the ADE. The motion was seconded by Annette Zinky and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Special Education Policy & Procedures Manual*

Marcelino Quiñonez moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Special Education Policy & Procedures Manual. The motion was seconded by Scott Stone and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2027-Fiscal Year 2029 Strategic Plan*

Michelle Davidson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2027-Fiscal Year 2029 Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Mel Brown and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Executive Session*

At 6:53 p.m. Scott Stone moved that the Board of Directors commence an executive session in order to discuss personnel matters pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(1) Personnel. The motion was seconded

by Leola Abraham and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, Shivers, and Zinky voting in favor.]

The executive session ended at 7:02 p.m.

*Annette Zinky left the meeting during Executive Session*

*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Head of School Contract*

Michelle Davidson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Head of School Contract. The motion was seconded by Mel Brown and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Otu, Davidson, Abraham, Stone, Brown, Buckley, Larson, Pombo, Quiñonez, and Shivers, voting in favor.]

**Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Minutes reviewed and accepted on: August 24, 2026

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Board Member