

**Samueli Academy
Academic Committee Meeting**

University of California, Irvine
School of Education
3200 Education, Office # 2050
Irvine, CA 92697-5500

February 16, 2016

4:00 – 5:30pm

Minutes

Attended: Sandi Jackson, Anthony Saba, Deborah Lowe Vandell, Nicole Washington and Elim Kay

1. Approval of minutes for January 19, 2016 Academic Committee Meeting

Sandi Jackson motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Anthony Saba; all in favor.

2. Teacher recruitment and retention strategies

Anthony Saba reported that he is waiting for CFO, John Luker to provide the amount budgeted for the 2016-17 school year. Additionally, Anthony informed the Committee that CEO, Chris Simonsen, CFO, John Luker and he are scheduled to meet and discuss how to best use the surplus funds. Anthony reported that he should have additional information to report at the next Academic Committee meeting and that he hopes to meet with teachers and discuss with them the expectations for the 2016-17 school year salary.

Deborah Lowe Vandell provided ideas of strategies for teacher salaries. The first, was to give percent raises or the second is to give bonuses. Anthony added that it would be percent raises.

Anthony informed the Committee that teacher recruitment will begin in late February of 2016 and that five to six new teachers will be hired for the 2016-17 school year.

3. Optimal school size

Anthony Saba informed the Committee that he thinks the ideal number of enrolled students is 400 students, with 100 students per grade level. The school is currently chartered for 480 students with 120 students per grade level.

Additionally, Anthony informed the Committee that the school and the academic building were designed for 320 students to be enrolled, at 80 students per grade level. Deborah Lowe Vandell asked Anthony to provide a summary of the potential impacts of increasing enrollment for the Samueli Academy.

4. Partnership between the Samueli Academy and University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Nicole Washington informed the Committee that a meeting was held with Samueli Academy, Head of School, Anthony Saba, Assistant Head of School, Aimee Bilderback, Engineering and Design teacher, Nino Polizzi, UCI Dean of Engineering, Gregory Washington and herself to discuss solidifying the partnership between The Henry Samueli School of Engineering at UCI and Samueli Academy High School. Nicole reviewed with the Committee the current involvements between the two schools and stated that to make the partnership official a MOU would need to be developed and adopted by both schools. Additionally, the MOU would allow Samueli Academy students to earn college credits through specific classes that would be taught at the Samueli Academy, with shared curriculum between the UCI, School of Engineering and the Samueli Academy.

Additionally, Dean Washington is looking into ways to collaborate on grants and funding sources to implement the fab lab at the Samueli Academy. Deborah Lowe Vandell informed the Committee that the National Science Foundation (NSF) might be a source of funding for the fab lab.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2016. There is a long term goal to have a matriculation directly from Samueli Academy to UCI, for students who meet a certain criteria.

5. Parent involvement & Fund Raising

Sandi Jackson informed the Committee that parent involvement was brought up in the Finance Committee meeting. Anthony Saba informed the Committee that a PTA is implemented in grades K-8 and that a School Site Council is used in high schools. The School Site Council reviews at a high level the budget, goals and school progress once a quarter. The Samueli Academy has a School Site Council, but does not have a fundraising arm, which most school do for athletics. Anthony added that the mission of the Samueli Academy is to serve underserved youth and that it is not realistic to ask families of Samueli Academy students to raise money. Sandi Jackson would like the Board of Trustees to be informed of the School Site Council and their activities. Additionally, Anthony informed the Committee that parents are involved in more ways than the School Site Council such as; community nights which are held every other month, coffee with the Head of School and Parent University, which are held once every semester and parents learn about college.

Deborah Lowe Vandell would like parent involvement to be a Board of Trustees education item.

6. Post High School Graduation Support

Nicole Washington informed the Committee that the Career Advisory Council is working on post-graduation support. The Council is putting together a proposed program and pamphlets to ensure that students graduating from Samueli Academy reach success. The agenda item is for the Academic Committee to review the pamphlets and provide feedback and suggestions. The program will have a group of individuals to support the students in one of four pathways following graduation. The four pathways are attending a college or university, military component, apprenticeship or entering into a job.

There would be a point of contact at the Samueli Academy, who students were already familiar with and a pro-mentor as their main contract. A member of the Career Advisory Council has identified a family fund that might make a donation to support the pro-mentor position. The pro-mentor would also act as a liaison between the student and the resources at the pathway of their choice, to ensure the students are succeeding.

Deborah Lowe Vandell asked what proportion of Samueli Academy students would be included in this program and if it isn't 100% of the students, then how are the students selected? Nicole informed the Committee that 100% of Samueli Academy students would be involved in the program. Additionally, Nicole explained the process in further detail. The Career Advisory Council is also looking into job core, and hopes to create a relationship between Job Core and the Samueli Academy.

7. Every Child Succeeds Act

Anthony Saba informed the Committee that the Every Students Succeeds Act will provide more local accountability control, on how schools will be held accountable for funding received.

8. New Business – All

Anthony Saba provided the Committee a brief overview of California State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson's visit to the Samueli Academy. He was very impressed with the progress of the Samueli Academy.

The next Samueli Academy Academic Committee Meeting will be held jointly with the Finance Committee on Thursday, March 24, 2016.