MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
6:00 PM
Samueli Academy
1901 N. Fairview St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706

ROLL CALL

Board of Trustees Present:
Chris Scheithauer
Richard Arum
Susan Barua
Sandi Jackson
Susan Samueli

Board of Trustees Absent:
Liz Dorn-Parker
Robert Santana

Academy/Orangewood Staff Present:
Anthony Saba
John Luker
Lee Fleming
Chris Simonsen
Tracy Garcia

Guests Present:

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Scheithauer called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and welcomed all attendees to the January 28, 2025, meeting of the Samueli Academy Board of Trustees. Anyone from the public might address the Board for three minutes at the beginning of the meeting, and before agenda items that were subject to approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/17/2025 Meeting. Susan Samueli seconded the motion. Chris Scheithauer indicated the meeting minutes did not include the motion that was voted on at the 1/17/2025 meeting regarding the VEI field trip.

Chris Scheithauer made a motion to table the approval of the 1/17/2025 minutes until the next board meeting on 2/25/2025. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

BOARD CHAIR

Chris Scheithauer discussed the board retreat follow up grids that were sent to each of the committee chairs. Each committee should be working on their follow-up tasks. He will check in with progress reports at the next board meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba presented the Executive Director report.

Currently we are halfway through the application window, and we have more than enough applicants to fill the class at this point. Enrollment looks strong for next year. The lottery will be held during the 1st week of March.

Anthony reviewed the list of upcoming events for Samueli Academy located on the agenda.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lee Fleming presented the Head of School report.

Lee Fleming provided an update on the sports programs at Samueli Academy. As the various teams are getting more competitive, we have been moved up in League play. So travel for each team tends to be more significant and the competition level is higher this year. This is due to the success we have been having within our sports program. Currently 45% of the students participate in athletics on campus. This is an all-time high for Samueli Academy.

Discipline has improved this year. The partnerships we have on campus have been very positive. The partnership with Neutral Ground has been very positive.

Immigration questions – there was a letter sent to all parents and staff to address the immigration concerns that may be out in the community.

ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Chris Simonsen presented the Orangewood Foundation update.

As of the last board meeting two more youth were admitted to the program. The program now has 9 youth (7 females and 2 males). As a whole, 19 youth have been enrolled! There are 2 potential youth in process.

The program currently has 15 approved resource homes and 1 additional family has been approved since the last board meeting. There are 3 families in the pipeline for approval.

Currently in the final stages of securing the LA County DCFS contract to be able to serve LA County Youth.

Currently working with Orange County Probation to get a contract going to be able to service some of their current probation youth who are in foster homes.

As of this past semester, all of the youth remain in good standing with average grades ranging from 2.0-3.0 and above. Three of the youth have driver's licenses

with the support of their foster parents. If all goes well, there will be 3 high school graduations this May/June 2025!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

Title IX Notice of Nondiscrimination

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the Title IX Notice of Nondiscrimination. Susan Samueli seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Title IX Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Sex

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the Title IX Policy Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Sex. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5- Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy

Susan Samueli made a motion to approve the Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

2025 Employee Handbook

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the 2025 Employee Handbook. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Outdoor Club – Headquarters Campground

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the Outdoor Club overnight trip to Headquarters Campground. Susan Barua seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Outdoor Club – Hurkey Creek Campground

Susan Samueli made a motion to approve the Outdoor Club overnight trip to Hurkey Creek Campground. Susan Barua seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

College Tours Club – Cal Poly SLO and UCSB

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the College Tours Club overnight trip to Cal Poly SLO and UCSB. Susan Barua seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

FINANCE

John Luker shared the November 2024 Financial Statements. We are well above our plan and cash reserves are strong.

Anthony Saba reviewed the Operational Campaign numbers for November 2024. We are well above plan as well. The endowment is strong and continues to grow.

ACADEMIC

2023-2024 SARC

Lee Fleming presented the 2023-2024 SARC.

Independent Study Policy

Richard Arum made a motion to approve the revised Independent Study Policy. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Written Agreement for Independent Study

Richard Arum made a motion to approve the revised Written Agreement for Independent Study. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0- Nays.

Title I School-level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

This policy was revised from the one that was approved back in August 2024. The State had a new template they request that we utilize.

Richard Arum made a motion to approve the revised Title I School-level Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

New Alumni Staff Position

Richard Arum presented the need for an additional Alumni Staff Position. This position would not impact the school budget. The funding comes from the Alumni endowment. The board discussed the focus of this new position being one that supports Alumni as they prepare to apply and interview for jobs after they graduate.

Susan Samueli made a motion to approve the addition of a new alumni staff position. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

OTHER BUSINESS — None

ADJOURNMENT — A motion was made by Sandi Jackson, seconded by Susan Samueli, and carried to approve the January 28, 2025, meeting of the Samueli Academy Board of Trustees be adjourned with a vote of 5 - Ayes and 0 - Nays.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY