MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
6:00 PM
Samueli Academy
1901 N. Fairview St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706

ROLL CALL

Board of Trustees Present:
Chris Scheithauer
Susan Barua
Susan Samueli
Richard Arum
Sandi Jackson
Liz Dorn-Parker
Robert Santana

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

Guests Present:
JulyBeth Murillo

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Scheithauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed all attendees to the January 23, 2024, 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

A motion was made by Liz Dorn-Parker, seconded by Susan Samueli, and carried to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2023, meeting of the Board of Trustees with a vote of: 7 - Ayes and 0 – Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

REPORTS
BOARD CHAIR

Chris Scheithauer wished everyone a Happy New Year and is excited to see great enthusiasm for the new year and for the school year moving forward.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba presented the Executive Director report. The WASC visit to Samueli Academy begins on Sunday, January 28th. The Committee would like to meet with members of the Board at 5:00 p.m. that evening. Please confirm your availability with Anthony for Sunday evening.

All board members are invited to be VIP judges for the upcoming Firewolf Festival. Anthony will be sending out additional information via email to all board members.

We are in the middle of accepting applications for the upcoming school year for the incoming 7th grade class. At this point we have received 166 applications for enrollments. There are also quite a few siblings of current students for this upcoming year.

Stars and Stripes is coming up in June 2024. Anthony is looking to the board for support in recruitment of 6 teams to travel down to Cabo San Lucas for the exciting weekend.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lee Fleming presented the Head of School report. We have had a great start to the 2nd semester. Lee shared information regarding the Awards Ceremony that took place on campus at the end of the first semester. In addition to the academic awards there were quite a few special awards presented that were selected by a committee of students. One was recognition for our custodial staff member, Gilbert. It was a very touching moment in the gym when he was presented with his award.

ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Chris Simonsen presented the Orangewood Foundation update. There are currently 7 youth in the program with 3 additional youth in the pipeline. There are currently 11 homes approved and 5 additional homes in the pipeline for approval.

Staff have met with LA County SSA to potentially move forward with placing youth from LA County in our program. Talks are just beginning, and it would be a while before youth would be placed but discussions have begun on what this would look like and what would need to be implemented for it to happen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Liz Dorn-Parker reviewed the November 2023 Financial Statements. The school is in a positive financial position. The Board reviewed all financial statements.

Operational Campaign numbers reviewed – Operational campaign is strong. The School is on track for a positive year.

2023-24 Spring Consolidated Application

The 2023-24 Spring Consolidated Application was presented to the board for approval. John Luker reviewed the report with the Board.

Liz Dorn-Parker made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Spring Consolidated Application. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

F&M Bank Deposit Resolution

John Luker presented a resolution that will finalize the move from Wells Fargo Bank to F&M Bank.

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the F&M Bank Deposit Resolution. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and carried with a vote of: 7-Ayes, 0 – Nays.

GOVERNANCE

Employee Handbook

Chris Scheithauer presented the revised Employee Handbook. The handbook was reviewed by the Governance Committee and recommended for approval by the full board.

The board revisited the wording on the Meals and Break period section of the handbook and concluded that the original portion (above the expanded version) needed to be removed as it was repetitive to what is written in the expanded version.

Liz Dorn-Parker made a motion to approve the Employee Handbook with the change regarding the Meals and Break section to accept only the redline version and delete the original paragraph above. Robert Santana seconded the motion and carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 - Nays.

Arbitration Agreement

Chris Scheithauer shared the updated Arbitration Agreement. The Governance Committee previously reviewed the updated policy and recommended approval of the full board. People & Culture will send this, along with the updated handbook, to all staff for signatures upon Board approval.

Robert Santana made a motion to approve the updated Arbitration Policy, Sandi Jackson seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

ACADEMIC

Differentiated Assistance Eligibility/Identification

Richard Arum presented that the Academic Committee was provided with a presentation on Differentiated Assistance Eligibility / Identification. Kim Dawson shared her PowerPoint presentation with the full Board and answered questions on the data presented.

2022-23 School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

Richard Arum presented information regarding the 2022-23 School Accountability Report Card. The Academic Committee reviewed the information at their meeting and recommended approval by the full Board.

Lee Fleming discussed some of the data from the report and shared the report with the Board.

Liz Dorn-Parker made a motion to approve the 2022-23 School Accountability Report Card, Robert Santana seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – 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 23, 2024, meeting of the Samueli Academy Board of Trustees be adjourned with a vote of 7 - Ayes and 0 - Nays.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY