MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
6:00 PM
Zoom

ROLL CALL

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

Academy/Orangewood Staff Present:
Anthony Saba
Chris Simonsen
John Luker
Lee Fleming
Andrea Geans

Guests Present:
Kelley Riffenburgh

CALL TO ORDER

Sandi Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and welcomed all attendees to the March 22, 2022 Samueli Academy Board of Trustees meeting. Anyone from the public might address the Board for a period of three minutes at the beginning of the meeting, and prior to agenda items that were subject for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Liz Dorn-Parker, seconded by Susan Barua, and carried to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees with a vote of: 7 – Ayes, 0 – Nays, and 1 – Abstention.

GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)

Board findings pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)

The Charter School Board of Directors determines, in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(B), that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), the Board has also reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 4, 2020, and finds the State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Directors to meet safely in person and/or that State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

The Board unanimously approved its findings pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) with a vote of: 8 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

REPORTS

BOARD CHAIR

Sandi Jackson inquired on the status of the Form 700 submittal. It was confirmed that all forms had been completed and returned and forwarded to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Sandi shared that there were just three Board meetings left for the 2021-22 school year. She thanked the Board and administrative staff for remaining true to the mission of Samueli Academy, especially during uncertain and ever-changing times.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba reported a healthy and busy campus. Through the developing partnership with Girls Inc, there would soon begin a female STEM Ignition class on Mondays, a college-bound class for upper classmen on post-secondary plans, and a six-week summer camp for female students – fifty from Samueli Academy and fifty from the community.

Additional updates:

- Two weeks prior, the governor had allowed the mask mandate to be lifted from schools. Many students still wore masks in class, although a large number of staff and students had welcomed the change of protocol,
- The lottery was held for one hundred thirty-five incoming 7th graders. A waiting list consists of one hundred prospective 7th grade students and three hundred prospective 9th grade students,
- An open invitation was given for the Board to tour the completed campus.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lee Fleming shared photos of the recent Staff Professional Development Day – an interactive day of collaborative activities, a picnic, and connective conversation.

Additional updates:

- Plans were being made for senior activities,
- With more applicants this year and lack of SAT and CAT scores, UCs and CSUs were less accessible and have an increased waiting list. Samueli Academy was intentional to have focused conversations on the challenges/best placements with its rising seniors.

ORANGEWOOD REPORT

Chris Simonsen shared the Youth Connected Program was in the process of interviewing candidates for its director position. Already, there were six youth in the program, and one more was to join soon. Further, several youth had been identified as eligible by the county.

Active recruitment continued for resource families, and the Youth Connected Program team had partnered with Los Angeles-based FosterMore to collaborate on recruitment and advertising. The program would increase its in-person outreach in the near future.

Aside from minor punch list items, the campus construction was complete. A small celebration was planned for Capital Campaign Director Pam Shambra as she would end her ten-year tenure with the Orangewood Foundation and Samueli Academy.

Anthony reviewed the annual fundraising report, updated through the end of February. Government grant funding and the operational campaign's year-to-date goal in excess of $20,000 allowed the school to defer its withdrawal from the alumni endowment yet another year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
FINANCE

Liz Dorn-Parker provided a review of the Financial Dashboard and Scorecard for January 2022. The state is in excellent financial status, allowing for consistent resources for the school. Following winter break, the average daily attendance dipped briefly following a COVID outbreak. However, enrollment remained strong, and the ADA quickly resumed to exceptional numbers.

Notwithstanding the additional expenses accrued for the fiscal year, resources like the Local Federal Funding Formula (LCFF), Child Nutrition, and State Special Education funds has allowed the school to maintain a favorable budget variance. The cash balance remains high and is anticipated as such through the end of the fiscal year.

As an item for informational purposes, the OCDE Second Interim Report was presented for the Board to review and discuss. Required by the Department of Education, this analysis proved the actuals to be better than budget assumptions from the First Interim Report.

GOVERNANCE

Chris Scheithauer reported the annual election of Board officers would soon take place: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Director, and Chief Financial Officer. As such:

- Effective that evening and through the end of April, the Governance Committee would accept nominations,
- A proposed slate would be developed and presented for Board consideration in May,
- The Board would vote on the 2022-23 Slate of Officers in June,
- Elected officers would be sworn in during the July Board meeting.

Providing an update on the 2022 Board Retreat, Chris shared that the facilitator used in previous years was unable to join this year due to prior commitments. The Governance Committee would be considering recommendations and various logistic options.

In the months following the 2021 Board Retreat, each committee was asked to review their respective post-Retreat initiatives and provide a narrative concerning the status of their suggested action items. Chris would follow up with each committee chair.

ACADEMIC

Recommended as an item for approval was the 2022-23 School Calendar. Richard Arum highlighted the important events and dates, noting that the school calendar was similar to previous years and aligned with local schools.

A motion was made by Richard Arum, seconded by Liz Dorn-Parker, and carried to approve the 2022-23 School Calendar with a vote of:
8 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

NEW BUSINESS

Anthony shared that partnership efforts were to continue with UCI, and tours had been scheduled for the Deans of Education and Engineering.

All Board members were invited to visit the campus for tours or to attend upcoming events such as the Senior Capstone Presentations, the Decision Day Rally, Musicals and Concerts, and Graduation Night.

Shannon Zech and a group of friends continued to honor the memory of former Board member Carolyn McInerney by way of a scholarship endowment. To date, over $35,000 had been raised.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Liz Dorn-Parker, seconded by Chris Scheithauer, and carried with a vote of: 8 - Ayes and 0 - Nays to adjourn the March 22, 2022 Samueli Academy Board of Trustees meeting at 6:52 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

04/28/2022

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY