MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2022
6:00 PM
Zoom

ROLL CALL

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

Absent:
Richard Arum
Robert Santana
Andrea Geans

Academy/Orangewood Staff Present:
Anthony Saba
Lee Fleming
Chris Simonsen
John Luker
Norah Sarsour

Guests Present:
Maureen Cox
Kelley Riffenburgh

CALL TO ORDER

Sandi Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and welcomed all attendees to the May 24, 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. Board meetings would remain via Zoom, while still operating under COVID restrictions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Liz Dorn-Parker, seconded by Susan Barua, and carried to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees with a vote of: 6 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

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.

A motion was made by Liz Dorn-Parker, seconded by Susan Samueli, and carried to approve the Board findings pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) with a vote of: 6 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Sandi asked for feedback on resuming Board meetings in person, once again.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

BOARD EDUCATION

Norah Sarsour provided an update on the Alumni Success Program. After four years of trialing, the program had seen a resurgence within its structures, resources, and supports for current and new alumni; revisiting what empowers youth from their senior year and onward. Proof of this was seen on Senior Decision Day as members of the class of 2022, formerly uncertain of their next steps, displayed enthusiasm and excitement for the future.

Present supports included the weekly use of the Alumni Evening Center and ambassador/mentee transitional meetings (guidance from senior year to college).

Additional information presented by Norah:

- The approach towards Apricot Social Solutions, a case management software, for study and data collection,
- Revamping of the alumni website,
- Summer events: Annual beach bonfire, College Get Down, Summer bridge program, Scholarship workshops, Health and well-being workshops,
- Potential reunion for the class of 2017,
- Confirmed self-reports from class of 2017: Twenty-five (25) graduates from a study program and Ten (10) from a university,
- Confirmed self-reports from class of 2018: Twenty (20) graduates from a study program and Seven (7) from a university.

REPORTS
BOARD CHAIR

Sandi reminded everyone that this was the second to last meeting for the school year. Despite the challenges faced post-COVID, the 2021-22 school year had seen remarkable success.

The Board was invited to join Samueli Academy staff for two events:

- Back-to-School Party, Saturday, July 30th
- Holiday Party, Saturday, December 10th

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba reported that the Orange County Department of Education had conducted two separate reviews: 1.) an in-person visit to the school on April 28th where members of OCDE observed classrooms and reviewed student cumulative folders, and 2.) a series of virtual meetings on May 19th in which members of OCDE interviewed school and administrative personnel, as well as members of the SA Board.

The feedback from both meetings was positive overall; however, OCDE did recommend a.) consistency of organization with student cumulative folders, b.) the creation of a Visitor Policy, and c.) updates to the Fiscal Policies and Procedures.

Board members were invited to attend the Senior Awards Night on the following evening as well as the Graduation Ceremony scheduled for the following week, both events held on-campus.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lee Fleming shared of the many end-of year activities. Two events held back-to-back: 1.) the 8th grade promotional GRADitude Night where students participated in gratitude-centered poetry recitation and followed by a dance, and 2.) a Welcome event for in-coming 7th graders where new students and families could engage in supportive workshops.

The senior class had created a culture of reflection and transparency, as seen through the experiences highlighted in the Senior Capstone Presentations. And this was the first graduating class that boasted nearly one hundred percent of presentation participation.

ORANGEWOOD REPORT

Chris Simonsen reported that as a foster family agency, the Orangewood Foundation had just completed its national accreditation with Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an international non-profit organization. CARF representatives provided glowing reviews of Orangewood's unique and innovative aspects, and the two-day review included interviews with current resource families – all providing positive feedback on the culture and community of Orangewood and Samueli Academy. The Foundation would soon be informed on whether it was accredited for one or three years.

Additional updates:

- Recruitment continued for a director of the Youth Connected Program,
- YCP had partnered with LA-based FosterMore to engage in a massive marketing campaign.

Anthony provided an operational fundraising update through the end of March, stating the campaign had exceeded its goal by $225,000 and not including received grants and like gifts. Appreciation was expressed for the support of all contributing partners.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
FINANCE

Liz Dorn-Parker reviewed the Financial Dashboard and Scorecard for March of 2022, beginning with the average daily attendance. As a result of the Omicron variant, student attendance had dipped slightly in January only to rebound by the end of March; largely due to the school staff encouraging and engaging with students.

Concerning the ADA, student enrollment, cash flow, and reserves, the actual figures proved greater than what was originally budgeted, allowing for a fiscal

year-end positive variance. In June, the Finance Committee planned to look closely at the budget for fiscal year 2022-23 and forecast a budget for the following three to five years.

Recommended as an item for approval by both the Finance and Governance Committees was the 2022-23 Orangewood/Samueli Academy Shared Services Agreement. Along with updated staff salaries, minor revisions detailed the services provided by Orangewood: a.) monthly and quarterly accounting reviews of SA investments into the Orangewood Foundation endowment, and b.) monthly reviews of facility-related projects.

A motion was made by Chris Scheithauer, seconded by Liz Dorn-Parker, and carried to approve the 2022-23 Orangewood/Samueli Academy Shared Services Agreement with a vote of: 6 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

On the agenda as an item for approval was a vendor proposal for solar panel installation. However, the Finance and Governance Committees required more time to review and consider new information before presenting to the Board in June.

A motion was made by Liz Dorn-Parker, seconded by Chris Scheithauer, and carried to approve the Solar Panel Proposal be removed as an item for approval and rather an item for discussion with a vote of: 6 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Recommended as an item for approval was the 2021-22 Education Protection Account (EPA) Spending Plan. Estimated state funds entitled to the school was $151,050, to be used towards the salaries of non-administrative certificated staff.

A motion was made by Susan Samueli, seconded by Susan Barua, and carried to approve the complete 2021-22 EPA Spending Plan with a vote of:
6 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

GOVERNANCE

Recommended as an item for approval was the Board Term Renewal of Susamma (Susan Barua). Her first term scheduled to expire in June, Susan Barua had agreed to serve a second three-year term as a member of the Samueli Academy Board of Trustees.

A motion was made by Liz Dorn-Parker, seconded by Shannon Zech, and carried to approve the Board Term Renewal of Susan Barua with a vote of:
5 – Ayes, 0 – Nays, and 1 – Abstention by Susan Barua.
Susan expressed her appreciation at being asked to serve a second term alongside the current Board members as they continued to pursue student success.

Chris Scheithauer provided an update on the 2022 Board Retreat. After reviewing proposals and resumes of several facilitator candidates, interviews

were held during the May 17th Governance Committee meeting. A final decision was made, and the Committee had selected Kerry Flanagan (former Chief of Staff and COO of the CCSA) as facilitator of the 2022 Board Retreat.

The Board was asked to submit three potential strategic initiatives for the Governance Committee to review and consider for the Retreat agenda.

ACADEMIC

Recommended as an item for approval by the Academic and Finance Committees was the A-G Completion Improvement Grant Plan. First presented as an item for public discussion at the April 25th meeting of the Board, per CA Education Code 41590(f), the plan detailed how one-time grant funds would be used to increase services for Unduplicated Students – improving their A-G eligibility and completion rates:

- Providing professional development for staff on implementing equitable assessment practices,
- Partially funding a school psychologist to address increased SEL needs of students, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic,
- Provide access to credit recovery opportunities during the instructional day led by credentialed teachers in reduced class sizes.

A motion was made by Susan Barua, seconded by Liz Dorn-Parker, and carried to approve the A-G Completion Improvement Grant Plan with a vote of:
6 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

NEW BUSINESS

Sandi reminded everyone that the last Board meeting for the 2021-22 school year had been moved to Tuesday, June 21st.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chris Scheithauer, seconded by Shannon Zech, and carried with a vote of: 6 - Ayes and 0 - Nays to adjourn the May 24, 2022 Samueli Academy Board of Trustees meeting at 7:18 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

06/22/2022

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY