MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
6:00 PM
Samueli Academy
1901 N. Fairview St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706

ROLL CALL

Board of Trustees Present:
Chris Scheithauer
Liz Dorn Parker
Richard Arum
Susan Samueli

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

Board of Trustees Absent:
Sandi Jackson
Robert Santana

Guests Present:
Maureen Cox, OCDE
Nicolai Bergman
Omar Vega

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Scheithauer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed all attendees to the February 24, 2026, meeting of the Samueli Academy Board of Trustees. At the beginning of the meeting and before agenda items that were subject to approval, anyone from the public might address the board for three minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Liz Dorn-Parker made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2026 Meeting. Richard Arum seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes, 0 – Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

BOARD CHAIR

Chris Scheithauer shared his gratitude that the Charter was renewed and shared his experience attending the Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba presented the Executive Director report. Anthony shared that he was grateful for the great partnership with OCDE especially throughout the whole charter renewal process. The Board thanked Maureen Cox for her guidance and support.

The deadline for applying for the incoming 7th grade class is approaching. The deadline to submit applications for the lottery is Sunday, March 1st. The lottery will be held on campus on March 5th.

Anthony shared about all the upcoming events for the school listed on the agenda.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Anthony Saba presented the Head of School Report. Lee Fleming is in Texas for a professional development training along with the 2 Assistant Head of School's.

Passion Ignition Day took place on campus yesterday. This is always a favorite day amongst the students. Each participated in a fun activity.

Next month the Outdoor Club Advisor will be attending the board meeting along with some of the participants from the Outdoor Club to share with the board members what the Outdoor Club looks like on our campus and their experience participating in the program.

ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Chris Simonsen presented the Youth Connected Program report. There was recently a 15-year-old female that was placed in the YCP program. There are currently 9 youth in the program. 1 additional male student is coming soon. Next week there will be 1 male probation student moving into the 2nd floor dorms.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

Responding to Requests for Access and Information for Immigration Enforcement Purposes

Chris Scheithauer presented the Responding to Requests for Access and Information for Immigration Enforcement Purposes. This policy went through Governance Committee and was taken directly from the State's required template.

A motion was made by Liz Dorn Parker to approve the Responding to Requests for Access and Information for Immigration Enforcement Purposes. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

American River White Water Rafting Excursion

Chris Scheithauer presented the request from the Outdoor Club for the American River White Water Rafting Excursion. This is the same trip that has taken place for the past 2 years.

Richard Arum made a motion to approve the American River White Water Rafting Excursion on June 11-13, 2026. Liz Dorn-Parker seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

FINANCE

John Luker reviewed the December 2025 Financial Statements.

Anthony Saba reviewed the Annual (Operational) Campaign financial information.

Samueli Academy Lease Amendment #5

John Luker presented the Samueli Academy Lease Amendment #5.

A motion was made by Liz Dorn Parker to approve the Samueli Academy Lease Amendment #5. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public arrived late and requested to address the Board.

Liz Dorn-Parker made a motion to restore the Public Comment portion to the agenda. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Raul Nolasco addressed the board regarding ways to support and make America wealthy and powerful.

FINANCE

Samueli Academy Accounting Policies

John Luker presented the updated Samueli Academy Accounting Policies for approval.

There were minimal edits to the document.

Liz Dorn-Parker made a motion to approve the updated Samueli Academy Accounting Policies with one additional redline to update the Charter Dates within the document. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

ACADEMIC

Applied Research Services Contracting Proposal

Richard Arum shared the Applied Research Services Contracting Proposal. This has been through Governance, Finance, and Academic Committees for discussion.

Anthony Saba shared that the cost of this contract will be covered by the interest from the Alumni Endowment. This has been approved by the donor.

Richard Arum made a motion to approve the Applied Research Services Contracting Proposal. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

2025-2026 LCAP Mid-Year Update

Richard Arum reviewed the LCAP Mid-Year Update and noted that the recent investments into Math and ELA can be seen by the improvement in the test scores. Another notable point is the graduation rate is at 100%. The attention on chronic absenteeism has also proven to be beneficial to the overall rates as it is gradually showing improvement in this area.

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to accept the 2025-2026 LCAP Mid-Year Update. Richard Arum seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Arum seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY