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

ROLL CALL

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

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

Board of Trustees Absent:
Liz Dorn-Parker
Robert Santana

Guests Present:
Stephen Pink
Yatzeri Benitez
Edwin Valadez

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Scheithauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all attendees to the March 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD EDUCATION

The Outdoor Club presented an educational presentation to the Board. Club members, Yatzeri Benitez and Edwin Valadez shared their personal experiences with the club and thanked the board for their support of the club. They shared a brief PowerPoint presentation on the achievements of the club over the past year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2026 Meeting. Richard Arum seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes, 0 – Nays.

REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba presented the Executive Director report. The lottery took place in early March and all students selected for enrollment have begun the registration process. There are several activities in place to welcome the incoming 7th graders including the week long camp that culminates with an Anaheim Angels Game.

Samueli Academy received the California Distinguished School Recognition. This is a great accomplishment and the first time the school has received this recognition.

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

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lee Fleming presented the Head of School Report. The Spring Career Ignition Conference took place on campus and was extremely successful. The Middle School students attended a college visit for the conference. It was a fun-filled trip that included a fun tour and scavenger hunt to keep the students engaged.

The campus is flourishing with club activity participation. The participation in clubs has grown tremendously over the years.

The 2 new high school counselors are working with students on college acceptances and rejections. They are celebrating both….the success of acceptances into college and celebrating completing the applications for other schools that may have rejected them.

ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Chris Simonsen presented the Youth Connected Program report. The program is continuing to recruit. The program is hiring a new recruiting manager.

The OC Probation program has 1 youth enrolled and participating. Their home school is in Rancho Santa Margarita.

The annual visit from Social Services went well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

Charter Renewal Agreement

Chris Scheithauer presented the Charter Renewal Agreement document. The board reviewed the 3 redline corrections/changes proposed.

A motion was made by Richard Arum to approve the Charter Renewal Agreement. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

VEI Overnight Trip to the Youth Business Summit

Anthony Saba presented the VEI Overnight Trip to the Youth Business Summit in New York. A student group has qualified for the National Competition. This is a great accomplishment.

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the VEI Overnight Trip to the Youth Business Summit in New York. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

FINANCE

John Luker reviewed the January 2026 Financial Statements.

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

OCDE Second Interim Report

John Luker presented the OCDE Second Interim Report.

A motion was made by Sandi Jackson to approve the OCDE Second Interim Report. Richard Arum seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Winter Consolidated Schedule

John Luker presented the Winter Consolidated Schedule.

Richard Arum made a motion to approve the Winter Consolidated Schedule. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

ACADEMIC

2026-2027 School Calendar

Richard Arum presented the 2026-2027 School Calendar for approval. Lee Fleming asked that the board approve the calendar with flexibility to move one of the community nights scheduled if necessary.

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar with flexibility granted to move a community night if necessary. Richard Arum seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

OTHER BUSINESS — None

ADJOURNMENT — Richard Arum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Susan Samueli seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY