MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
6:00 PM
Samueli Academy
1901 N. Fairview St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706

ROLL CALL

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

Academy/Orangewood Staff Present:
Anthony Saba
John Luker
Lee Fleming
Tracy Garcia

Board of Trustees Absent:
Susan Samueli
Sandi Jackson

Guests Present:

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Scheithauer called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and welcomed all attendees to the April 22, 2025, 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 4/22/2025 Meeting. Susan Barua seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of: 3 – Ayes, 0 – Nays and 2 – Abstain (Chris Scheithauer and Liz Dorn Parker)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

BOARD CHAIR

The Governance Committee is beginning to plan the 2025 Board Retreat. If you have any ideas for items you would like on the agenda please forward them to Chris. Currently the Governance Committee is reviewing the overall succession plan. Susan Barua will be retiring from the board in June 2025. There are 4 terms up for renewal in June 2026. The Slate of Officers will be presented at the next Governance Committee Meeting for approval at the Board meeting in June. If anyone has any desire to change positions, please let Chris Scheithauer know.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba presented the Executive Director report.

Samueli Academy has a new Director of Development, Alex Vrabeck.

The Firewolf Festival took place on campus and the VIP Judges had a great experience and really enjoyed seeing all the student projects.

Friday is the Decision Day Rally on campus. This is an exciting day for the Seniors and entire student body.

We have strong enrollment for the incoming 7th graders and registration is in progress.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lee Fleming presented the Head of School report.

The school has experienced great success with the Spring Sports Programs! Recently we had 2 school records broken in track and field and several CIF qualifiers. Boys Volleyball had their CIF ring ceremony from last year's season and the CIF Championship Banner was hung in the gym.

11th grade testing completed last week. Firewolf Festival had a great turnout. Many families attended and toured the campus and all the exciting projects.

Fun lunchtime activities have been taking place with the hopes of helping with Chronic Absenteeism. Students have given positive feedback to all the activities.

ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

John Luker presented the Orangewood Foundation update.

There are currently 8 youth and 2 graduating. One youth is currently in the final placement stage. We anticipate receiving the County of LA Contract in July. The program also received 3 additional years of accreditation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

Chris Scheithauer presented the Governance Report. He followed up with the board retreat action items from the last retreat. He requested that each committee get back to him with status updates.

Charter Renewal

The Charter will need to be renewed this year. Anthony Saba shared that the plan is to submit the Charter Renewal in October or November 2025. The major work will begin in July.

Element 1 – The Administration will begin reviewing this section now through June. The plan is to pass it off to the Academic Committee in June.

Element 2 – Will be handed off to the consultant to begin working on

Element 3 – Will go through Legal and Governance

Talking points to begin looking at within the Governance Committee will include the Lottery process and how it will run moving forward.

FINANCE

John Luker shared the February 2025 Financial Statements. We are well above our plan and cash reserves are strong.

The committee will be looking at creating/setting aside funds for maintenance due to aging buildings. The committee also began reviewing Orangewood Foundation's responsibility on the property and Samueli Academy responsibility with regards to aging buildings. John will bring a report to the board when it is complete and ready to share.

Operational Campaign

We are well above our fundraising goal, and the endowment is strong. It has been a strong fundraising year.

Budget Discussion

The budget for next year is being worked on now and will be shared at the next board meeting.

ACADEMIC

Great History Challenge Nationals Field Trip

Richard Arum presented the Great History Challenge Nationals Field Trip to Orlando Florida.

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to approve the Great History Challenge Nationals Field Trip to Orlando, Florida. Susan Barua seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Liz Dorn Parker, seconded by Susan Barua, and carried to approve the April 22, 2025, meeting of the Samueli Academy Board of Trustees be adjourned with a vote of 5 - Ayes and 0 - Nays.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY