MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, May 27, 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
Sandi Jackson
Susan Samueli

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

Board of Trustees Absent:
None

Guests Present:

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Scheithauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all attendees to the May 27, 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. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of: 6 – Ayes, 0 – Nays (Susan Samueli arrived late)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kaii Lee addressed the board and shared information regarding a Children's Book about Carl Sinclair. A Samueli Academy Alumni student is the illustrator for the book. She was looking for support for the project.

REPORTS

BOARD CHAIR

Chris Scheithauer shared that the committees are going through the process of performance evaluations for the Executive Director, Head of School and CFO. These reviews will go through the committees this month. All reviews are due back to Chris Scheithauer by the end of the month and final reviews will come to the full board in July.

Graduation is on June 6th. All Board Members are encouraged to attend.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba shared that Samueli Academy is completely full for students next year. The staff hosted a Welcome Event for new students, and it was very well received. Senior Awards night is next week, and the highlight of this event is the scholarship presentations to students.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lee Fleming presented the Head of School report.
Decision Day was very successful this year and students had a great time.

The design department hosted a Chopped Competition as their culminating project for their Restaurant Design project. 20 professional chefs and restaurant professionals were in attendance to judge the competition.

The History Challenge took place and Samueli Academy had a team that traveled to the event. One student in 8th grade finished in the Top 15 at the event.

Boys Volleyball played great in CIF and made it to the 2nd round. 2 Middle School students placed in the Top 3 at the League Finals event for Cross Country. A High School Track runner also qualified for the State Competition.

Grad Night was great and parent surveys are coming back very positive.

ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Three (3) youth in the YCP program are graduating on June 6th. All of them spent all 4 years in the dorms. All are going on to college. There will be a party held in the dorms prior to graduation.

There was a surprise audit of the program and the program passed with no findings.

There are currently 18 homes approved and 9 students in the Dorms.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

White Water Rafting Excursion

The Outdoor Club will be hosting another White Water Rafting Excursion this year on June 12-14. There will be double the amount of students and chaperones this year. The program has grown in interest. Robert Santana offered support again this year.

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the White Water Rafting Excursion on June 12-14, 2025. Liz Dorn-Parker seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Outdoor Club – The Ranch at Laguna Beach and Crystal Cove State Park

The Outdoor Club is planning an overnight camping trip to The Ranch at Laguna Beach and Crystal Cove State Park on July 14-15, 2025.

Susan Samueli made a motion to approve the Outdoor Club overnight camping trip to The Ranch at Laguna Beach and Crystal Cove State Park. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Outdoor Club – Pine Knot Campground

The Outdoor Club is planning an overnight trip to Pine Knot Campground in Big Bear Lake, CA on August 30-September 1, 2025.

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to approve the Outdoor Club overnight camping trip to Pine Knot Campground. Susan Samueli seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

FINANCE

Liz Dorn Parker reviewed the March 2025 Financial Statements. We are in a good financial position with reserves and cash on hand.

Anthony Saba reviewed the Annual Campaign financial information. It has been a great fundraising year thus far.

990 Tax Return

John Luker presented the 990 Tax Return. The Finance Committee has reviewed and approved the document.

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to approve the 990 Tax Return for Samueli Academy. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

2025-2026 Budget

John Luker presented the 2025-2026 Budget and reviewed all the assumptions taken into account when developing the budget document.

Sandi Jackson made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 budget. Liz Dorn Parker seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

One-Time Off-Schedule Payment for Staff

John Luker presented the one-time off-schedule payment for staff. This item was also approved by the Finance Committee.

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to approve the One-Time Off-Schedule Payment for staff. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

ACADEMIC

No Report

CLOSED SESSION

Robert Santana made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss a student discipline action. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

The board entered a closed session at 6:51 p.m. to discuss student discipline action.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

During the closed session, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to uphold the recommendation of the administrative panel to expel the student in question from Samueli Academy effective immediately through December 31, 2025. The Board of Trustees adopted the findings of fact of the Administrative Panel, and the offense by the student was a non-discretionary expellable offense. The Board of Trustees also created a rehabilitation plan that will be included in the notice to the students' parents regarding the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 7 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY