MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, January 27, 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
Sandi Jackson
Robert Santana

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

Board of Trustees Absent:
Susan Samueli

Guests Present:
None

CALL TO ORDER

Chris Scheithauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all attendees to the January 27, 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 November 18, 2025 Meeting. Richard Arum seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes, 0 – Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

BOARD CHAIR

Chris Scheithauer shared his thoughts on attending the Board of Education Meeting regarding the Charter Renewal for Samueli Academy. He is excited to see the Charter move forward. The Board feedback was very positive. He is looking forward to the vote in early February.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Saba presented the Executive Director report. Anthony shared that the Board of Education would vote next week on the Charter Renewal for Samueli Academy. Anthony shared that the end of the year appeal resulted in 3x as much in donations as previous year. It was a very successful end of the year appeal for Samueli Academy. The application deadline for incoming students is March 1st and we have received more applications that space available so there will be a lottery in early March. Anthony shared the upcoming events at Samueli Academy.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Lee Fleming presented the Head of School Report. We received the OC Impact School banner and Lee Fleming had it hanging in the conference room for all board members to see. New Tech Network had an event on campus this past week and it was very well received and attendees enjoyed it.

Diana Nguyen (Literacy Teacher) became board certified through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This is a rigorous course and it a great accomplishment for Diana. Chris Scheithauer asked the Academic Committee to look at additional incentives for teachers to obtain this certification. Lee Fleming shared that she would invite Diana Nguyen to a future board meeting to share on her journey towards achieving this certification. Lee Fleming will bring back additional information to a future board meeting.

Lee Fleming shared the students' plan for a walk out in the coming weeks. This is not a school sponsored event and she shared what she has been communicating with students and parents regarding student participation in walk outs.

ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Chris Simonsen presented the Youth Connected Program report. There was recently a 15 year old that was placed in the YCP program. There are 2 additional females that staff are currently working with for the program. An additional family was approved this week. The LA County program is on board and beginning to look for referrals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNANCE

The Governance Committee will be reviewing a proposal for a data collection contract. This will go through the Finance Committee as well. Academic Committee has already approved the proposal to be moved forward. This addition would be extremely beneficial to the school if it is approved.

Outdoor Club Overnight Trip to Grays Meadows Campground

Anthony Saba presented the outdoor club overnight trip information to Grays Meadows Campground.

A motion was made by Liz Dorn Parker to approve the Outdoor Club overnight trip to Grays Meadows Campground. Robert Santana seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

FINANCE

Liz Dorn Parker reviewed the November 2025 Financial Statements.

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

OCDE First Interim Report

John Luker presented the OCDE First Interim Report to be submitted to OCDE.

A motion was made by Robert Santana to approve the OCDE First Interim Report as presented. Richard Arum seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

New Development Coordinator Position

Anthony Saba shared the background on the need for the new Development Coordinator position. This position would replace a portion of the Shared Services Agreement with Orangewood Foundation thus reducing that contract amount. This position has also passed through the Finance Committee and Governance Committee for approval.

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to approve the addition of a Development Coordinator position at Samueli Academy. Robert Santana seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

ACADEMIC

Teacher Credential Monitoring Declaration of Need

Richard Arum shared the status of Teacher Credentialing at Samueli Academy. There are currently 2 teachers in process of obtaining their Emergency Credential for EL Authorization. They are both CTE credentialed but are in need of the EL Authorization credential. They are not eligible to receive this for 2 years but are in process. OCDE recommends obtaining an emergency authorization therefore we need to have board approval to submit a Declaration of Need for to obtain this emergency credential.

Robert Santana made a motion to approve the submission of the CL-500 Declaration of Need form. Liz Dorn Parker seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

Referral Protocols for Addressing Student Behavioral Health Concerns

Richard Arum shared the background on the new Senate Bill 153 requiring schools to adopt a policy relating to referral protocols for addressing student behavioral health concerns.

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to approve the Referral Protocols for Addressing Student Behavioral Health Concerns. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

SARC Review

Richard Arum shared the SARC report and went over the report in general. He highlighted 2 notable accomplishments. There was an improvement in English and Math scores. This was a focus over the last year for faculty and staff. There was also an improvement in the graduation rate. The rate improved to 100%. The drop out rate also had significant improvement.

Robert Santana made a motion to approve the SARC Report. Sandi Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

OTHER BUSINESS

Robert Santana shared the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year that was selected as the winner this year is a Samueli Academy student. This student will receive a $5,000 scholarship and is moving on to the next round in the competition.

ADJOURNMENT

Liz Dorn Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Richard Arum seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of: 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

RICHARD ARUM, SECRETARY