



**Sarasota Academy of the Arts  
Monthly Board Meeting  
February 16, 2024  
582 McIntosh Rd  
Administration Office**

**Meeting Minutes**

- I. Meeting called to order @9:05am
- II. A quorum of the board was present. In attendance:
  - a. Board members: Mary Stewart Owen Kennedy, Denise Verheul, Patrick Mizak, Dan Dembicki, Dean Brennehan
  - b. Principal: Dr. Jodi Kopacz
- III. Minutes from previous meeting: Unanimously approved.
- IV. Finances-Financial Report: Discussed and Unanimously Approved
  - a. This month's lease invoice was the first without any utility charges from the landlord.
  - b. Tandem construction reimbursed SAA for water usage. The amount reimbursed was agreed to be sufficient.
- V. Principal's Report: Discussed and Unanimously Approved
  - a. Update on enrollment: Current is 175 Students. Open enrollment period end Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Roof Audit: Generally, in good condition. Suggested repairs in the amount of \$3,800 discussed and approved.
  - c. Hardening Grant for 2024: Plan to use for Marquee.
  - d. Arts Around Campus: Many new works of student art have been hung.
  - e. Website Updates: There were no faculty takers of Board's offer of a \$500 stipend for this purpose. Principal Kopacz updated the website at her own initiative. The Board unanimously voted to award the \$500 stipend to Principal Kopacz and to continue with a \$50/month stipend on an open-ended basis for Website and Social Media content updates.
  - f. Reimbursement requests to the District:
    - Title II (6124) Grant Reimbursement \$4,385.27
    - Clint Gaston Recruiting qualified individuals from other fields to become teachers.
    - ESE III Target Math and STEM \$2,317.25
    - ESSER III ARP Instructional Materials \$2,651.29
    - Title IV Part A Fastforward digital Program ESE/ESOL students \$2,358.65
    - IDEA Reimbursement: ESE services \$1,115.11
    - Capital Millage (pays for lease) \$52,517.48
- VI. Old Business
  - a. INDEX Ringling College results: Presented to Board, which reviewed and discussed. If any board members are able to write-up comments for the students, it would be appreciated.

- b. Meeting with JFed. Re: Camp Yonnie: The meeting covered more than just the Summer Camp questions. Tootie Kennedy and Dean Brenneman attended meeting, Dan Dembicki joined by phone. The meeting was constructive, the tone was cordial and cooperative, and the attending board members recommend approval of the following points of agreement wherein the parties would enter a written lease addendum confirming:

- JFed's responsibility for cleaning and security and for the expanded physical scope of their camp. JFed will relieve SAA of responsibility to provide a playground for use by the camp and furthermore will rescind JFed's lease requirements for playground features & performance characteristics.
- An increase in the rent paid by JFed to SAA from \$3,000 to \$5,000 to offset utility costs and any other expenses/inconveniences to SAA.
- JFed will relinquish naming rights for SAA playground and release them to SAA for donor recognition.
- JFed will allow SAA to install a sign on the outside of the building, per the original lease agreement.
- JFed will reimburse SAA for any overpayments of utilities last year. As SAA receives accurate bills for usage this year, they should be compared to last year and an invoice for any reimbursement submitted to JFed.
- JFed will work with us to revisit the road-signage issue at the County Commissioner level. To that end, JFed informed us of their desire to convert the current construction entrance to a "Limited Access" entry, for use only in cases of emergencies and large event egress. This makes our sign placement at that entrance very awkward, and that is why JFed has agreed to work with us for improved road signage. In return, they request our support for the "Limited Access" driveway.

VII. New Business

- a. Possible fundraiser for future playground: now that sponsorship and naming rights are available as a fundraising tool, we can pursue that direction. Also, Denise has identified a person to create social media content around specific events. Denise will coordinate and bring recommendations to the Board.
- b. Election of a new Secretary: Dean Brenneman was elected by unanimous vote.

- VIII. Public comment – None  
IX. Adjournment @ 10:05am

*Denise Verheul*  
*3/19/2024*