



**Sarasota Academy of the Arts
September 17, 2024
Monthly Meeting of the Governing Board of Directors
582 McIntosh Rd- 9:00am
Administration Office**

Minutes of the Monthly Governing Board Meeting

- I. Call to order: **@ 9:02 by President Tootie Kennedy**
- II. Determination of a Quorum: **Quorum attained, Board members present: Tootie Kennedy, Dan Dembicki, Dean Brenneman. also in attendance: Principal Jodi Kopacz & Miriam Snyder (student relative).**
- III. Approval of Minutes: **Motion to approve passed unanimously.**
- IV. Finances-Financial Reports
 - A. Review Latest Financial Reports: **Motion to approve passed unanimously.**
 - B. Discuss Draft Audit. **Board had no questions.**
- V. Principal's Report
 - A. House Bill 1473 update: all doors locked, windows covered, social media limitations, pronoun usage.
 - B. Elementary Fire Safety with Elementary Students: This event will occur this month & will include James Platt (a Sarasota County firefighter paramedic), a trailer, a fire truck & possible ambulance.
 - C. Progress Report: Sent out on September 11th, along with academic letters of concern.
 - D. Draft Audit: Distributed to the Governing Board via email for viewing, draft of management letter states no recommendations needed.
 - E. 5-day count: District has SAA at 195. The Principal sent the enrollment for all charter schools in a previous email for viewing. SAA will receive more funding in January & not have a clawback this year.
 - F. FAST PM1 has been completed. This is our state testing which reflects new knowledge
 - G. Health Insurance: Rates have gone up (7.3%) for the faculty & staff. There are about 6 staff that use the health insurance.

- H. Car loop update & rainy day loop days: Working with the Jewish Federation to open up the loop when there is severe weather. **Board to meet with JFed to attempt to change this policy.**
 - I. Beta Club: Had their induction ceremony with over 130 people present. We used the new stage & the new metal chairs. The parents were super excited.
 - J. Grades 2 & 3 are attending *Gwendolyn the Graceful Pig* by David Ira Rottenberg, a Sarasota ballet production for FREE from the Community Engagement Department of The Sarasota Ballet in October.
- VI. Old Business
- A. Exterior Signage: Discuss current proposal & contract. Vote to Approve/Disapprove. **Vote was tabled. In discussion, concerns were raised about the proposed technique for attachment of sign letters to the building, & about the requirement for SAA to be responsible for ensuring an adequate mounting substrate (or “blocking”) for that attachment. Board Member Brenneman was tasked with contacting Alexis Barry @ alexis@creativesign designs.com (P) 813.514.8469, (C) 727.417.5266 to clarify/resolve.**
 - B. Playground: Strategize for sponsorship &/or fundraising. **See Public Comment Period, below. Also, the entire playground & recess area is currently flooded due to problems with Jfed Infrastructure. JFed working to determine a solution. Board Member Brenneman to review lease to see if there is any recourse for SAA.**
- VII. New Business
- A. SAA must adopt a progressive discipline policy for addressing any instructional & administrative personnel who knowingly violate school safety requirements. Motion passed unanimously to draft such a policy, to include the following progressive disciplinary measures, per violation:
 - 1. Verbal warning 1 & Provide written instructions for implementation of school safety requirements.
 - 2. Verbal warning 2
 - 3. Verbal warning 3
 - 4. Require completion of appropriate Professional Development training course
 - 5. Suspension (should this be with or without pay, & what duration?)
 - 6. Termination of employment.
- VIII. Public comment period: **Miriam Snyder volunteered to assist with the Playground project. She has identified 3 qualified contractors & offered to solicit proposals & ideas from each. Also discussed the possibility of getting student input, but it was agreed that it is best to not to get hopes up until we have secured funding. Board explained that Board Member Verheul (not present) has done quite a bit of research on the playground & has estimates ranging from \$75-100k. Agreed that Ms. Snyder should coordinate with Board Member Verheul to see how best to assist. Board expressed gratitude to Ms. Sydney for volunteering.**
- IX. Adjournment: **Meeting adjourned @ 10:02**

Respectfully Submitted September 17, 2024
By Dean Brenneman
Secretary, Board of Governors

