



**Arizona School for the Arts**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
 Monday, March 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting: 892 9014 8734 Passcode: 262121

**Attendance** (Voting Members in **Bold**)

<b>Dr. David Garcia, President</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Alexander (Alex) Laing, Vice President</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Dr. Heidi Jannenga, Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Leola Abraham</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Michelle Buckley</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Andrei Cherny</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Michelle Davidson</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Betty Hum</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Carrie Larson</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>John O'Neal</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Allison Otu</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Dr. Lorisa Pombo</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Nonnie Shivers</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>John Snider</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Annette Zinky</b>	<b>P</b>
Scott Stone	p	Elizabeth (Liz) Guzman, Honorary Arts Faculty	p	Jeffrey (Jeff) Steinert, Honorary Academic Faculty	p
Ian Elder, Honorary Student	p	Ingrid Martinez, Honorary Student	p	Leah Fregulia, Head of School/CEO	p
Leslie Tan Religioso, Development Director	p	Elizabeth (Liz) Shaw, Business Director	p	Carolyn Smith, Executive Assistant	p

**Agenda Items**

**| Call to the Public**

**| Mission Moment**

National Merit Scholarship Finalists

3QP Highlights

Academic Curriculum Revised Scope and Sequence - Elma Bass, Emma Popish & Andrew Doumakes

**| Board Recognition**

**| Discussion Items**

Resource Development Committee

- Development Dashboard

Governance Committee

- July 1, 2024-June 30, 2026 Board of Directors Officer Slate for Approval

## Consent Agenda

Head of School Report

## Action Items

Ratification of the February 26, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Board of Directors Officer Slate for 2-year Term Beginning July 1, 2024

Approval to rescind the COVID-19 Face Covering Policy and COVID-19 Mitigation Plan and incorporate new CDC Guidelines and recommendations in the FY25 Community Handbook

Approval of the AMEA All State Band, Choir, Orchestra Festival at the University of Arizona

The Board of Directors may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(1) Personnel

The Board of Directors may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Board's attorney on any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(3) Legal Advice

## Minutes

Board President Dr. David Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **Call to the Public**

David welcomed any members of the public attending the meeting. There were no members of the public present, so David moved to the next agenda item.

### **Mission Moment**

Leah Fregulia shared some celebratory items with the Board:

- Class of 2024 National Merit awards including five National Hispanic Recognition Awards, one National Indigenous Award, one National African American Recognition Award, and two National Merit Scholarship finalists of which Honorary Student Board Member Ian Elder was just named a winner.
- A successful Third Quarter Presentation week.
- The Mock Trial team's 2nd place finish at the state championship.

Then, Principal Elma Džanić Bass, Dean of Academics Emma Popish, and High School Math Teacher & Instructional Coach Andrew Doumakes presented ASA's three-year plan to increase rigor and retention at all grade levels.

- During the first year: two new Instructional Coaches will be added to support teachers; optional quarterly independent study projects for students at all levels; an Honors track will be added to all middle school academics; daily advisory period, mandatory intervention, and a structured lunch period for 5th and 6th grades; college readiness classes and lunch with high school students for 7th and 8th grades; and pre-AP classes, expanded AP offerings, financial literacy units, and additional honors class that will receive weighted GPA for high school students.
- During the second year: high school students will have additional pre-AP options, a Spanish for Spanish speakers track, and AP Foreign Language.
- During the third year: AP Physics will be added.

Board members were extremely enthusiastic about the changes and congratulated Elma, Emma, Andrew, and the teaching teams who helped develop the strategy. They were pleased to see a structured return to pre-pandemic levels of academic rigor while offering intervention and support to students as needed.

### **Board Recognition**

David thanked the Executive Director Search Committee -- particularly those board members who are doing double duty -- for their commitment of time, expertise, and effort to help select the best possible candidate to take on Leah's role after her retirement.

### **Discussion Items**

#### *Resource Development Committee*

Leslie Religioso reviewed the reconciled fundraising numbers as of February 29th; currently, we are at \$489K, closing the gap against this time next year to \$16.6K. Family giving is at 54% and the Development Team will be doing a deep dive using personalized outreach and the Parent Committee to find out why the balance of families have not yet participated. She then congratulated the Board for meeting their 100% participation goal; they are only \$38.5K shy of their \$150K Give or Get goal which can be easily met with sponsorships now that we are heading towards Showcase. David reviewed the current Showcase Dashboard and reminded members that they need only identify potential sponsors, or make an introduction and Leah and Leslie can make the ask. Betty Hum then shared that she has secured two Hearts for Arts sponsorships and she will be a Mainstage sponsor.

Leslie then gave an overview of the Spring Enrollment Boost Campaign, explaining the 4-prong strategy of Awareness, Engagement, Conversion, and Loyalty and commending Min Skivington for her marketing work on the campaign.

#### *Governance Committee*

Betty Hum reminded the Board that they will vote on the slate of officers for the July 1, 2024-June 30, 2026 term: Heidi Jannenga, President; Allison Otu, Vice President; Betty Hum, Secretary/Treasurer. David thanked all of them for stepping forward to assume the next round of leadership of the Board.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### *Head of School Report*

Leah gave the current enrollment number for School Year 2024-2025 as well as an update on conversations had with representatives from the City of Phoenix government about their plans for a heat respite center for the area's unhoused population at Burton Barr Library from May 1st to September 30th. Leah and other members of the school's administrative team have been reassured that the plan in place will be unobtrusive to the school's operations and safety and we will continue to have an open dialog with City officials to ensure the wellbeing of our students and staff as well as our most vulnerable population during the height of the summer months. David commended Leah for establishing a quick, cooperative, and effective partnership with the City in this matter.

### **Action Items**

#### *Ratification of the February 26, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

Heidi Jannenga moved to ratify the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2024. The motion was seconded by Michelle Davidson and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Garcia, Jannenga, Abraham, Buckley, Davidson, Hum, Larson, Otu, Pombo, Snider, and Zinky voting in favor.]

#### *Approval of the Board of Directors Officer Slate for 2-year Term Beginning July 1, 2024*

John Snider moved to approve the Board of Directors Officer Slate for 2-year Term Beginning July 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Michelle Davidson and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Garcia, Abraham, Buckley, Davidson, Larson, Pombo, Snider, and Zinky voting in favor.][Jannenga, Hum, and Otu abstained.]

*Approval to rescind the COVID-19 Face Covering Policy and COVID-19 Mitigation Plan and incorporate new CDC Guidelines and recommendations in the FY25 Community Handbook*  
Betty Hum moved to rescind the COVID-19 Face Covering Policy and COVID-19 Mitigation Plan and incorporate new CDC Guidelines and recommendations in the FY25 Community Handbook. In response to a query from David Garcia, Leah Fregulia explained that the Centers for Disease Control have less stringent recommendations regarding quarantine and mask wearing incorporating COVID-19 with all respiratory illnesses and eliminating the need for separate policies. The motion was seconded by Annette Zinky and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Garcia, Jannenga, Abraham, Buckley, Davidson, Hum, Larson, Otu, Pombo, Snider, and Zinky voting in favor.]

*Approval of the AMEA All State Band, Choir, Orchestra Festival at the University of Arizona*  
Michelle Davidson moved to approve the AMEA All State Band, Choir, Orchestra Festival trip to the University of Arizona. The motion was seconded by Heidi Jannenga and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Garcia, Jannenga, Abraham, Buckley, Davidson, Hum, Larson, Otu, Pombo, Snider, and Zinky voting in favor.]

**Adjournment**

Michelle Buckley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Michelle Davison and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Garcia, Jannenga, Abraham, Buckley, Davidson, Hum, Larson, Otu, Pombo, Snider, and Zinky voting in favor.]

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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Minutes reviewed and accepted on: April 29, 2024

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Board Member