APPROVED

Allegiance STEAM Academy

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date and Time
Monday January 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location

ONSITE MEETING LOCATION:
5862 C Street
Chino, Ca. 91710

SATELLITE MEETING LOCATIONS:
7930 Locust Ave.
Fontana, Ca. 92336

Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/91713075690

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND CITIZENS

Allegiance STEAM Academy- Thrive charter schools ("Allegiance STEAM Academy"), also known as ASA Thrive, are direct-funded, independent, public charter schools operated by the Allegiance STEAM Academy nonprofit public benefit corporation and governed by Allegiance STEAM Academy, Incorporated corporate Board of Directors ("Board"). The purpose of a public meeting of the Board, is to conduct the affairs of Allegiance STEAM Academy in public. We are pleased that you are in attendance and hope you will visit these meetings often. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our school.

1. Agendas are available to all audience members at the meeting. Note that the order of business on this agenda may be changed without prior notice. For more information on this agenda, please contact Allegiance at: info@asathrive.org

2. “Request to Speak” forms are available to all audience members who wish to speak on any agenda items or under the general category of “Public Comments.” Members of the public who wish to speak are encouraged to complete a Request to Speak card to assist in organizing comments. Submitting a card is not required in order to address the Board.

3. “Public Comments” are set aside for members of the audience to comment. However, due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not take action. The public is invited to address the Board regarding items listed on the agenda. Comments on an agenda item will be accepted during consideration of that item, or prior to consideration of the item in the case of a closed session item. Please turn in comment cards to the Board Secretary prior to the item you wish to speak on. Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom (link above) and will be given an opportunity to speak. To provide public comment through Zoom, please use the ‘Raise Hand’ feature *during the Public Comments section or when prompted by the Board President.* These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes.

4. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, Allegiance STEAM Academy may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require disability-related accommodations or modifications to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, should contact SaraLopez, Chief Operations Officer, at sara.lopez@asathrive.org **at least 24 hours before the meeting**.

Directors Present
J. Kaakuahiwi, M. Casas, M. Jones, S. Bhojani, S. Odo, T. Stevens

Directors Absent
S. Thompson

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
S. Odo

Guests Present
C. Moreno, C. Valenta, Carmelita Lopez, J. Dizon, K. Holt, S. Cognetta, S. Lazo, S. Lopez

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I. Opening Items

A.

Call the Meeting to Order

T. Stevens called a meeting of the board of directors of Allegiance STEAM Academy to order on Monday Jan 12, 2026 at 5:36 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approval of Agenda

M. Jones made a motion to Approve Agenda.
M. Casas seconded the motion.
Passed 5-0
Opposed
Abstained
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Thompson	Absent
T. Stevens	Aye
M. Jones	Aye
S. Bhojani	Aye
J. Kaakuahiwi	Aye
M. Casas	Aye

D. Pledge of Allegiance

E. Reports

S. Odo arrived at 5:42 PM.
Principal - Chino, Kathleen Holt

- Continuing to monitor attendance; occurring on a weekly basis.
- Second Saturday school is scheduled for January 24th, allowing for attendance recovery.
- ELOP Session 2 finishes this week; Session 3 begins January 26th.
- Third round of instructional walkthroughs is this week, visiting teachers' classrooms during math lessons and looking for school-wide trends in math.
- Instructional Partners visit scheduled this week, will analyze data from instructional rounds and trends, also assist administration on coaching teachers.
- Second math night is January 21st, focusing on promoting math confidence in our students.
- Kicking off GiveThx school-wide initiative during in-service day, promoting positive behavior and gratitude. Will begin for all students in a few weeks.
- Teacher interviews are being held for a vacancy in a sixth grade classroom.

Principal - Fontana, Cyndi Valenta

- Teachers welcomed students back from break and maintained consistent instructional routines.
- FUSD completed flooring installation in two classrooms over the break. No updates regarding approval of playgrounds and shade covering, FUSD is waiting for DSA approval. Additional flooring to be installed in several classrooms. We continue to work closely with FUSD to ensure open items are completed.
- Held a second Saturday session to support attendance recovery. Shout-out to staff who dedicate their Saturday to engaging lessons, high-quality learning opportunities, and efforts that directly support our attendance goals and student access to instruction.
- Key priorities are family engagement and academic confidence. Hosting a second math workshop focusing on equipping families with strategies to support learning at home.
- Round 3 of math instructional walkthroughs begin this week with Instructional Partners. Teachers who expressed interest have been invited to join as peer observers during the walkthrough.
- Welcome to our newest staff member, Mr. S. Alonso, third grade teacher.
  We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Ms. D. Dawkins for her commitment and support during the transition.
- Looking forward to upcoming non-student days at the end of the month when we welcome our Chino teachers to collaborate on campus.
- Kicked off GiveThx program; students kick off in a couple weeks.

PACK - Fontana, update provided by WolfPACK, S. Arroyo

- Family Fun Night fundraiser held at My New York Pizza, January 27th.
- First on-campus Family Fun Night, February.
- Special Someone dance for students to bring their loved ones.
- BMX assembly.
- Working on the Annual Spring Festival, March 13th.
- Planning fundraiser at the Ontario Reign Toyota Arena, April.

PACK - Chino, update provided by K. Holt

- Middle school dance, January 23rd.
- Music technology assembly, January 28th.
- Next PACK meeting will be held on Wednesday

CEO, S. Cognetta

- Open enrollment for 2026-2027 completed for both schools at the end of December, with a total of 411 applications; eligible for lottery are 156 in Chino and

64 in Fontana. Both schools will hold lotteries; Fontana February 4th and Chino February 5th. The plan for the upcoming school year is for Chino to maintain the 960 enrollment and grow in Fontana to about 400 students. A huge thank you to H. Jimenez and C. Birchler who oversee that process and have worked tremendously to streamline it, making it clear for families and for us to be able to prepare and hold the lotteries back-to-back.

- Funder, Charter School Growth Fund extended an invitation to a convening on CEO Excellence. Dr. Cognetta, Dr. Moreno, and Dr. Lazo will attend at the end of February. Focused on strengthening the executive leadership, succession planning, and long-term organizational sustainability.
- Effort underway for an Artificial Intelligence Task Force convening for the first time in November. A follow-up meeting will be held next week to work on the policy for AI use at our schools. One of our teachers, Mr. Gancz, was invited to present at an Education Technology conference in Florida due to leading the way on AI automation. Mr. Gancz has been piloting several AI projects, one being the short-term independent study process.
- Enrollment, Chino 959 and Fontana 360.
- Intra-organizational repayment from Fontana to Chino continues per our resolutions.
- New Schools Venture Fund grant, applied jointly for Chino and Fontana. Thank you to Mr. G. Santiago, Fontana Teacher, who helped lead the way on the application.
- Strong Workforce Program, for both schools, was not awarded in Round 8. We have been working with the community college regional consortium to revise our application for Round 8B. Grant would strengthen our middle school, and into elementary, opportunities for strong workforce exposure and development.
- Facilities: updates provided by site administrators.
- Staffing: updates provided by site administrators. By bringing on Mr. S. Alonzo Fontana is fully staffed. Interviews are being held in Chino for the 6th grade vacancy.

F. Student Celebrations

J. Shipes, 5th Grade Chino Teacher
J. Crowder, 5th Grade Chino Substitute Teacher
Students, M. Madan and J. Jimenez, S. Pulido and C. Padilla

Recent projects, performance-based learning.

1. Owl pellets - reconstruction. Students had to take the pieces and put them back together.
   Discussed prey found in owl pellets, such as a shrew. Bones that were found like the pelvis, skull, clavicles, backbones, and humerus.

Thank you to Mrs. H for bringing in the owl pellets this year, and introducing something new. She's been a nice addition to our program with fresh ideas and complement to what we were already doing.

2. Atoms - students learned basics of atoms; subatomic particles, protons, neutrons, electrons, nucleus, and then the basics of positive or negative or neutral.
   Models consisted of a styrofoam ball and pipe cleaners.
   Discussed atoms, protons, atomic numbers, neutrons, the atomic mass, and electrons.

G. Public Comments

N/A

II. Items Scheduled for Consent

A. Approve Minutes for December 12 2025, Regular Board Meeting

S. Odo made a motion to Approve Minutes for December 12 2025, Regular Board Meeting Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on 12-08-25.
M. Jones seconded the motion.
Passed 6-0
Opposed
Abstained
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

T. Stevens	Aye
M. Jones	Aye
S. Odo	Aye
S. Bhojani	Aye
M. Casas	Aye
S. Thompson	Absent
J. Kaakuahiwi	Aye

B. Approve Check Registrar

S. Odo made a motion to Approve Check Register - Chino Approve Check Register - Fontana.
T. Stevens seconded the motion.
Approve Check Register - Chino
S. Odo Motions
T. Stevens Seconds
Passed 6-0
Opposed
Abstained

Approve Check Register - Fontana

T. Stevens Motions
S. Bhojani Seconds
Passed 6-0
Opposed
Abstained
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Casas	Aye
M. Jones	Aye
J. Kaakuahiwi	Aye
T. Stevens	Aye
S. Bhojani	Aye
S. Thompson	Absent
S. Odo	Aye

III. Governance

A. School Accountability Report Card - ASA Chino (2024-25)

S. Bhojani made a motion to Approve School Accountability Report Card - ASA Chino (2024-24).
S. Odo seconded the motion.
Passed 6-0
Opposed
Abstained
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Kaakuahiwi	Aye
S. Bhojani	Aye
T. Stevens	Aye
S. Odo	Aye
M. Jones	Aye
S. Thompson	Absent
M. Casas	Aye

B. School Accountability Report Card - ASA Fontana (2024-25)

T. Stevens made a motion to Approve School Accountability Report Card - ASA Fontana (2024-25).
S. Odo seconded the motion.
Passed 6-0
Opposed
Abstained
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Odo	Aye
M. Jones	Aye
S. Thompson	Absent
S. Bhojani	Aye
J. Kaakuahiwi	Aye
T. Stevens	Aye
M. Casas	Aye

C. Revised Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) Plans

Discussion regarding ELOP plans and ACES; application renewal in Fontana and first time applying in Chino. Proposed revisions to the current fiscal years ELOP plans. Expanding current plan; the goal is to fully fund without going beyond ELOP. The opportunity to apply would strengthen what we can do, expand the programs, offer more tutoring, and also increase the budget.

IV. Finance

A. FY26 Budget - ASA Chino

T. Stevens made a motion to Approve the FY26 Budget - ASA Chino.
S. Odo seconded the motion.
Passed 6-0
Opposed
Abstained
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Thompson	Absent
T. Stevens	Aye
S. Bhojani	Aye
S. Odo	Aye
M. Casas	Aye
M. Jones	Aye
J. Kaakuahiwi	Aye

B. FY26 Budget - ASA Fontana

M. Jones made a motion to Approve FY26 Budget - ASA Fonta.
M. Casas seconded the motion.
Passed 6-0
Opposed

Abstained

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Thompson	Absent
T. Stevens	Aye
S. Bhojani	Aye
J. Kaakuahiwi	Aye
M. Jones	Aye
S. Odo	Aye
M. Casas	Aye

V. Communications

A. Communications

S. Cognetta

Thanks for in-depth look at our finances and policies. Thank you to the student celebrations. To J. Shipes and S. Hameister, who brought a lot of tremendous ideas and a strong vision for what that program can offer. Shout out to the 5th grade team who has done an exceptional job of collaborating with our enrichment programs.

J. Kaakuahiwi

Enjoyed the student presentations. Really glad to see the students doing projects and learning. Looking forward to planning on renewal, and helping out.

S. Bhojani

Lots of fun things are happening. Our PACKs are doing a wonderful job of re-engaging our families. Kudos to our staff, great presentation from our students.

M. Jones

Thank you to the students who presented, I'm always impressed. Thank you to the Central Office for ASA shirts. Excited about the new semester.

S. Odo

Thank you so much to S. Hameister for bringing projects like this on to campus. It’s a hands-on experience, the most important thing is it opens their eyes. Also to the PACK, both Fontana and Chino, excited about all the things the students are going to experience.

M. Casas

I'd like to thank the teachers; the inspiration and goals that inspire and motivate. Students, especially to get them to touch a pallet. It is neat to see that at such an early stage, and see the outcome of potential scientists.

T. Stevens

Great job to our teachers and our students for the presentations today. Exciting to see students doing the dissections. Great job to the staff, exciting that we are almost halfway through the school year.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
T. Stevens

• Where All Children Can Thrive •