APPROVED

St. Louis Voices Academy of the Media Arts

Minutes

SLVA Board Meeting May 14, 2025

Date and Time
Wednesday May 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location
St Louis Voices Academy
1220 Olive Blvd. Suite #200
St. Louis, MO 63103

All Meetings are in Person

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85915146951?pwd=b3c0NnNxT01rT08zMm9qcGJKTUZlZz09

Directors Present
A. Silverblatt (remote), D. Catchings-Smith (remote), E. Barnard (remote), E. Woods (remote), L. Jackson (remote), R. Payne (remote)

Directors Absent
K. Scott

Ex Officio Members Present
H. Russell-West

Guests Present
B. Taylor, D. Wright (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Catchings-Smith called a meeting of the board of directors of St. Louis Voices Academy of the Media Arts to order on Wednesday May 14, 2025 at 6:04 PM.

C. Mission Moment

Edie shared a special mission moment, highlighting her attendance at the Opportunity Trust awards ceremony, where St. Louis Voices Academy received the highest possible score—10 out of 10—on the Instructional Culture Index. She extended heartfelt congratulations to the team for this outstanding achievement.

II. Action Items

A. Approve April 09, 2025 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from SLVA Board Meeting April 09, 2025 on 04-09-25.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Approve March & April 2025 Monthly Financials

E. Woods made a motion to Approve March & April 2025 Monthly Financials.
L. Jackson seconded the motion.
Mr. Greenwood shared the updated financial information for April and May. He provided a summary of the current financials and discussed the challenges being experienced with DESE. In 2024, DESE issued a payment for the free and reduced lunch program; however, in 2025, an adjustment was made in which DESE retracted those funds. The financial team is currently working with DESE to correct this prior year adjustment, which has resulted in a decrease from the previous financial report. Mr. Greenwood also gave an update on the district's current financial position, which remains strong. The revenue projections are solid and reflect a conservative estimate of state funding, particularly. On the expense side, salaries and benefits appeared higher in May due to three pay periods occurring in the month, along with summer school stipends that are accounted for in June.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Approve Updated Salary Schedule

L. Jackson made a motion to Approve Updated Salary Schedule.
A. Silverblatt seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D.

Approval of the 990 Tax Filing

R. Payne made a motion to Approval of the 990 Tax Filing.
E. Woods seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

E. Approval of 2025-2026 School Calendar

R. Payne made a motion to Approve 2025-2026 School Calendar.
L. Jackson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Approval of the Local Wellness Policy

L. Jackson made a motion to Approval of the Local Wellness Policy.
A. Silverblatt seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

G. Approval of the Disposition of Assets Policy

E. Woods made a motion to Approval of the Disposition of Assets Policy.
L. Jackson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

H. Approval to move Board Meetings to the 4th Wednesday

R. Payne made a motion to Approval to move Board Meetings to the 4th Wednesday.
E. Barnard seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

I. Wellness Committee Update and Discussion

Ms. Taylor requested a board meeting to serve on the Wellness Committee and Dr. Payne accepted.

III. Board Business

A. Adoption Anti Anti-Nepotism and Conflict of Interest Policy

E. Woods made a motion to Adoption of Anti-Nepotism and Conflict of Interest Policy.
R. Payne seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Approve New Members to SLVA Board

E. Woods made a motion to Approve New Members to SLVA Board Commitee.
L. Jackson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Executive Director's Report

A. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Stiles - provided an update on enrollment, highlighting a projected total of 225 students. Re-enrollment has risen to 96%, up from 80%, with 141 students currently enrolled, representing 62% of the overall goal. Additionally, 19 new families have enrolled, and 153 applications have been submitted, also reaching0% 62% of the application target.
Following a shortfall in last month's enrollment and application numbers, the team adjusted the May goal to 191 applications, with a target of 15 per week. Encouragingly, 20 applications were received last week, indicating strong progress toward meeting or exceeding the monthly goal.
This momentum is attributed to strategic tabling events, strengthened community partnerships, targeted social media outreach, and direct family engagement. Key partnerships include Hollywood Beauty on Kingshighway Blvd., the Urban League Head Start, and local apartment property owners, who are helping to promote events such as ice cream socials—efforts that have proven effective in increasing visibility and family interest.

Ms. Holley - Shared information and updates, beginning with attendance, emphasizing its critical role in academic achievement. While it was initially disheartening to see an average daily attendance rate of 58%, Dr. West provided helpful context by explaining the proportional data. A few months ago, a decline in academic performance was closely tied to both student and staff attendance, leading to a strategic shift to prioritize consistent daily presence.
With strong leadership and support from the Dean team, targeted efforts were implemented to improve attendance. These included daily celebrations, such as flash mobs when attendance exceeded 95%, and incentive-based initiatives like field trips and enhanced "Fun Fridays" for students with high attendance. As a result, Quarter 4 attendance has increased to 91.04%, with several days reaching 95%.
This positive trend is a testament to the dedication of the school team, increased family involvement, and a focused effort to reinforce the importance of daily attendance. Maintaining strong attendance continues to be a foundational driver of academic success.

V. 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 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Catchings-Smith