



Strong Start Academy

STRONG START ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT THE TONY HSIEH EDUCATION CENTER

BOARD RETREAT MEETING AGENDA 07/22/2026

Published on July 16, 2026 at 7:51 AM PDT

Date and Time

Wednesday July 22, 2026 at 10:00 AM PDT

Location

Strong Start Academy Elementary School, 310 S. 9th Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Date and Time

Tuesday July 22, 2026 at 10:00 AM PDT

Location

City Hall

495 S. Main Street, 1st floor, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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I.	Opening Items		10:00 AM
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	Purpose	Presenter	Time
A. Call the Meeting to Order		Lorna James-Cervantes	3 m
B. Record Attendance		Lorna James-Cervantes	1 m
C. Public Comment		Lorna James-Cervantes	3 m

Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, will be limited to three (3) minutes absent Board approval. Public comment may also be given by calling 1-415-655-0001 and entering access code number 2661 459 1370 followed by the # sign.

II. Building Board Members' Connections To Each Other And To The Mission 10:07 AM

A. Ice Breaker	Discuss		20 m
B. Past Successes and Celebrations	Discuss	Lorna James-Cervantes	30 m
C. Charter Goals and Promises	Discuss	Miriam Benitez	15 m
i. Data Analysis ii. Goal Settings			
1. Academic Goals for 2026-27 2. Propose Additional Training/Practices for 2026-27 3. Budget Goals and Future Planning 4. Staffing Report			
D. Executive Director's Needs From the Board	Discuss	Miriam Benitez	15 m

III. Board Training or Professional Development 11:27 AM

A. Yearly Board Training	FYI	Colleen McCarty	30 m
1. Board Governance Review 2. Open Meeting Law Review 3. Conflict of Interest			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
4. Recent Legislation Review			
B. Agenda Creation Practice in BoardOn Track	FYI	Colleen McCarty	15 m
C. Governance Levers and Wise Questions	FYI	Lorna James-Cervantes	5 m
IV. Governance Strategy And Planning			12:17 PM
A. BoardOnTrack - Board Members share resources/training they have found in BoardOnTrack	Discuss	Lorna James-Cervantes	20 m
B. Expansion to Middle School Discussion	Discuss	Lorna James-Cervantes	30 m
i. Parent Survey ii. City Report 1. Appetite for Expansion 2. Facilities 3. Future Financial Support iii. Financial Impact/Implications for Expansion iv. Academic Plan and Implications for Expansion 1. Curriculum 2. Assessment 3. Teacher Certification/Search v. Other Concerns or Discussion Points			
V. Work Groups			1:07 PM
A. Work Time	Discuss	Lorna James-Cervantes	60 m
i. Outreach ii. CEO Support and Evaluation iii. Academic Excellence iv. Facilities			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Board Calendar Review/Creation	Discuss	Lorna James-Cervantes 5 m
VI.	Closing Items		2:12 PM
A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	
Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of persons with disabilities.			
Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate persons with disabilities or impairments.			
If you need an accommodation to attend and participate in this meeting, please call Jana Essary at 702-229-3409 and advise of your need at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Dial 7-1-1 for Relay Nevada.			
THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:			
Strong Start Academy Elementary School website www.clvstrongstartes.org			
City Hall, 495 S. Main Street, 5th Floor Conference Room, Las Vegas, NV			
The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov			
Coversheet			

Coversheet

Governance Levers and Wise Questions

Section:	III. Board Training or Professional Development
Item:	C. Governance Levers and Wise Questions
Purpose:	FYI
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Governance Levers_ For PRINT.docx Wise Questions Card.docx

The Three Governance Levers

1. Boards govern academics through three powerful levers: **Leadership-** Boards hire, support, and evaluate the school leader. When students struggle, boards ask whether leaders have the capacity, support, and expectations to drive strong teaching and learning.
2. **Budget**
Budgets reflect values. Boards allocate resources toward the students, programs, and staff that most directly impact learning, including intervention, curriculum, and teacher development.
3. **Priorities & Resources**
What boards put on the agenda, what they monitor, and what they follow up on sets the culture.
When boards consistently prioritize academics, schools respond.

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Wise Governance Questions

Governing for Greatness

Great boards don't start with answers.
They start with the **right questions**.

Use these prompts to guide strong governance conversations.

Student Learning

- What story is our data telling about student learning?
 - Which students are thriving — and which students may need more support?
 - What conditions have we created that influence these outcomes?
-

Financial Stewardship

- How does this decision reflect our mission and priorities?
 - What assumptions are driving our financial projections?
 - What tradeoffs might impact students?
-

Leadership

- How effectively is leadership advancing the mission?
 - What evidence shows the school leader is building a strong culture?
 - How can the board support and hold leadership accountable?
-

Strategy & the Future

- What trends should the board be paying attention to?
 - How might this decision affect long-term sustainability?
 - How will this shape the future experience of students?
-

A Final Question

Before making a decision, ask:

How will this benefit students?

Governance Levers

Leadership | Budget | Priorities & Resources