



## Strong Start Academy

### Minutes

#### STRONG START ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT THE TONY HSIEH EDUCATION CENTER

BOARD MEETING AGENDA 12/12/24

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##### **Date and Time**

Thursday December 12, 2024 at 5:00 PM

##### **Location**

City Hall, 495 S Main St, 5th floor, Las Vegas, NV 89101

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##### **Directors Present**

A. Angulo, A. Bengochea (remote), A. Moore (remote), D. Harris (remote), J. Gonzalez, L. James-Cervantes, M. Pulido

##### **Directors Absent**

T. Smethurst

##### **Guests Present**

A. Rose, C. McCarty (remote), M. Benitez, M. Fredriksen

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#### **I. Opening Items**

##### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

L. James-Cervantes called a meeting of the board of directors of Strong Start Academy to order on Thursday Dec 12, 2024 at 5:02 PM.

##### **B.**

## **Record Attendance**

### **C. Public Comment**

### **D. Approve Minutes from September 12, 2024 and November 14, 2024 Board Meeting.**

M. Pulido made a motion to approve the minutes from STRONG START ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT THE TONY HSIEH EDUCATION CENTER on 11-14-24.

J. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

L. James-Cervantes	Aye
J. Gonzalez	Aye
A. Moore	Aye
T. Smethurst	Absent
D. Harris	Aye
A. Bengochea	Aye
M. Pulido	Aye
A. Angulo	Aye

## **II. Finance**

### **A. Report by Kristin Dietz from EdTec on Strong Start Academy budget and financial reports.**

Kristin Dietz (EdTec) submitted a recorded presentation:

1. Current forecasted net income: \$237,000 (adjusted from \$13,000 variance).
2. Strong cash flow: \$1.6M in account (~140 days cash on hand).
3. Restricted grants updates (Title I-IV, IDEA): Awaiting amendments from the state.
4. Financial position solid with \$1.8M in liquid assets and a 45% reserve.
5. No questions raised; members advised to submit inquiries electronically if needed.

## **III. Executive Update**

### **A. Report by the Executive Director on the status of on-going marketing efforts, open-enrollment, and recruiting.**

#### **A. Marketing and Enrollment Report**

1. Presented by Miriam Benitez:
2. Enrollment: 215 students, Adjusted due to one second-grade student withdrawal.  
(25 seats available.)
3. Open enrollment (December 2 - January 15): 33 kindergarten applications to date.
4. Future advertising planned to ensure enrollment targets

#### **B. Student Achievement Data**

Presented by Miriam Benitez:

1. Discussion tabled due to pending feedback from the State Charter Authority. Focus on tracking student outcomes, especially those participating in dual-language programs.

**B. Discussion for possible action regarding the rate of improvement for measuring student performance in K-3 reading.**

Tabled for future meeting.

#### **IV. Governance**

**A. Discussion regarding Board committee updates and calendar events.**

**A. Committee Updates and calendar of events**

1. Mid-year evaluation for Executive Director planned for January.
2. Agenda to include financial training, board calendar review, and team-building.
3. New board members to be onboarded and participate.

**B. January Retreat Planning**

1. Scheduled January 14, 2025, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at City Hall
2. Agenda to include financial training, board calendar review, and team-building.

**C. Recognition of Jaime Gonzalez and Meli Pulido**

1. Both members thanked for their service as they transition off the board.

**B. Discussion for possible action to draft agenda for the half day Board Retreat and financial training schedule in January.**

Will meet for retreat on Jan. 14th at 8:30am (start at 9am) in City Hall. January Board Meeting will be added to the schedule.

**C. Recognition of Jaime Gonzales and Meli Pulido for their service as Board Members.**

#### **V. Facilities**

**A. Report by the City of Las Vegas regarding status of construction of new building at Strong Start Academy.**

- Bid was given to Builders United for construction of new building.
- \$650,000 awarded for security enhancements

#### **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 5:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. James-Cervantes

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## **Documents used during the meeting**

- 09.12.24 Board Meeting Transcription.docx
- 11.14.24 Board Meeting Transcription.docx
- 11.14.2024 Board Meeting Minutes.docx
- 9.12.24 Board Meeting Minutes.docx
- SSAES Financial Presentation 241127kd.pdf
- SSAES Oct24 Bank Recon.pdf

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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](http://www.clvstrongstartes.org)  
City Hall, 495 S Main St, 1st floor, Las Vegas, NV 89101  
The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)