

May Regular Board Meeting - 2025 Minutes

Shanel Valley Academy
5/29/2025 5:30 PMPDT
@ Add Zoom Link

Attendance

Present:

Members: Leslie Barkley, Amy Frost, Bessie Glossenger, Melissa Kendall, Kristi McCullough, Noshie Merlin, Melea Meyer

I. Land Acknowledgment and Moment of Silence

In Solidarity

We of this Academy, named after the Principal Local Indigenous Village of Shanél, acknowledge with honor the Shóqowa and Hopland People on whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands we work, educate and learn and whose historical and spiritual relationship with these lands continues to this day and beyond.

II. Call to Order

meeting called to order at 5:41pm

Vision & Mission

Shanèl Valley Academy is a culturally responsive, community school where all students are valued and supported. SVA students will be prepared to lead and successfully participate in our rapidly changing multicultural society, they will contribute to the community with creative solutions and a resilient, culturally competent and collaborative mindset.

III. Roll Call

All Board members present. This evening the BOD was joined by Principal McCullough, Katie Cooper, PAC president, Brian Holmes, EdTec Mike Peterson: Peterson Insurance

Attendance

Present:

Members: Leslie Barkley, Amy Frost, Bessie Glossenger, Melissa Kendall, Kristi McCullough, Noshie Merlin, Melea Meyer

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda was adopted as written.

Motion:

Motion to adopt the agenda as written

Motion moved by Leslie Barkley and motion seconded by Noshie Merlin. Passed by unanimous vote.

V. Public Comment & Announcements on Non Agenda Items

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items not on the agenda. Although the Board of Directors may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. Individual public comments are limited to 3 minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupt the Board meeting.

VI. Public Hearing - 2025-2026 Local Control Accountability Plan

Principal Mccullough presented the LCAP overview. Tonight is our first public hearing for the LCAP, which demonstrates our goals and investments in students and their learning environment. Data that informed the LCAP includes our family, student and staff surveys, street data and feedback from events throughout the year. The goals listed in the LCAP include increasing student achievement in MATH, ELA Science and other subjects that contribute to our well rounded project-based curriculum.

 [Draft SVA 2025-26 LCAP 5.8.25.pdf](#)

Public hearing on the LCAP began at 5:47 and closed at 5:52 Pm. No Board comment (nothing further to discuss since last preliminary presentation of the LCAP. No Public comment.

VII. 2025-2026 Health Benefits Presentation

Mike from Peterson Insurance Agency presented our options and ways we can provide the best benefits without negatively impacting our employees. The board and Business manager compared different plans in an effort to maximize savings and create more options for employees, especially those who want to add dependents. Based on our small group insurance plan we decided to continue offering both Anthem and Kaiser. We also discussed the option to add a flexible expenditure account, which is a minimal cost for us, and would be an added benefit. The Board also considered options for Life insurance, vision and dental and discussed potential savings and benefits.

President Frost noted that she does has a conflict of interest and will recuse herself from any voting on this contract, Melissa Kendall is the primary contact.

Melissa Kendall described issues with our current provider, which seem to be frustrating for staff trying to access benefits, and SVA in tracking monthly costs. Tonight this was agendized as a discussion item, we did not receive quotes from United AMG, our current provider: Hub international and George Peterson. We have not heard back from Charter Life (emailed April 24 and never heard back).

The Board listed the changes we want to make this year:

1. Adding an FSA
2. Adding a Max cap for annual benefits between \$8800 and \$13,000
3. Choose Principal and VSP for Dental and Vision: if approved by staff (Melissa will poll staff)
4. Currently our highest costs is \$1288 and our lowest is \$499

Board request: have Mike update the proposal with our updated census numbers, adding the FSA (with employer contribution of \$500) and poll the staff about Dental Dental to Principal Dental switch, we also wanted to offer an option for part time employees and an "opt-out" (buyout) option suggested buy out \$1000.

 [7-1-25 Shanel Valley- Anthem + Options.xlsx](#)

 [7-1-25 Shanel Valley- Kaiser Plans.xlsx](#)

 [7-1-25 Shanel Valley- Anthem Fully Insured and HRA Plans.xlsx](#)

 [Employees Benefits Executive Summary George Petersen Insurance Agency.docx](#)

 [HRA Plan Document.docx](#)

 [Shanel Valley Academy Ancillary Spreadsheet 7.1.25.xls](#)

 [Shanel Valley Academy EDIS Blue Cross and Kaiser HRA Proposal 7.1.25.pdf](#)

VIII. Review and Discussion 25-26 Enrollment Updates

Based on our enrollment for next year (currently at 105), our staffing requirements for next year include the addition of the STEAM teacher to supplement STEAM and PBL instruction. We are reducing one class and one support staff position. Staff positions currently dual funded will move to 28/hr per week position based on school day need. expanded learning staff will be ExL only and overseen by the director of expanded learning. We would also have to reduce on intervention position that was previously grant funding. We are reducing from 7 classes down to 6 and creating combo classes in K-1st, and 5&6th We have spots open still with the following spaces in grade levels as follow: TK-10, K-8, 1st-4, 2nd-4, 3rd-4, 4th-8, 5&6th-2

 [Students 2025-2026 - Class Configuration.pdf](#)

IX. Financial Updates

Brian Holmes from EdTech joined us to share the draft 2025-26 Draft budget.

A. Review and Discussion - Draft FY 25-26 Plan & Budget

April Data, the May Revise, and updates on expenditures are included in this month's update. This current year, we did increase our operating income to \$58,000 (22% of expenses is our current fund balance) (more than doubled since last forecast). Quite a few changes including reductions in expenses in books and supplies. Prop 28 expenditures came in under projections for this school year, that was a \$27,000 difference. compensations and benefits also decreased, as well as Other State revenue also reduced. We over budgeted for utilities, and came in under budget. State revenue increased bc of increased ADA. Grant reduction of about \$8000. Our janitorial and gardening services and supplies and were under projections. Federal revenue decreased, but was offset by state revenue (for SPED). Donations and fundraising is trending a little under projections.

Our Line of Credit is Paid off! Cash balance has stabilized.

May revise has a mixed bag. The COLA was downgraded to %2.3 (down from, %2.43). By June 16, the Governor will have to adopt the budget (unless they delay). Students support Discretionary Block Grant may come in for us at \$31-32,000 (to spend over 4 years, and may be used for operations) though this is not yet factored in to the budget. ELO-P rate increased, but does not affect us since we are already at the higher rate. TK add on funding increase from 3-5.5K. There is a one month deferral: meaning we will get one third of our monthly apportionment.

Next year's projected expenditures are similar to this year, increases in some revenues (Farm to School) absorbs some 21stCCLC reduction, but there will be additional costs as we begin to implement far to school program. Next year's budget projections are conservative, maintaining some of the same spending amounts in books and supplies and services & other operating expenses, which we anticipate to be similar to the year, despite decreased enrollment.

 [SVA - May Board Meeting 2025.05.29.pdf](#)

X. School Updates & Community Announcements

Diana P. (sp) joined us to share about California Oaks Discovery day: a free family focused event that includes, story times, guided walks, Bird walk, a Haiku walk by a local poet. resource tables will also be included. At the end of the event, there will be a play that promotes interconnectedness and stewardship of our Oak woodlands. The purpose of this event is to inspire the community about one of our greatest natural resources: acorn producing trees. Their kick off meeting is on Saturday 5/31/2025. Diana P. invited us to the event and to be part of the planning process for the Oct 11 event.

A. Principal's Report

There is a new requirement from the CDE: a reading screener: Beginning in the 2025–26 school year, all schools are required to administer a state-approved reading screener for students in grades K–2 to assess risk for reading difficulties, including dyslexia, per Education Code Section 53008. we will add this to the interim meeting in June for a vote: The Board requests that Kristi prepare a comparison of programs so the Board can make an informed decision.

All schools are also required to develop and maintain an instructional continuity plan to ensure that learning can continue to emergency situations Kristi shared a draft plan with the board.

Monthly Updates:

The month kicked off with the Hopland Fireman's BBQ

Students completed i-Ready and CAASPP testing

We had visiting musicians on campus this week who visited each of our classrooms and the kids loved working with the musicians.

Cinco de Mayo celebration included student performances and presentations based on the themes: patterns.

At the end of April, we hosted a family engagement event where we presented data and received feedback from parents included in the LCAP report and the CEI presentation, which the CEI team brought to the conference when closed out our second year of the community engagement initiative.

We hosted the Region 1 Expanded learning Network meeting. students are enjoying the clubs afterschool and we are looking forward to a robust summer program: planning is underway.

Teachers are wrapping up the school year and we had our final student assemblies where students were recognized for growth, effort and positive behavior. The last assembly of the year will feature the "Adopt a fifth grader" ceremony a meaningful tradition at SVA, for students transitions from fifth to sixth grade.

This week were our Teacher conference and the staff continued collecting feedback from to contribute to our LCAP goals.

6th grade heads to San Francisco tomorrow for their end of year trip prior to their graduation. Our gratitude and goodies event is scheduled for next week on Monday morning to honor our volunteers.

Field day is next week on Wednesday.

B. Preschool Director Report

Lucia joined us to share the pre-school report for the month. It is a quite time at the preschool except they did have a little graduation and will have their own little mini field day. Enrollment for next year is low. Julie and Lucia will be doing a booth at the Ukiah Farmer's Market in mid-July and August to drive enrollment. The Muralist (Jan Hoyman) suggested we go with a different artist since it feels "more like a sign" than an art piece. The money can roll over to next year, and we would rather give the opportunity to a Pomo artist. Lucia will work with Ramon (Pomo THPO) to take on the project.

currently enrolled, 3 state pre, one PP, and 4 considering enrolling, but hoping for full day.

C. PAC / ELAC Report

Katie Cooper joined us to report out on fundraising and parent advisory committee. They raised \$1300 at the firman's BBQ fundraiser. June 3 Julie Golden is sponsoring a Taco Tuesday fundraiser at the Golden pig.

They parents are gearing up field day and have ordered some crafts supplies and reserved the waterslide it is coming up on Wednesday and the kids and families are excited.

New officers for the PAC were voted in Katie will remain as PAC president and the rest of the officers will be announced once confirmed next week!

D. Community Updates & Announcements

XI. Public Employee Employment - Compensation Study

Review and Possible Adoption of Comparable Compensation Data for Charter School Executive Directors/Principals
Tabled, we will add to Saturday's meeting

XII. Review and Possible Approval of School Calendar 25-26SY

Thank you Kathi for putting together the 25-26 school calendar. The board reviewed the calendar and had no changes or edits to offer.

 [SVA SCHOOL CALENDARS \(2025-26\) - SCHOOL CAL..pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve the school calendar for 2025-26

Motion moved by Melea Meyer and motion seconded by Leslie Barkley. passed by unanimous vote.

XIII. Consent Agenda

Consent agenda includes minutes from March and April.

Motion:

Motion to approve the consent agenda

Motion moved by Bessie Glossenger and motion seconded by Leslie Barkley. passed by roll call vote.

A. Approval of Minutes

minutes approved as part of consent agenda.

 [March Regular Board Meeting - 2025 Minutes.pdf](#)

 [April Regular Board Meeting - 2025 Minutes.pdf](#)

B. Job Description - EXPANDED LEARNING PROGRAM / STEAM LEAD

Job description approved as part of the consent agenda

 [Job Description - STEAM Specialist.docx.pdf](#)

XIV. Public Comment Regarding Closed Session Items

no public comment on closed session items.

XV. Closed Session

Entered in to closed session at 9:16pm

- A. Public Employee Employment: Classified position**
- B. Public Employee Employment: Certificated position**

XVI. Introductory Items

Reconvened in open session at 10:10

A. Reconvene in Open Session

Reconvened in open session at 10:44

B. Report Out from Closed Session

Motion to reduce the classified staff by 1, effective June 6, passed unanimously.

Motion to reduce 5 classified staff positions from 8 hours to 5.75 hours, passed unanimously.

Motion to reduce the attendance secretary role from 11 to 10 months, effective July 1, passed unanimously.

Motion to increase the administrative assistant position from 11 months to 12 months, effective July 1, passed unanimously.

Motion to communicate to recently resigned staff member to outline responsibility to repay benefits paid for by SVA during leave from which the employee did not return, passed unanimously

Motion to approve a Cost of Living (COLA) Increase for certificated staff of 2.5% passed unanimously

Motion to accept the resignation of certificated staff member effective June 6, passed unanimously.

XVII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:50