

# SLAM ARIZONA, INC.

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
November 13th, 2024 at 12:00 pm MST  
1938 E. Apache Blvd.  
Tempe, AZ 85281

or

Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
<https://ave.zoom.us/j/2521699501?from=addon>  
Meeting ID: 252 169 9501

## Board of Directors

Rene Ruiz (Absent)  
Joseph A. "Tony" Mesa III (Present)  
Alina Lopez (Present)  
Shelly Murphy (Present)

## Board Minutes

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### 1. Opening Exercises

- a. Called to Order by Joseph Mesa at 12:09pm
- b. Established Quorum

### 2. Public Comment *(Members of the public that wish to address the Board about an item on the agenda must submit a request form and will have a maximum amount of time (3 minutes) to speak at the discretion of the Board Chair. The Board will not address the presenter or take action at this time.)*

#### No Public Comment

### 3. Action & Discussion Items

- a. Principal's Report  
(Shannon Beem)
  - *Enrollment Update:* Current enrollment stands at 60 students.
  - *Staffing:* A new K/1 teacher has been hired. The school is seeking a full-time licensed Special Education (SPED) teacher.
  - *Student Donation:* Right Toyota will donate bicycles to every student, with delivery scheduled for December 17.
  - *Enrollment Fluctuation:* Member Mesa requested an update on enrollment changes, noting that while the school is gaining students, some are also leaving.
  - *Community Outreach:* Ms. Aguilar has been canvassing the area to promote the school and is exploring local holiday events for further engagement. She is also offering tours to prospective families.
  - *Marketing Initiatives:* The school is working with Schola and Juan from Academica Florida on a digital marketing campaign.
  - *New Curriculum:* The school has received the "Reading Wonders" curriculum.

- b. Discussion and possible action on Minutes from the July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 board meeting  
(Frankie Mestre)

Motion to approve Shelly Murphy, Seconded by Alina Lopez, Passes Unanimously

- c. Discussion and possible action on 23-24 SY Audit  
(Nelson Gaud and Jose Iglesias)

Nelson Gaud and Jose Iglesias of the auditing firm of HLB Gravier presented the Board with the results of the 2023-24 School Year Audit

- *Financial Dependence on SLAM Foundation:* Approximately 20% of school revenue (\$256,000) is funded by SLAM Foundation.
- *Recommendations:*
  - Maintain timely reconciliations.
  - Clarify the use of Management and Affiliation Fees.
  - Submit reconciliations of grant funds promptly.
- *Previous Audit Finding:* One previous finding has been removed.
- *Class Site Funds:* Funds are available for allocation to boost teacher salaries through PD stipends, after school tutoring, summer school, and pay for performance.
- *SPED Compliance:* There were compliance concerns noted; the 45-day SPED screening requirement was not met, and there is currently no SPED staff on site.

Motion to approve Alina Lopez, Seconded by Shelly Murphy, Passes Unanimously

- d. Discussion and possible action to update the Designated Official for the National School Lunch Program (Kendra Thornton)

Kendra Thornton of Academica led the discussion regarding the need to update the Designated Official for the National School Lunch Program for signature purposes due to the change in school leaders

The Board of Directors unanimously approved updating Principal Marybelle Aguilar as the Designated Official for the National School Lunch Program after Member Murphy's Motion and Member Lopez's Second.

- e. Other Updates by Board Members, Staff, or ESP

#### **SLAM Foundation Update**

*Campus Visit:* Ms. Sanchez visited the campus and assessed the current needs, specifically in Special Education.

- *Potential Partnership with ASU:* Discussions are ongoing with Arizona State University (ASU) regarding potential support for SPED staffing and exploring a future campus location. The current challenge noted is the proximity to a college campus, which limits nearby family engagement.
- *New Partnership with Arizona Cardinals:* The school has secured a new partnership with the Arizona Cardinals. Further details are forthcoming.

#### **4. Adjourned Meeting at 12:42 pm**

**Motion to adjourn by Alina Lopez, Seconded by Shelly Murphy, Passes Unanimously**