

Arcadia Charter School
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2025
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/vat-dnbg-iwm>
Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 413-679-2819 and enter this PIN: 846 749 815#

Financial sustainability and growth

- Create a development plan
- Continue fundraising while considering alternative revenue sources

Staff sustainability and development

- Achieve adequate staffing levels
- Support staff growth and fulfillment

Communications

- Develop internal communications plan
- Update marketing and educational materials for the public

It is the mission of Arcadia Charter School to prepare our students to transition intellectually, emotionally and ethically to higher education and future employment.

Board Goals:

- Identify staff needs and ways the board can support the meeting of these needs
- Develop holistic rubric for assessing board success
- Increase community and parental involvement in board-related service and committees

1. Call meeting to order at 9:10 am
2. Verify Quorum
 - a. In attendance: Heidi Brousseau, Gabe Meerts, David Wolff, Aaron Rothmeyer, Hassle Morrison, Dove Mitchell, Katie Simon, Tamra Paulson, Laura Stelter,
 - b. Absent: Tammy Prichard
 - c. Quorum Verified
 - d. Participating remotely: none
3. Approve Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve the Agenda: Gabe Meerts
 - b. Seconded: Dove Mitchell
 - c. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Project based learning and progressive educational principles - Laura
Purpose: Increase awareness of key principles of Arcadia educational approaches and Develop greater understanding in participants of how principles are applied in Arcadia
Article sent earlier: <https://www.alfiekohn.org/article/progressive-education/>
 - a. Progressive education fits with our mission to build thoughtful, creative learners

- b. Taking kids seriously - using students' first names to promote the concepts of mutual respect. Engaging them in learning; showing the dignity of everyone and what they bring to their learning. How well do our students know this information about progressive learning and project based?
 - c. Project based learning and how it is implemented in our school is changing so that students are given more agency and choice in how they address a topic.
 - d. Project Based Learning Model: within classes (structured for skill development) and in independent learning (exploratory learning)
5. Rubric review and update - Laura/Katie
 - a. [Arcadia Rubric](#) - updated with board 2024/2025 responses
 - b. **Key considerations from rubric discussions**
 - How to communicate with students about progressive education as an approach?
 - How to increase the staff understanding and ability to articulate about the approach and how it is demonstrated in Arcadia practices?
 - How to address the inherent tension between student directed learning and the needs for educational reporting (goals, progress reporting)?
 - Curriculum reporting to the board - increase in the awareness of materials used for increasing complexity of thought (within grade and in grade progression) and then how student identity and representation is being considered and demonstrated (ability and culture, etc.)
 - Specifics - how to incorporate the immersive community learning experiences throughout the year (not just opening and May term)
 - Mid-year reflection on social contract
 - Specific On-boarding to social contract with new to school students (and new within year). From student to student, or deliberate observations to see demonstration of the social norm
 - Resiliency and culture to take responsible risk taking -
 - Use "I survived" shared examples from older students in advisory circle time - sharing stories of failure, and renaming failure to be accountability and learning
 - Reflection on the process, learning and challenges between peers for projects
 - Use of peers to for project progress check-ins, providing feedback to peers
6. Break out groups -
 - a. Parent Involvement and Communications
 - b. Fundraising
 - c. [1/25/2025 Board Retreat: Breakout Group Notes](#)
7. Adjourned at 2:15pm