

APPROVED

Academy of Media Arts

Minutes

November Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday November 29, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Academy of Media Arts Virtual Board Meeting will be held via zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8524934928>

Meeting ID: 852 493 4928

Passcode: dTYT57

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+1 305 224 1968 US

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Meeting ID: 852 493 4928

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kiCcVdBcv>

Directors Present

A. Tijani (remote), C. Staebell (remote), C. Young (remote), J. White (remote), L. Ballton (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

D. Hammond (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

D. Hammond (remote)

Guests Present

S. Andres-Brown, W. Wallace (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

J. White called a meeting of the board of directors of Academy of Media Arts to order on Tuesday Nov 29, 2022 at 5:35 PM.

C. Remote Meeting Resolution

D. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

E. Approve Minutes

C. Young made a motion to approve the minutes from October Board Meeting on 10-25-22.

C. Staebell seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

C. Staebell Aye

J. White Aye

A. Tijani Aye

C. Young Aye

L. Ballton Aye

II. Finance

A. October Financials

C. Staebell made a motion to approved the October financials.

C. Young seconded the motion.

Walter Wallace reviewed the October financials. Due to the delays in fully earned revenue with adding a grade, expenses continue to somewhat outpace income on the YTD balance sheet, but the overall trajectory for the year is strong.

Ms. Young asked how cash flow was being managed. Mr. Wallace stated that holding payables, funding from the AMA Foundation, and additional grant funding have allowed the school to manage its cash flow.

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

Roll Call

L. Ballton Aye
A. Tijani Aye
C. Staebell Aye
C. Young Aye
J. White Aye

B. First Period Interim Financial Report

C. Young made a motion to approve the first interim report.

L. Ballton seconded the motion.

Mr. Wallace explained how the information in the First Period Interim Financial Report aligned to the October Financials and the approved budget revision. A key element is \$780k in funding from the AMA Foundation this year based on grants that Mr. Hammond has secured.

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

Roll Call

C. Young Aye
L. Ballton Aye
C. Staebell Aye
J. White Aye
A. Tijani Aye

C. Loan Application

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

III. Academic Excellence

A. Response to Notice to Cure re: Bell Schedule and Instructional Minutes

C. Young made a motion to approve the staff's revised bell schedule and academic calendar to meet the required instructional minutes for the 22-23 school year.

L. Ballton seconded the motion.

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the materials and explained the school's approach to adjust its schedule to meet the instructional minutes requirements. The proposed changes were reviewed with staff, students, and families for their input. The changes, once approved by the board, will take effect on 12/5/22.

Dr. White asked for and received confirmation that the revised schedule would meet or exceed the minimum required minutes. He also asked how the changes would be implemented; Ms. Gonzalez explained that the changes would be created in the student information system and elsewhere and communicated to CSD.

Ms. Young asked when the board would be asked to approve the 23-24 bell schedule and instructional minutes. It was suggested that it would be approved along with the school calendar no later than May.

Mr. Hammond noted that the school has historically exceeded the required minutes and stated that the approval would align with the SIS rollover in May or June.

Dr. White asked if the "brain breaks" Ms. Gonzalez described were built into the schedule or at teacher discretion. She explained that it was at teacher discretion. Dr. White suggested that some guidelines be provided to teachers about the expectations for brain breaks to ensure alignment and accountability; Ms. Gonzalez agreed and noted the suggestion. Ms. Young also asked for and received confirmation that brain breaks would not affect the instructional minutes calculation.

Dr. White requested an update at the next board meeting on how the new schedule is going.

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

Roll Call

C. Young Aye
A. Tijani Aye
J. White Aye
C. Staebell Aye
L. Ballton Aye

IV. CEO Support And Eval

A. General CEO Updates

Mr. Hammond introduced [Dr. McNamee](#) and [Dr. Anthony Collatos](#) from Pepperdine University as part of the AMA's partnership with Pepperdine to support the trauma-informed approach of Health & Wellness Center and employee retention through Pepperdine's Urban Initiative.

Dr. McNamee discussed the value of the work with AMA for both organizations and Pepperdine's belief in AMA, including their financial support for Achieve3000 to provide targeted interventions in math and literacy for all AMA students. Ms. Young expressed the board's appreciation for the support. Dr. McNamee stated that Pepperdine was hoping to have additional Pepperdine candidates work with AMA in the spring.

Mr. Hammond spoke briefly about AMA's efforts to support students with their college applications, thanking Rodrigo Moreno and Ms. Young for their ongoing support, and Dr. Collatos for coming in and helping students with their applications as well.

Dr. Collatos leads the Pat Lucas Center for Teacher Prep at Pepperdine and is a former school board member from Palos Verdes. He spoke about the teacher shortage crisis both nationally and in California. 6 in 10 school leaders nationally said they were struggling to adequately staff their schools this year, per EdWeek. Dr. Collatos reviewed the many challenges the sector is currently facing, as well as some strategies to address teacher retention, including:

- Developing a teacher pipeline and build awareness of AMA with candidates *before* they apply
- Creating a support network for teachers
- Identifying teachers who are best suited for AMA's pedagogy and culture

Ms. Young asked whether Pepperdine candidates were being trained in project-based learning and other AMA pedagogy. Dr. Collatos said that it is addressed but that most programs are not providing the level of instruction required to fully implement AMA's program.

Dr. White thanked Dr. Collatos for his presentation and echoed his experience and concern with the current teacher pipeline.

Mr. Hammond discussed preparations for LAUSD's oversight visit on January 25, which have been ongoing since the summer. Bringing on a Data and Compliance Coordinator has been helpful in this respect, as has bringing on a Director of Operations and Facilities to support with all of these items. Ms. Young emphasized that the board should make sure to provide whatever support necessary to ensure success with this visit.

Mr. Hammond also acknowledged that one of AMA's employees was recently arrested, and discussed how the school's leadership team has collaborated to provide support to the school community. The employee no longer has a relationship with the school, and families have been kept informed via ParentSquare and the most recent Meeting with the Founder, where questions were able to be addressed. Scholar safety remains of utmost importance, as does AMA's rigorous hiring process, which was thoroughly followed in this case. Mr. Hammond emphasized that the school followed its model and focused on social-emotional learning, and facilitated restorative circles with each grade level to help students process everything they were feeling in a safe space. Additionally, peer-to-peer mentoring was provided through the One Voice program in addition to regularly offered counseling.

Finally, Mr. Hammond reviewed content from a recent staff PD on the vision of the staff and faculty showing strong alignment among the team. He emphasized the power of the team coming together in harmony and collaboration to support AMA's students and the mission of the school.

A closing celebration: four AMA scholars have already received college acceptances! Mr. Hammond again thanked Mr. Moreno, Ms. Gonzalez, and Ms. Young for their above and beyond efforts to support students with their college applications.

B. Compliance Deadlines

V. Governance

A. Board Certification of Compliance Monitoring

Mr. Hammond explained that these items are the same that were previously reviewed by him as part of the administrator certification earlier in the year. The board delayed this item to next month.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. Staebell made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

C. Young seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Andres-Brown