

Saginaw Covenant Academy
508 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
999 S. Washington Ave. Saginaw, MI 48601
April 23, 2025 at 12:00 P.M.

Pre-Board Meeting Activities

Two students from Saginaw Covenant Academy were presented awards by Matt Hyatt, SCA School Leader. Ar'Mya Jones received the Growth & Progress Award and Jeremiah Macon-Amon received the Student of the Term Award. Family and friends were present to recognize these students' outstanding work.

- A. The meeting was called to order at 12:07 P.M. by Mr. Mier
- B. Roll Call was taken and those present were Ty Mier, Dr. Elsa Olvera, Becky Gerzseny, Mike Jury and Callie Schultz. Others present were Sam Joseph, Joe Kaplan, Tim Ostrom, Chris Gray, Steven Killey, Matthew Hyatt, Dr. Matt Cawood, Mitchell Piper, John Humphreys, Carmen Stricker, and Kareem Bowen. Present online were Leah Breen & Jeff Maxwell.
- C. The Mission Statement was read by Mr. Mier.
- D. One Public Comment was offered to the Board by Mr. Mier. At this time he requested to amend the day's agenda to include a closed door session to review some legal documentation and legal opinion by Mitch regarding the school and requested the closed door session be held between old business and new business. Approval for the closed door session was motioned by Ms. Gerzseny, seconded by Mr. Jury, approved by all board members present. No objections.
- E. The approval of the agenda, as amended to correct the spelling of a board member's name, was motioned by Mr. Jury, seconded by Ms. Gerzseny, approved by all board members present. No objections.
- F. The approval of Standard Business was motioned by Ms. Schultz, seconded by Dr. Olvera, approved by all board members present. No Objections.
- G. Standard Business began when Mr. Hyatt presented the school report: Enrollment is 246 students, 15 re-enrolled from previous years, 16 recovered from this year, 31 brand new students, 44 dropped for various reasons. Average daily attendance is improving, SCA has 32 students with children, 11 students are in foster care, 47 are in special education,

67 are aged 19-22 and 30 are McKinney Vento. The annual career day is planned for May 5, 2025, Ms. McCall attended the Youth Solutions Foundation's First Annual Convening in March 2025 and the College Access Advocacy Day in Lansing and brought back valuable information regarding college readiness for SCA students. Ms. Jones, Family Support Specialist, hosted a Parent Awareness Day at SCA on March 19, 2025. Guest speaker was Tanual Gaskew-Collins from House of Love emergency shelter. 16 parents attended and felt it was a very worthwhile event. The Street Outreach Coordinator continues to hold successful parent/guardian meetings with students in hopes of re-engagement and to address behavioral issues. Ms. Peoples, Behavior Interventionist and Mental Health Support person, continues to arrange for Hazel Milam, a beloved therapist by the students to work with students who request her help. Also, through SCA's partnership with Community Action Center and Youth Protection Council, housing was arranged for 4 upcoming graduates who had no place to live. Term 4 course completion was 66%, the NWEA test is scheduled to begin May 5, 2025.

- H. Standard Business continued the Finance Report given by Steven Killey. The report was as of March 31, 2025 ending the third quarter. The board was presented with a statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance, a balance sheet, statement of cash flows and the checkbook register for February and March. The overall analysis is that the school is on solid financial footing. Board members had questions about perceived lack of communication from CAF, not having board review of expenditures for previous months, very limited time to review financial documents prior to board meeting, role of the ETO in the invoice payment process, discussion of a Board resolution passed in January, and a loan payment made with SCA funds.

When asked of CAF by Mr. Meir, who can address the loan payment, the founder/CEO Sam Joseph responded, "I'm going to speak." Mr. Joseph reminded the SCA the board that an SCA board had agreed to pay the loan when it came due and everybody knew it. It's in the past minutes. He continued, "Was it done formally, no, but many things were not done properly for the last six months." Mr. Joseph spoke about how the authorizer was in direct contact with some board members about trying to change the management company and that CAF has written documentation of this. He continued about the ongoing 6 month

conspiracy and up until 6 months ago, everything was fine. When another academy board president reached out to the SCA board to discuss changing management companies, nobody reached out to him (Mr. Joseph). He recognized that much trust has been lost, even with the authorizer. Mr. Joseph expressed frustration over GVSU taking so long to present their reauthorization report to SCA, reminded the board that it was CAF who started the school, raised the initial funds from the Saginaw Community, put the plans in order, worked with GVSU and the State of Michigan, and hired the incredible people who have brought the school so much success. Most importantly, it is CAF's Mission that drives the school, not the desire to have lots of cash on hand. The board was also reminded that they are in charge legally, BUT morally and spiritually, CAF is in charge. Mr. Mier responded by saying that he kept the investigation out of SCA and did not cooperate with the other two academy board presidents. Mr. Ostrom & Mr. Killey both offered their unwavering support of SCA because that is where they began working the Mission. Dr. Olvera voiced her support for the great work being done at the school with students and how supporting the mission is of utmost importance.

About this time, some board members needed to leave soon due to other appointments. The meeting quickly moved on.

- I. There was no Correspondence
- J. Old Business concerning the SCA Building Project was tabled until the next meeting.
- K. New Business consisted of approving the 2025-26 School Calendar, Motion made by Mr. Jury, seconded by Ms. Gerzseny, approved by all board members present. No objections. Approval of the 2025-26 SCA Board Meeting Schedule, Motion made by Mr. Jury, seconded by Dr. Olvera, approved by all board members present. No objections. Approval of the 2025-26 SCA Seats Offered per Grade Schedule, Motion made by Ms. Gerzseny, seconded by Mr. Jury, approved by all. No objections.
- L. Unfinished New Business will be completed at a Special Meeting in May.
- M. Adjournment, motion made by Mr. Jury, seconded by Ms. Gerzseny, approved by all board members present. No objections.
- N.

Addendum to Board Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2025, submitted by Mr. Mier.

Steven,

I believe this should be added to the section of board meeting notes from the April meeting 23rd meeting.

After Mr. Joseph's comments on CAF is in charge.

Mr. Mier responded stating that there was not an educational assessment done at the Saginaw Covenant Academy location and the Board of Saginaw Covenant Academy has not explored any other options other than continuing on the path with CAF. There have been discussions with Board Chairs of other academy location over the past 6 months because of the ever-changing environment that CAF was producing. All support staff employees from CAF turned over in a very short period of time, creating uncertainty and concern, the response to this from CAF was choosing 2 members of Saginaw Covenant Academy's leadership team to replace a couple of those positions which was done without any communication with the Board at SCA. The concerns of SCA Board were the education of the students, the messaging the staff was receiving through these changes, and the status of the building. Without a clear direction and proper communication between CAF and SCA Staff, the students would pay the price. Mr. Mier stated the two responsibilities of the board were the educational requirements and expectations we have established through the Authorizer with the State of Michigan, as well as the financial responsibility of the entity. Our concerns directly relate to both of those responsibilities.

Leah Breen, Grand Valley State University Associate Vice President for Charter Schools then asked to speak on behalf of GVSU. She stated that GVSU was committed to the staff and students of Saginaw Covenant Academy, their support of the Board Members of the collective Covenant Schools, and agreed that the lack of consistency amongst the CAF Staff has created some hurdles while following up on action items within the school. Ms. Breen also stated the School Report, which was intended to be presented by Jeff Maxwell today would provide direction for the school that needs to be made a priority during the planning of the upcoming school year. Ms. Breen stated that Chris Gray, new addition to the CAF team is aware of the criteria and goal setting process and he worked on the GVSU side of developing these standards in the past. Mr. Mier thanked Leah for both her personal support and the GVSU Teams' support of SCA.

You can then continue with Mr. Ostrom & Mr. Killey both....

4/23/25

Minutes Certification

Proposed minutes submitted:

Steven Killey May 1, 2025

Approved by the Saginaw Covenant Academy Board of Directors Special Meeting: Date:

Michael Perry

4 JUNE 2025

Board Secretary

A copy of the meeting minutes is available for public inspection at SCA 508 S. Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI 48607, within 8 business days for "proposed minutes and within 5 business days of approval for approved minutes. The Academy shall comply with subtitle A of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, 62 USC § 12101 et seq or any successor law. Should you require specific accommodation(s) please contact Steven Killey at (989) 596-1100 prior to the meeting.