



**Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Delta College Downtown Saginaw Center
319 E. Genesee Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607
August 27, 2025 at 12:00 PM**

*Prior to the meeting and in the presence of others, Dr. Matthew Cawood administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Carmen Stricker and she signed an Acceptance of Public Office form, allowing her to take her seat as a member of the Saginaw Covenant Academy Board of Directors.

- A. Meeting called to order by Dr. Olvera at 12:05 PM.
- B. Board Members present were: Dr. Elsa Olvera, Mike Jury, Carrie Schultz & Dr. Carmen Stricker. Board Members excused were Ty Mier & Becky Gerzseny. Others Present were: Matthew Hyatt, Tim Ostrom, Chris Gray, Steven Killey, Jeff Maxwell, Dr. Matthew Cawood, & Joe Kaplan.
- C. The Saginaw Covenant Academy Board of Directors made a decision to increase the number of board members from 5(five) to 7(seven). A motion was made by Ms. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Jury; Four members present were in FAVOR, nobody OPPOSED.
- D. Dr. Olvera welcomed Dr. Stricker as a new member of the SCA Board of Directors.
- E. There was no Public Comment on Agenda Items.
- F. Dr. Olvera read their Mission Statement.
- G. A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Mr. Jury, seconded by Ms. Schultz; Four members present were in FAVOR, nobody OPPOSED.
- H. A motion to approve the Special Board Meeting minutes from June 28, 2025, with the spelling correction of Dr. Cawood's name under Roll Call, was made by Ms. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Jury; Four members present were in FAVOR, nobody OPPOSED.
- I. Mr. Hyatt presented the Mission Accomplishments & Academic Progress Updates. Enrollment as of that date was 187 and expected to grow quickly, 26 of those students were brand new to SCA, students with children - 13, students in foster care - 9, students in special education - 40, McKinney Vento students - 18, students with senior

credits - 5. SCA will host a Back to School Bash/Title 1 Day Event on September 4, 2025. Mr. Shepard and Ms. Peoples successfully secured student housing through FACT (Families and Children Together) and established a direct connection with the Nest Partnership Center, which provides furniture and appliances for students' homes. This direct link streamlines the process of obtaining essential items for students. The school also engaged in community outreach events like "Party on McCartney" and other local fairs to increase visibility and connect with families. Mr. Shepard successfully recovered three students who had not attended school for a year, including a 19-year-old with two children, demonstrating a strong commitment to re-engaging youth. Mr. Hyatt also informed the Board that, as a result of the new school schedule, students will be attending school for a longer duration. The revised school hours are now from 7:45 AM to 1:00 PM, with tutoring sessions available after 1:00 PM for students who need additional assistance. Mr. Gray presented an overview of the new curriculum in Edmentum and some important features of the software. Also, he presented the 23a update w/ explanation.

J. Mr. Killey presented a Human Resources Update. SCA hired a Denicia Grant as the Science Teacher, Mr. Killey will be the Social Studies Teacher for the 25-26 school year and a parttime security person added to the building.

K. Mr. Ostrom presented the Financial Update. The fiscal year 2024-25 is currently being reviewed by CS Partners and they are assisting in the official end of year audit being administered by Brian McFarren, CPA, a partner at Brickley DeLong Certified Public Accountants. He will be present at either the October or December Board meeting to present his findings. The current adopted budget is being carefully administered by CAF.

L. Mr. Ostrom presented an SCA Building Expansion Update on behalf of CAF, stating that fencing, trailers, and electrical setups are in place, with groundbreaking pending the final state permit. Additionally, the car wash property at 216 Thompson is scheduled for demolition on Tuesday, September 2nd, with Consumers Energy conducting a final inspection beforehand. This site will be converted into an overflow parking lot for SCA.

M. No Legal Updates.

N. Dr. Cawood from GVSU, shared that the academic grant requirements have been slightly modified, maintaining the \$30 per student opportunity with allocations for compliance, student assessment performance, and governance training. The governance training component has changed to \$5 for two board members attending one hour of virtual training and an additional \$5 for customized board training, which will

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involve a board self-evaluation to tailor future sessions. This customized training will require a quorum of the board and one hour of training, to be delivered at the board's convenience.

O. No Old Business.

P. New Business included a discussion regarding the 2025-26 Student Handbook. The board decided to delay approval of the handbook until the handbook could be reformatted and have spelling errors corrected. This item will be in the next board agenda. The second item of new business concerned the School Improvement Plan. Mr. Maxwell of GVSU, stating that the team has been aligning state MICIP goals with GVSU goals to optimize resources. They identified three main goals: improving NWA participation for growth data, increasing credits earned, and enhancing engagement, all stretched over a three-year period with incremental benchmarks. The underlying strategy for these goals involves implementing MTSS and PBIS, which are approved and vetted.

It was emphasized that the goal of organizing information and monitoring goals with fidelity to provide clear, consistent, and concise board reports. They aim to ensure the board receives regular, predictable updates on progress towards goals, such as enrollment trends and demographics, to maintain transparency and avoid surprises related to school performance or renewal visits. The board expressed excitement about this initiative, anticipating it will be very helpful for understanding progress.

Q. Discussion - Ed Snyder, President of the CAF board, announced, via a letter, that Sam Joseph has stepped down as Chairman and CEO of the Covenant Academy Foundation but will remain an advisor and CAF board member. Joe Kaplan, who has been working with Sam for several months, will succeed them as acting chief administrative officer.

Dr. Olvera concluded the meeting by expressing gratitude to all attendees and highlighting the new meeting location at Delta College. She extended special thanks to Sam Joseph for his extensive contributions to the mission over the years, and to Ty Mier, the prior president, for their leadership. She also welcomed Mr. Joe Kaplan from CAF as continuing partner and Dr. Stricker as the newest board member, expressing excitement for the new term and commitment to learning.

R. No Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

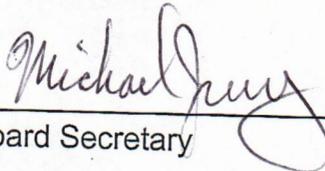
S. Reminder of next board meeting - October 29, 2025 @ 12:00 PM

T. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Jury, seconded by Ms. Schultz; Four members present were in FAVOR, nobody OPPOSED.

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Proposed minutes submitted: Steven Killey, August 30, 2025

Approved by the Saginaw Covenant Academy Board of Directors Meeting
on October 29, 2025.

 29 OCTOBER 25
Board Secretary

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