

APRIL 2023

Charter Board Buzz

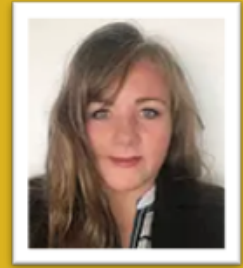


•the official newsletter of the scsb•

COVER ART BY NOAH KEELER, LEGACY PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Executive Director's

• MESSAGE •



Continuing along with our review of the SCSB values, this month I am highlighting impact. There are so many great quotes about impact, so I thought I would share a few of my favorites.

"In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact." Les Brown

"What I strive for is that everywhere I go, I leave a positive impact." Clarence Seedorf

"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." A.A. Mine

"Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive good things and good people will be drawn to you." Mary Lou Retton

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do make a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Jane Goodall

CONGRATS

CHARTER EMPLOYEE
OF THE MONTH



This is Cristina Hortin. She is the Assistant Principal at Summit Academy's Independence Campus. Parent Cara Bills from the Parent Teacher Organization who nominated Ms. Hortin writes, "Christina is the definition of a well rounded and caring administrator. She goes so far above and beyond to make sure the students, teachers and families are taken care of in a way that so easily gets overlooked. She is personable, kind, caring, intelligent, wonderful at her job, and so spectacular with her students."

Great job helping families and students, Ms. Hortin!
Keep up the excellent work!

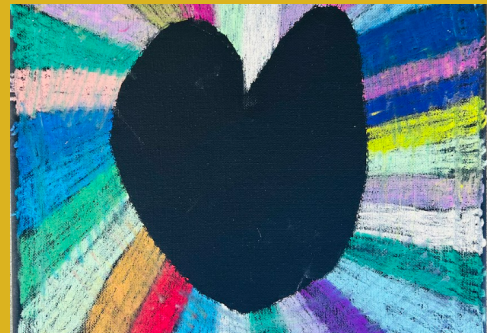
board meeting highlights

March:

The SCSB received reports from mentors that had been working a school on probation. The school presented regarding their probation status and an amendment request. An extension was granted, as well as the amendment request.

The SCSB received a financial report regarding portions of LEAs financial health.

The SCSB received a legislative update.



Student Art by Charlotte Johnson, Monticello Academy

Catch Up Anytime at:

www.youtube.com/UtahSCSB

•NOTES FROM THE SCSB•

One question we often get asked is “what should be included in our board meeting minutes?”

Here is a great list and summary to help you out!

To take effective meeting minutes, the note-taker should include:

Date of the meeting

Time the meeting was called to order

Names of the meeting participants, as well as who is absent

Whether a quorum is present

Motions taken or rejected

Voting-that there was a motion and second, and the outcome of the vote

Actions taken

Next steps

Items to be discussed at a later meeting

New business

Open discussion or public comment

Next meeting date and time

Time of adjournment

Detailing the discussions during a board meeting is as important as including the information in the items above. For each item, write a short statement of actions taken by the board and a brief explanation. If there is extensive conversation, write a summary of the big ideas.

When writing board meeting minutes, record discussions objectively and avoid inflammatory statements and personal observations. A good way to do this is by avoiding adjectives and adverbs whenever possible. Check your language to be sure that it is clear, unambiguous and complete.

Let us know if you have any questions!-The Support Team

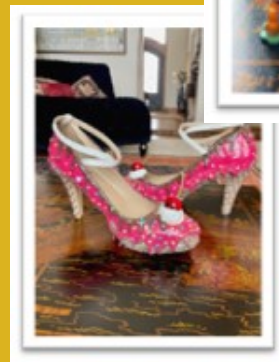
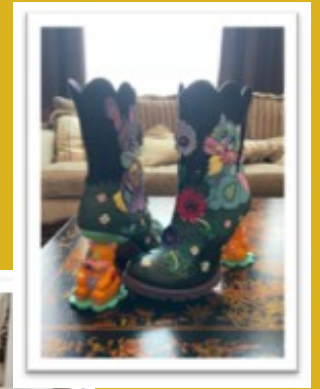
let's network...

•learning who's who in our charter world•

Michelle Smith, SCSB Member

I have been with the SCSB for 6 and a half years. My background is in business and charter schools, and charter schools are where my true passion is. I love getting to see our schools being successful, and in some ways feel like a proud mama! I love when I get to go Hawaii, especially the island of Maui. I cannot wait to wear my bad bunny shoes to the next SCSB meeting. (You may not know, but Member Smith has SO MANY cool shoes!) Of all her shoes, her favorites just might be her ice cream sundae shoes. (Note: both are pictured here for fun!)

scsb member...



charter director...

Steve Williams, The Weilenmann School of Discovery

I've been at Weilenmman for 13 years, since its beginning. I've got a BA in American Studies and an MA in English. I love spending time with the students and celebrating their success. I

also really take a lot of pleasure helping parents find solutions to challenges with their kids. Working through hard problems and finding success is very satisfying.

I love music and spend much of my limited free time playing piano with a band and composing music with them. We have a great time doing occasional gigs and rehearsing together.

I also love to to ski in the back country and mountain bike.

I really can't wait for the snow to melt. We have drifts over 12 feet tall on campus and my snow removal budget is well past spent!



charter board member...

Scharman Grimmer, Lincoln Academy
Our family has been at Lincoln for 12 years and I have served on the board for 7 years. I have a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a master's degree in Child Development. I am a Child & Teen Development Specialist and consult parents, schools and business through Parent Vision.

I especially love hearing our faculty and staff highlights at our monthly board meetings. It is so inspiring to hear the experiences and successes throughout the school as each employee is personally dedicated to helping our students learn and grow. I work with amazing humans- fellow board members, administrators, faculty and staff to create an environment where our students thrive! I love to be physically active outdoors- hiking, skiing, running, biking. Traveling to South Korea to explore the culture, history and delicious food.



charter business manager...

Brian Cates, Red Apple Finance

I have been working with Charter Schools for a little over 7 years and I've been with Red Apple Financial for all of that time. Prior to that, I worked as the Business Officer of a small private school in northern Nevada. Before entering the world of education, I worked in investment banking operations as well as restaurant management. I graduated from BYU with a degree in Business Management/Finance and have an MBA from the University of Utah.

After working in several different fields throughout my career, none have brought me more satisfaction than working with schools and in education. Although I don't often work directly with students, it is very rewarding for me to know that, in some small way, I am supporting the staff and faculty in delivering the missions of their schools to their students. I enjoy that each day there is a new challenge and that there is always something new to learn.

To relax, I enjoy reading - mostly non-fiction and biographies - as well as getting outdoors with my wife and 4 children. I also enjoy a good movie, snowboarding, running, and racquetball. I'm excited for the change of the season as Spring brings more opportunities to get outdoors and play.



William Evans, School Performance Coordinator

I have been with the SCSB since the fall of 2020. Academically my background is in English Literature. I studied Gothic Fiction and dealt specifically with Edgar Allen Poe. I did graduate work in documentary editing and learned how to make scholarly publications of texts. As a result, my Master's Thesis is on display in Swansea, Wales, UK describing the pre-emigration life of a Welshman named William Ajax. He emigrated to Utah, and founded Ajax, UT. It is now a ghost town located by Scholar Academy. I also did coursework in school leadership and spent two years working with Strategic Planning Committees at the college level. All of that was before I started working as a teacher and leader at several charter schools. I came back to Utah as an educational consultant and worked on the A2A program, the school turnaround program, and also helped small and rural schools across the country implement PLCs and develop their capacity to implement Visible Teaching strategies. The best part of my role here at the SCSB is getting to help schools examine data in different ways and then using those insights to amend their charter agreements to accurately reflect the great things that are happening in the school. I'm sure at one point in my life I used to say that the best way to relax was working out. But I don't know if you've tried pizza and television. It is pretty much the best thing ever. As for pizza, I'd also like to put in a plug for Victor's Pizza and Downton Abbey. Or my other go to for relaxation is to visit the Tea Grotto and read a book. One thing I'm looking forward to this spring is planting a garden. I've attempted gardening the past two years and have failed miserably each time. I've kept a plant alive here in my home office all winter, and I'm eager to have another go at gardening including hydroponic gardening which uses nutrient rich water instead of soil as your planting medium.

scsb staff...



Laura Salzman, Freedom Preparatory Academy

This is my fourth year at Freedom Preparatory Academy. My license is Elementary Education 1-8. I have a Masters in Mathematics 5-12. I have taken classes for Special Education and passed the Praxis Exam, but it isn't acknowledged because my job isn't in Special Education. I wanted to know how to help any student who walked in my classroom. I am the Math Lab Instructor at Freedom. I get to work with amazing students who need more support when it comes to mathematics. I work with students in 6th - 9th grades. Puzzles allow me to relax. I have a puzzle in my classroom, which my student can help put together. It is great for breaking away from math and taking a break for my students. I love to read also. I am looking forward to camping, hiking, and fishing with my husband up at Washington Lake and Moose Horn Lake. Also, I am looking forward to riding my bike.

charter teacher...



ANNOUNCEMENTS

You can nominate an employee of the month by going to www.utahscsb.org and clicking on the button shown below



Quick Links

- Board Meeting Agenda
- Reporting Calendar
- Training Calendar
- SCSB Annual Report
- Charter Employee of the Month**
- Contact the SCSB

WHO WE ARE

We believe every student should have access to an excellent education that meets their unique learning needs.

As the largest authorizer in Utah, the State Charter School Board (SCSB) values choice, innovation, academic excellence, autonomy and accountability.

We are guided by our mission, which is to advance choice, innovation, and student success through rigorous authorizing and supportive oversight.

We are committed to building and maintaining positive relationships with our schools through improved communication, functionality and transparency.

[Meet the Board](#) [Meet the Staff](#)



Please email any pictures you'd like to see featured by the SCSB to:
helloscsb@schools.utah.gov

CALENDAR

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Meet the Board

Meet the Staff

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The ACES program will provide training targeted to individuals interested in becoming charter school administrators. All classes will be offered over Zoom, with the option to join an in person session 3 times throughout the course. Classes will be taught by educational leaders throughout the state and there is no cost to participate. We invite all interested parties to join us via Zoom November 15th at 4 pm for the ACES Kick-Off and Q&A. Those who completed the course will receive: Licensure points, scholarship to the UAPCS Conference, Certificate of Completion, and will be included in an administrative hiring pool.

Link to the ACES Kick-Off:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81962239111?pwd=dGJGNUNTNVNrfFhaMlUzY1VCVXVQdz09>



2023 ACES

Aspiring Charter School Executives

Courses will be held electronically via Zoom from 4:00-5:00 pm on the dates indicated below.

1. **Nov 15th** ACES Kick-Off and Q&A about the program.
2. **Jan 10th** How to establish a Strong School Culture, Developing Loyalty with Parents and Students for Continued Retention.
3. **Jan 17th** Testing and Reporting, what is required and the State Testing Calendar.
4. **Jan 24th** Administrative Case Studies with 3 areas of focuses.
5. **Jan 31st** Collaboration as a Leadership Style. **[in-person at George Washington Academy, Southern Utah]**
6. **Feb 7th** Effective Teacher Evaluations, Teacher Retention and Professional Development.
7. **Feb 21st** Using Social Media as a Marketing Tool and How to Handle Poor Publicity.
8. **Feb 28th** Special Education Highlights.
9. **March 7th** Charter Fidelity; how to keep it and what is the leader's role. Organizational Structure: Who is doing what and why **[in person at Accent Academy, Lehi in Central Utah]**
10. **March 21st** General Finance Guidelines and Tips for Charter School Leaders. What are the Funding Sources?
11. **March 28th** Data Driven Decision Making in Charter School Leadership, Why is Assessment Important.
12. **April 18th** Governance and management, How to Work with Your Board.
13. **April 25th** Administrative Case Studies **[location TBD in Northern Utah]**

For additional information or to register contact Shannon at shannon@utahcharters.org



UTAH ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING SEMINARS



DATE	TIME	TOPIC OF TRAINING AND DISCUSSION
Sept 21, 2022	12 pm	Establishing a Positive School Culture
Oct 19, 2022	12 pm	Effective Teacher Evaluations
Nov 16, 2022	12 pm	Strategic Planning for Inclusion
Nov 30, 2022	12 pm	Special Education: Specially Designed Instruction
Dec 14, 2022	12 pm	Developing Loyalty with Parents and Students
Jan 18, 2023	12 pm	Navigating the Grant Writing Experience
Feb 15, 2023	12 pm	Finance: Matching the Budget to the Charter Goals and Desired Student Outcomes
March 8, 2023	12 pm	Effective Time Management
March 22, 2023	12 pm	Recognizing Implicit Bias
April 19, 2023	12 pm	Using Data to Drive Discussions of Student Outcomes
May 17, 2023	12 pm	Addressing Mental Health Concerns in our Schools
June 6-7, 2023		Conference Class: Procurement and Contract/Expansion

Training provided by a grant from



JOIN US ON ZOOM:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82232737324?pwd=QjlvclJSWWRJem4vbERMWHRMQ2d6dz09>
- Meeting ID: 822 3273 7324
- Passcode: 041173



www.utahcharters.org