



**APRIL 2023**

# **CHARTER BOARD BUZZ**

The official newsletter of the SCSB



## 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.

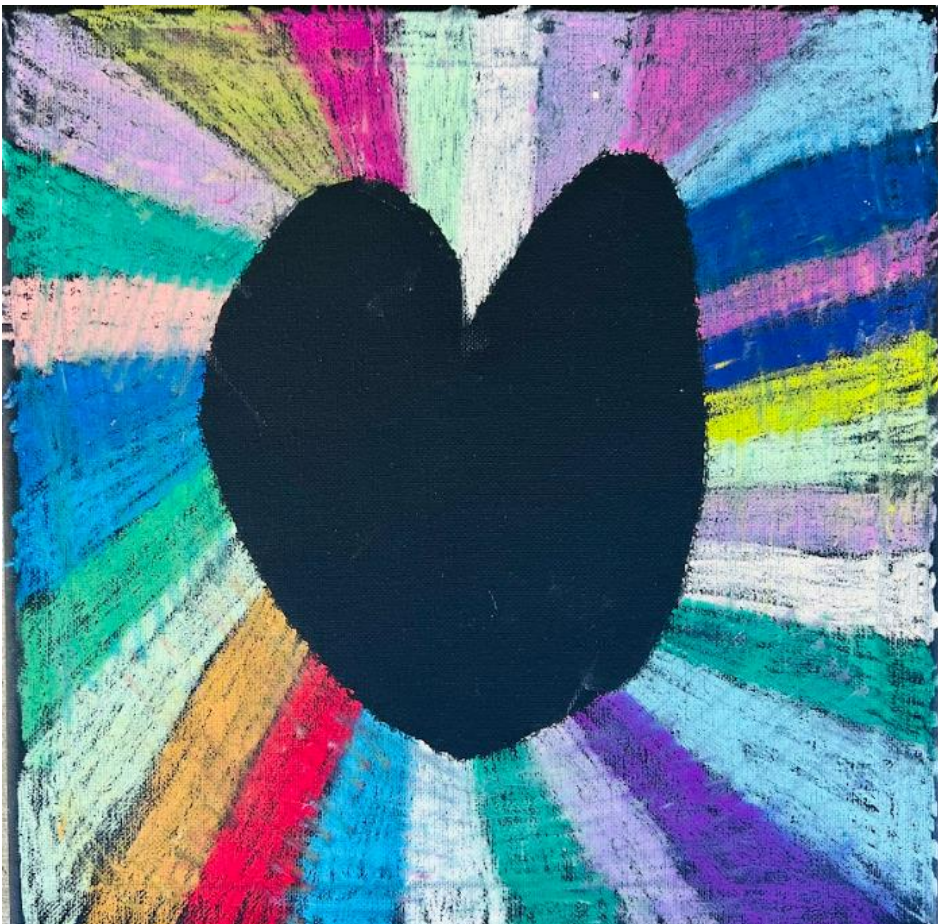
"In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact." Les Brown

"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



# 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.

Catch up anytime on our YouTube channel

[www.youtube.com/UtahSCSB](http://www.youtube.com/UtahSCSB)



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!

# 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

## SPOTLIGHT: SCSB MEMBER

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!)



## SPOTLIGHT: 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 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!



## SPOTLIGHT: 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.



## SPOTLIGHT: 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.





## SPOTLIGHT: SCSB STAFF

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.



## SPOTLIGHT: CHARTER TEACHER

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.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

You can nominate an employee of the month by going to <https://www.utahscsb.org/team-3>

Please email and pictures you'd like to see featured by the SCSB to [helloscsb@schools.utah.gov](mailto:helloscsb@schools.utah.gov)

The training calendar can be found here:

<https://ucap.schools.utah.gov/TrainingAndSupport/Trainings#trainingMenu>

The reporting calendar can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vvYxS9lb4Mxcb43a97q-kh4wHIVkbb7/edit#gid=38538872>

The Utah Association of Public Charter Schools has trainings coming up. If you would like more information, please email Shannon Greer at [shannon@utahcharters.org](mailto:shannon@utahcharters.org)

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.