

Ascent Academy Saratoga Springs Land Trust Meeting Minutes

Jan. 12, 2026

3:30-4:30

Ascent Academy Saratoga Springs

Parent Attendees: Jenelle Roberts, Megan Denney, Michelle Gillespie, Mike West, Caleb Green, Amanda Bills

School Personnel Attendees: Jill Hawkins, Dawn McNeil

Missing Members: Riley Spear, Denise Cordero

Minutes taken by: Megan Denney

Items of Business

1. Jenelle calls the meeting to order, Mike seconds
2. Mike motions to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Jenelle seconds
3. Jill reviewed the USBE certificate of recognition for 1st grade reading from last school year. Great job, team!
4. Jill reviewed the current budget plan and expenditures.
  - a. Chromebooks, manipulatives, interventionist staff members, Confratute, ELA consumables
  - b. So far we have spent \$16,000 on interventionists- that number may be for only one of the two staff members
  - c. Currently spent \$7,000 for Confratute
  - d. ETS budget is right on track
  - e. ELA consumables have been purchased but the money hasn't been pulled from our ledger yet
  - f. Math manipulatives need to be purchased
  - g. Mike asked when the money in the budget needed to be spent. Jill explained that the budget needs to be spent for this school year. Anything that is attached to a salary will go out incrementally.
5. Goals we are working on:
  - a. Increase the number of students at or above benchmark in math by 5%
  - b. Increase the number of students at or above benchmark in ELA by 5%
    - i. Reviewed current progress in reading and math in each grade level.
    - ii. All grades seem on track to achieve our current goals.
6. Land Trust funds for this year have come in- \$139,357
  - a. We can keep a small percentage of the funds for roll over
  - b. Normally there's an increase of 5-10%
  - c. \$5,000 per person for Confratute (5 people)
  - d. Consumables estimate \$7,000. This increased by \$2000 to accommodate for the increase in student population

- e. Technology estimate \$20,000. The cost of technology is less because we have fewer new classes starting.
  - f. Third intervention teacher \$21,000 (with \$42,000 to maintain the two current interventionist positions)
  - g. \$1500 manipulative materials
7. Ideas for the remaining budget
- a. More teachers sent to Confratute
    - i. Special Education teacher?
  - b. Leveled Libraries
    - i. Run by parent volunteers
    - ii. Kids check out books at their reading level
  - c. Professional development
    - i. Eureka Math
      - 1. Optional training with a stipend attached?
      - 2. Do we have the budget for everyone?
      - 3. After school or weekend training
  - d. Michelle asked about how we can support the students who are struggling socially or emotionally
    - i. Can we use the funds for an additional counselor?
    - ii. Is there a social emotional curriculum we want to try?
    - iii. We would need to do a survey at the beginning, middle, and end of year to assess emotional state
    - iv. Jenelle proposed buying books about social skills and tying it to ELA standards
    - v. Caleb shared that Jessica Green has data about students who need more support.
8. Next meeting is scheduled for March 17 3:30 p.m.
- a. Please let Megan Denney know if you need a zoom link
9. Megan motions to end the meeting. Jenelle seconds.