



## California Connections Academy

### Minutes

#### California Online Public Schools (CalOPS) Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Tuesday May 23, 2023 at 3:30 PM

**Location**

CalCA NorCal: 580 N. Wilma Avenue, Suite G, Ripon, CA 95366

CalCA SoCal: 33272 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

23091 Arden Street, Lake Forest, CA 92630

1201 Cara Road, Dinuba, CA 93618

8422 Madison Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

3753 W. Norberry Street, Lancaster, CA 93536

32946 Calle San Marcos San Juan Capistrano, 92675

9423 Reseda Blvd. Apt#230, Northridge, CA 91324

5716 Owl's Nest Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/99738547973>

Meeting ID: 997 3854 7973

Dial In:

+1 (669) 444-9171 ext. 99738547973# US

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This meeting is open to the public in person and via teleconference. For information about this meeting or for members of the public who require special accommodations to attend, contact the school offices: Bernie Jamero at (209) 253-1208 or Eva McGahey at (714) 248-6179 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. The Board packet can be made available for public review by contacting the school offices prior to the Board meeting in compliance with California open meeting law.

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### **Directors Present**

D. Rivas (remote), E. Pavlich (remote), E. Wickliffe (remote), M. Nunez (remote), P. Hedrick (remote)

### **Directors Absent**

A. Pulsipher, M. Henjum

### **Directors who arrived after the meeting opened**

E. Wickliffe

### **Guests Present**

A. Larsen (remote), B. Jamero, D. Hertzler (remote), D. Kozub (remote), Doreen Stringer (remote), E. McGahey, H. Roney (remote), H. Tamayo (remote), Jason Sitomer (remote), K. Mannix (remote), Kelsey Dickman (remote), L. Carter (remote), L. Dombek (remote), L. Johnson (remote), Matt Percin (remote), Meena Duguay (remote), Member of the Public (remote), Member of the Public (remote), Niki Ehrke (remote), R. Romero (remote), R. Savage (remote), S. Ford (remote)

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

D. Rivas called a meeting of the board of directors of California Connections Academy to order on Tuesday May 23, 2023 at 3:50 PM.

### **B. Roll Call**

Jason Sitomer - Charter Impact Managing Director  
Matt Percin - Charter Impact Director of Client Finance  
Chandre Sanchez - PVS Academic Success Partner  
Donna Kozub - PVS School Financial Services  
Laura Johnson - PVS School Success Partner  
Bernie Jamero - CalCA Executive Assistant - in person at Ripon Office  
Eva McGahey - CalCA Administrative Assistant - in person at CAPO Office  
Kelsey Dickman - CalCA Teacher  
Meena Duguay - CalCA Teacher  
Ashley Larsen - CalCA Administrative Assistant  
Heather Tamayo - CalCA Middle School Principal  
Kara Mannix - CalCA High School Principal  
Niki Ehrke - CalCA Teacher  
Doreen Stringer - CalCA Teacher  
Richard Savage - CalCA Superintendent  
Richie Romero - CalCA Deputy Superintendent

Steve Ford - CalCA Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Dan Hertzler - CalCA Director of Business Services  
LaChelle Carter - CalCA Director of Finance  
Leslie Dombeck - CalCA Director of Student Achievement  
2 Members of the Public

### C. Approval of Agenda

E. Pavlich made a motion to approve the agenda.  
D. Rivas seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

E. Pavlich Aye  
M. Nunez Aye  
A. Pulsipher Absent  
P. Hedrick Aye  
D. Rivas Aye  
E. Wickliffe Absent  
M. Henjum Absent

## II. Oral Reports

### A. Superintendent's Report

R. Savage informs the board of the CalCA commencement ceremonies occurring on June 20th and 22nd. He extends an invitation to the Board Members. Discusses the End of Year Festivals approaching in NorCal on May 31, SoCal on June 1, and Central Valley on June 9. Recently had our Prom which was a huge success and held staff appreciation last week for our employees!

State testing completed, this week is makeups and we want to increase participation. Will be evaluating these stats and implementing changes to increase participation for next year.

We aim to get to 9000 for enrollment in 23-24 school year, but currently holding steady at about 8300-8400 students.

CAPOUSD visit went well and asked for support with assembly bill that would aid our funding and enrollment. Waiting on a response, but hopeful that they will follow up with state legislature in support.

Plan to renew three charters this summer and we are beginning the process early to ensure success.

E. Wickliffe arrived at 3:59 PM.

### B. Principals' Report (attached)

K. Mannix notes that end of year mode is upon us and that this past semester has rushed by, wrapping up quickly. High school is working on plenty of end of year celebratory events are occurring. Prom this year was the biggest yet. Two Grad Night celebrations this

year, and this is the second year with a Northern California Grad Night. This encourages connections between graduates and fosters a fun in person event

H. Tamayo states that the teachers are bouncing back from State Testing. Middle school is offering two opportunities for virtual promotion to celebrate our students. There will be a promotion streaming to celebrate this in SoCal. Here families are encouraged to join, have food, and pick up promotion certificates. There will be a pickup in Ripon with 50 students signed up so far. Knott's Berry Farm offered this year and got up to 53 kids before needing to lock down sign ups. Hopeful to keep this up in years to come.

D. Rivas expresses gratitude for the principals' participation in the Board Meeting and verbal comments to accompany their written report. Asks about the virtual field trips and who they are open to. K. Mannix explains that our virtual field trips are open to all students but often targeted towards one grade band or another.

E. Pavlich asks about SoCal promotion streaming and when it will occur. H. Tamayo informs it will be June 22 and all Board Members are welcome.

### **C. CalCA Financial Report**

L. Carter is excited to introduce funding determinations for five of six charters and all of them were approved. Three four year extensions were approved for 100% funding for Central Valley, North Bay, and Northern California. Central Coast and Monterey Bay were approved for 3 years, which is very exciting! It was expected they would only be approved for 2 years, but we are thrilled to be wrong in this case.

Auditing is coming through early and onboarding Charter Impact, so it's a very busy time. Financially in a great place and have about 47 million in account, owe PVS 12.5 million which is already set aside to be paid out. Received various funding and are in a good place with that.

Trending high in budget for accounting and audit expenses. This is due to onboarding of Charter Impact and the addition of a service with our auditing company. Student activities is also a bit high, but we want to make sure we are celebrating and engaging our students. Expected increases in graduation and testing expenses in the near future.

### **D. Policy and Compliance Report (attached)**

D. Hertzler details the budget plan released by the governor and notes the ever changing nature of it. There are some updates on bills, SB 739 has to do with charter renewal and has been adjusted to only extend renewal to 1 year from the initial 2 years. Working through the Northern California, North Bay and Central Coast Charter petitions to be submitted to authorizers this Summer. Funding for non-classroom based schools went up to the State Board, who gave some grace and offered 100% funding for schools that may not otherwise have been approved. We received great approvals.

D. Rivas asks about SB 739 when the bill will come into effect if passed. D. Hertzler answers that any of the schools affected by the pandemic renewal delays would be allowed a 1 year postponement, but CalOPS is working to get everything ready in advance so that even if it does pass, it won't be affecting our own charter renewals.

### III. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Minutes from the April 25, 2023 Board Meeting (attached)
- B. Approval of Staffing Report (attached)
- C. Approval of Pearson Invoice(s) (attached)
- D. Approval of 2023-2024 School Year School Handbook Supplement (attached)
- E. Approval of Corporate Tax Returns (attached)
- F. Approval of Contracts over \$20k (attached)

M. Nunez made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

M. Henjum Absent  
M. Nunez Aye  
E. Pavlich Aye  
A. Pulsipher Absent  
P. Hedrick Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye  
D. Rivas Aye

### IV. Action Items

#### A. Approval of Salary Schedule for the 2023-2024 School Year (attached)

S. Ford introduces the suggested salary schedule for the 23-24 school year. It is the best way to keep competitive and compliant. There were many options considered and other districts across the state referenced before settling on these numbers.

It is a minimum of a 5% raise from the current 22-23 school year. Once everyone is on the salary schedule, there will be a 2.5% raise thereafter annually.

This is all about transparency and ease of understanding compensation.

M. Nunez asks about Step 5 Column 1 being the lowest level salary for someone within the organization. S. Ford clarifies that yes, it is for the teachers within CalCA/CalOPS.

D. Rivas asks about how to go about calculating the Admin Assistant salary on Step 50. S. Ford responds that the step number doesn't correlate to wage, but that each job title is related to a row, with columns defining their pay within that. The salary schedule makes for a clear definition of where people are in terms of their pay.

E. Pavlich made a motion to approve the Salary Schedule for the 2023-2024 School Year.

M. Nunez seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

E. Wickliffe Aye  
M. Henjum Absent  
E. Pavlich Aye  
P. Hedrick Aye  
M. Nunez Aye  
A. Pulsipher Absent  
D. Rivas Aye

**B. Approval of Merit Bonus for 2022-2023 to be Paid in July of 2023**

S. Ford explains the transition going on within CalCA/CalOPS leaves employees deserving of a one time 5% bonus due to the extra strain on our staff.

M. Nunez expresses gratitude for the attached Board Information Memo and states that it helped to explain the reasoning and fiscal impact.

E. Pavlich made a motion to approve the Merit Bonus for 2022-2023 to be Paid in July of 2023.

M. Nunez seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

A. Pulsipher Absent  
M. Henjum Absent  
M. Nunez Aye  
D. Rivas Aye  
E. Pavlich Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye  
P. Hedrick Aye

**C. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024 School Year (attached)**

D. Hertzler introduces the new proposed schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. He suggests moving the meetings from the last Tuesday of the month to the first Tuesday of the month. This will be better for the burden on the financial team and also benefit the content of these meetings and timing in regards to holidays.

M. Nunez made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024 School Year.

E. Pavlich seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

E. Pavlich Aye  
M. Henjum Absent  
M. Nunez Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye  
P. Hedrick Aye  
A. Pulsipher Absent

**Roll Call**

D. Rivas     Aye

**D. Approval of Contract with School Pathways Student Information System (attached)**

R. Romero introduces School Pathways' Student Information System (SIS). Currently we use Pearson Online Classroom as both a learning management system and a student information system. The SIS is necessary for state reporting. The departments most affected by the SIS have been involved in the selection and their preferences were taken into account when selecting this SIS over others tested. School Pathways is also a company native to California and designed specifically for virtual schools. This is a 3 year contract with price protection to prevent cost increases for the duration of the contract.

D. Rivas expresses appreciation for the fact that this SIS is a California organization and thinks it will be a good fit with the SIS knowing the needs of our school.

E. Pavlich made a motion to approve the contract with School Pathways Student Information System.

M. Nunez seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

D. Rivas     Aye

M. Henjum   Absent

A. Pulsipher Absent

E. Pavlich    Aye

E. Wickliffe Aye

M. Nunez     Aye

P. Hedrick   Aye

**V. Information Items**

**A. State Accountability Update**

L. Dombeck presents the School Enhancement Target Review for Quarter 3 (Q3) of the 22-23 school year. She discusses grad rates, academics and engagement. Rainbow list shows promising statistics school wide. Project Success Update, we are currently at a 92% pass rate. We have hired more teachers to encourage our students and help them succeed. SMART goal data shows we are not meeting goals for Schoolwide PLC's and Math PLC's but this is often due to not having wrapped up our goals completely by mid semester. We expect to see an increase in completion by Q4.

Great participation with our students with iReady and MAP diagnostics. CAASPP participation is going to be analyzed to encourage more participation in the future.

L. Dombeck states there will be more targeted instruction over summer school. Middle School summer school will be targeting Math and Language Arts. High School targets credit recovery students. June 26- July 28 (MS) and June 26- Aug 7th (HS) are dates for summer school.

L. Dombeck notes the school advisory committee meeting on Friday, June 2 12 PM-1 PM. Board members will be receiving invitations this week and it will be open to parents and staff as well.

D. Rivas comments on her appreciation for L. Dombeck's report and notes the full circle nature of the data with increased participation and engagement encouraging student success. L. Dombeck is thankful for the feedback.

## **B. Pearson Virtual Schools Update**

L. Johnson shares enrollment team is working hard to keep up with the enrollments for the upcoming school year. PVS is partnering with CalCA for student outreach with students that haven't confirmed their intent to return.

L. Johnson highlights the product memo document. Page 330 of Board Packet features lesson introduction pages and their success in this past year, leading to better academic outcomes. Page 331 highlights the upcoming year and custom assessment tool available in the Fall. Also shows the enhanced capabilities of the virtual classroom for the Fall.

C. Sanchez updates the Board on our Small Wins: the ability to manage temporary zeros (manually entered in the past, now automated and saves time for teachers) and scheduling webmails up to a week in advance for Learning Coaches, Caretakers and Teachers. End of Year evaluation has been sent along to Board Members for the annual review on Dr. R. Savage.

## **VI. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
D. Rivas

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### **Documents used during the meeting**

- CalCA Principals' Report 05.23.pdf
- Financial Report CalCA May 2023.docx.pdf
- Central Coast April 2023 Close File Board.pdf
- Central Valley April 2023 Close File Board (1).pdf
- Monterey Bay April 2023 Close File Board.pdf
- North Bay April 2023 Close File Board.pdf
- Northern California April 2023 Close File Board.pdf
- Southern California April 2023 Close File Board.pdf

- CalOPS May 2023 Board Policy Update.pdf
- CalOPS Salary Schedule 23-24 - Sheet1 (1).pdf
- BIM Merit Bonus 23-24- CalOPS.pdf
- CalOPS 23-24 Meeting Schedule for Review.pdf
- School Pathways Quote Form with California Connections Academy (10.2.2023-10.1.2026 Annual) w. Forms 5.11.2023.pdf
- SET Data Review Q3 2223 - Board Meeting.pdf
- PVS Product Memo May '23.pdf