



Western School of Science and Technology: CFA

Minutes

Meeting of the Board of Directors of Western

Date and Time

Friday August 8, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Location

Notice of Public Meeting of the Board of Directors of Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy, Inc.

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Board of Directors of Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy, Inc., and to the general public that the board will hold a meeting, open to the public as specified below. The Board of Directors reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, with the exception of public hearings set for a specified time.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03.A.3, the Board of Directors may go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, concerning any item on the agenda, for discussion, consideration, or consultations for legal advice.

ALL ITEMS ON THE AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS AGENDA

Disabled persons in need of special accommodations should contact Ms. Nancy Carbajal at 623.249.3900 at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time.

Members of the Governing Board may join in person, by telephone, or by Internet Conference.

Where: Western School of Science and Technology:

**A Challenge Foundation Academy
6515 W. Indian School Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85033**

Members of the Public can join telephonically or in person.

Dial by your location

- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 818 9236 0358

When: Friday, August 8, 2025 8:30am

The public space will open 10 minutes before the meeting begins. The virtual space will open 5 minutes before the meeting begins.

Directors Present

A. Ballesteros (remote), B. Stratford (remote), E. Yndigoyen (remote), J. Kaprosy (remote), M. Sandoval (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Espana, N. Carbajal, Valeria Escobedo

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Kaprosy called a meeting of the board of directors of Western School of Science and Technology: CFA to order on Friday Aug 8, 2025 at 8:33 AM.

B. Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance

C. Public Comments

Hello, my name is Ramses Lugo, and I am entering my 11th year at Western School of Science and Technology. Over the past decade, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the transformative improvements we've made across our campus—enhancing both our facilities and instructional practices to better serve our students and community. From the installation of a beautiful athletic field and scoreboard, to the addition of a perimeter fence that strengthens campus safety, to the adoption of rigorous curricula—these changes reflect our collective commitment to excellence.

With that same spirit of progress, I am especially encouraged by the recent proposal to revise our campus mission statement. I fully support the decision to move away from labeling our students as “low income” and from positioning our school as an institution that aims to “transform this community.” While well-intended, these phrases carry unintended consequences. The term “low income” can impose a limiting mindset on our students, shaping how they view their potential. It also risks reinforcing harmful stereotypes that do not reflect the resilience, brilliance, and drive found within our community.

This proposed revision is not just a wording change—it is a necessary step in affirming our values. Our school does not exist to change the community, but to work in partnership with it—uplifting and empowering our students to pursue the post-secondary paths that are meaningful to them. This language shift more accurately reflects who we are and what we stand for.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

My name is Veronica Barrick, and I am a new staff member at Western School of Science and Technology. I also grew up in Maryvale, so this work is deeply personal to me. I want to take a moment to recognize and applaud the new mission statement that will hopefully be adopted by the school.

This change is more than just a rewording—it's a powerful shift in mindset. By removing the limiting language that emphasized poverty and instead embracing a mission grounded in empowerment, community, and inclusion, you have chosen to see our students for their potential, not their circumstances.

When I was growing up, my great-grandmother often reminded me that no matter my circumstances, *education is the one thing that can never be taken away from me*. That truth has shaped my life—it is the only reason I am where I am today. As someone who walked these same streets and attended schools in this very community, I know firsthand

how important language and expectation are in shaping a student's future. To now work at a school that echoes that same belief, and that extends that promise to every student in our community, is deeply meaningful to me.

The new mission affirms that all students—regardless of income or background—deserve access to a high-quality education that prepares them to excel in college, in careers, and in life. It is incredibly meaningful to me, as both an educator and a Maryvale native, to see our school reject deficit thinking and instead embrace a vision of possibility and excellence for every student.

Thank you for your leadership in making this powerful and inclusive change.

D. Read Mission Statement

Jay Kaprosy read the Mission Statement

II. WSST Update

A. Board Update

Mr. Adrian Espana shared an update on Meet the Teacher, Fiesta Bowl & Beginning of the Year Testing.

B. Enrollment Update

Mr. Adrian Espana shared the Enrollment Update

C. Staffing Update

Ms. Valeria Escobedo shared the Staffing Updatr

D. Financial Update June 2025

Diamond Financial shared the June 2025 financials

III. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of July 10, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

J. Kaprosy made a motion to approve the minutes from Meeting of the Board of Directors of Western on 07-10-25.

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

B. Approval to remove Darryl Bess Jr from the Arizona Corporation Commission as one of the Directors

C. Approval of the June 2025 Financials

IV. Action Items #1

A.

Discussion and Consideration on FY26 Budget Revision

B. Stratford made a motion to approve the FY26 Budget Revision.

M. Sandoval seconded the motion.

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

B. Discussion & Consideration of the FY25-26 Meeting Dates & Time

B. Stratford made a motion to approve the FY25-26 Meeting Dates & Time.

M. Sandoval seconded the motion.

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

C. Discussion and Consideration of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

B. Stratford made a motion to approve the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

A. Ballesteros seconded the motion.

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

D. Discussion and Consideration of the Safe Zone Policy

A. Ballesteros made a motion to approve the Safe Zone Policy.

M. Sandoval seconded the motion.

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

E. Discussion and Consideration of the 25-26 Wellness Policy

A. Ballesteros made a motion to approve the 25-26 Wellness Policy.

E. Yndigoyen seconded the motion.

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

F. Discussion and Consideration of the updated WSST Mission and Vision Statement

M. Sandoval made a motion to approve the updated WSST Mission and Vision Statement.

A. Ballesteros seconded the motion.

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

V. Executive Session for Personnel Discussions

A. Approval of Executive Director contract and employment

B. Stratford made a motion to approve the employment of Adrian Espana in accordance with contract terms as discussed in executive session, and that compensation be retroactive to July 1, 2025.

A. Ballesteros seconded the motion.

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

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 9:33 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Kaprosy