



Magnolia Public Schools

Nominating/Governance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday September 11, 2025 at 5:30 PM PDT

Location

Home Office: 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Access to the Board Meeting

Teleconferencing locations are provided at each Magnolia Science Academy school site:

- Magnolia Science Academy-1 (18238 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335)
- Magnolia Science Academy-2 (17125 Victory Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406)
- Magnolia Science Academy-3 (1254 E Helmick St, Carson, CA 90746)
- Magnolia Science Academy-4 (11330 W Graham Place, Los Angeles, CA 90064)
- Magnolia Science Academy-5 (18238 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335)
- Magnolia Science Academy-6 (745 S. Wilton Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90005)
- Magnolia Science Academy-7 (18355 Roscoe Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325)
- Magnolia Science Academy-8 (6411 Orchard Ave, Bell, CA 90201)
- Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Ana (2840 W 1st Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703)
- Magnolia Science Academy-San Diego (6525 Estrella Ave, San Diego, CA 92120)
- Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County Anaheim (412 W. Carl Karcher Way, Anaheim, CA 92801)
- Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County Placentia Yorba Linda (1891 Kellogg Dr, Anaheim, CA 92807)

Any interested parties or community members from remote locations may attend the meeting at any Magnolia Science Academy school, or the addresses where Board Members are joining from.

Dialing information for this meeting is included below:

Dial in: 1-669-444-9171

Meeting ID: 978 5606 4990 - **Passcode:** 021250

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97856064990?pwd=MHhBZCtGT0xEMIZpNEZQZVJ3RDBPZz09>

Accessibility

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, Magnolia Public Schools may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Members of the public who need special accommodations or translation are strongly encouraged to contact Magnolia Public Schools at least 24 hours in advance of the Board meeting so assistance can be assured. Please contact Jennifer Lara at 213-628-3634 or email jlara@magnoliapublicschools.org with such requests.

Any public records relating to an agenda item for an open session which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board Members shall be available for public inspection.

Public Comment Procedures

Magnolia Public Schools greatly values public comment during Board meetings. For members of the public who would like to speak, please fill out the Public Speaker Form which can be accessed at magnoliapublicschools.org, there will also be speaker cards to be filled out prior to the beginning of the meeting. By law, the Board is only allowed to discuss or take action on items listed on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, refer a matter to MPS staff or add the issue to a future board meeting date for discussion. Public speakers are limited to three (3) minutes and speakers with interpreters up to six (6) minutes.

Please note that the agenda presenting times for when that item will be discussed, or taken action on, is subject to change on the day of the Board meeting to accommodate public speaker times indicated above.

For any questions regarding this meeting please email board@magnoliapublicschools.org or call (213) 628-3634 ext. 21101.

Nominating/Governance Committee Members:

Dr. Umit Yapanel, Chair

Ms. Sandra Covarrubias

Dr. Salih Dikbas

Mr. Mekan Muhammedov (alternate)

Student Board Member:

Ms. Sofia Perez

CEO and Superintendent:

Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			5:30 PM
Opening Items			
A. Call the Meeting to Order			1 m
B. Record Attendance and Guests			1 m
C. Approval of Agenda	Vote		1 m
D. Public Comments			5 m
E. Approval of Minutes from Regular MPS Nominating/Governance Committee Meeting - November 17, 2022	Approve Minutes		1 m
II. Recommended Action Items			5:39 PM
A. Approval Recommendation for Board Membership	Vote	MPS Nominating/Governance Committee	20 m
Discussion and Recommendation: Board Membership Candidate – Mr. Serdar Orazov			
III. Closing Items			5:59 PM
A. Adjourn Meeting			1 m

Coversheet

Approval Recommendation for Board Membership

Section:	II. Recommended Action Items
Item:	A. Approval Recommendation for Board Membership
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	II_A_Recommendation for Board Membership.pdf



Agenda Item:	II A: Recommended Action Item
Date:	September 11, 2025
To:	Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation dba Magnolia Public Schools (“MPS”) Nominating/Governance Committee (the “Committee”)
From:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead(s):	MPS Nominating/Governance Committee Dr. Umit Yapanel, Chair of the Committee
RE:	Approval Recommendation for Board Membership – Mr. Serdar Orazov

Action Proposed:

The MPS Nominating/Governance Committee recommend to the full Board of Directors the approval of candidate for Board Membership at the October Regular Board Meeting.

Purpose:

MPS Board of Directors in seeking to expand the capacity of the Board and include individuals who are professionals in the space of finance, education, philanthropy, and parents. The candidate, Mr. Serdar Orazov, is an experienced finance and operations leader who brings extensive financial strategy and educational management expertise

The push to identify other candidates are still ongoing. The Committee will discuss and deliberate this one candidate for possible membership to the full Board.

Background:

Mr. Serdar Orazov is a finance and operations executive across nonprofit, education, and private sectors. He currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer at La Scuola International School, overseeing strategic financial planning, risk management, and capital development projects.

Previously with Magnolia Public Schools (MPS), he served in multiple capacities:

- Business Manager/Accountant (2007-2010)
- Director of Finance and Accounting (2010-2013)
- MPS Board of Directors serving a 5-year term (2015-2020)
- Chief Financial Officer (2020-2021)



Exhibits:

- Resume of Mr. Serdar Orazov

SERDAR ORAZOV

Professional Summary

Finance and operations leader with extensive experience in nonprofit governance, strategic planning, and financial sustainability. Committed to advancing educational and community initiatives through board service.

Experience

Chief Financial Officer

Current

La Scuola International School

- ✓ Lead all aspects of financial strategy and operations for a private independent school, including budgeting, forecasting, cash flow management, and financial reporting to the Board of Trustees
- ✓ Develop and manage annual operating budgets, ensuring alignment with the school's mission, enrollment goals, and long-term sustainability
- ✓ Oversee tuition setting, financial aid strategy, and multi-year planning to balance accessibility with financial health
- ✓ Direct debt financing, and banking relationships; advise the Finance and Investment Committees on long-term capital structure and risk management
- ✓ Partner with the Head of School and senior leadership on strategic initiatives including capital projects, campus expansion, and program development
- ✓ Provide financial oversight and risk management for \$40M+ construction and campus development projects, ensuring alignment with budget, financing, and long-term planning.
- ✓ Strengthen financial policies, internal controls, and compliance processes to support nonprofit standards and independent school best practices

Chief Financial Officer

8/2020 to 09/2021

Magnolia Public Schools

- ✓ Partner with CEO and other senior leaders to execute MPS's expansion plans ensuring the organization is operationally prepared, spreading best practices and efficiencies across the organization
- ✓ Maintain financial best practices, utilize standard operating procedures, and generally serve as a point of reference for MPS financial systems and planning
- ✓ Serve on the MPS Executive Team and serve as an internal consultant to the CEO and Board on financial matters, making recommendations and suggesting pro-active strategies to keep MPS aligned with its financial targets, programmatic growth, and organizational strategic plans.
- ✓ Oversee Federal and State special purpose program funds and grants reporting and compliance
- ✓ Implemented a new FP&A software to streamline the budgeting process for special purpose grants
- ✓ Participate in high-level internal planning regarding MPS's expansion, to ensure alignment of program with financial projections

- ✓ Provide oversight for and manage all budgets, audits, internal financial plans and processes, and work with stakeholders to collaborate on financial forecasting for MPS.
- ✓ Manage monthly, quarterly and annual reporting to monitor, evaluate and optimize cash-flow and liquidity, and keep the senior leadership team, Board, up-to-date on MPS's financial status.
- ✓ Maintain a top-tier internal finance team by actively recruiting, training and developing talented accountants, clerks, consultants, auditors, and payroll staff
- ✓ Managing finance, HR and IT related procedures
- ✓ Manage team of financial Controller, Director of Finance, Payroll Manager and AP staff

Controller

4/2015 – 7/2020

Church Divinity School of the Pacific (graduate school) – Berkeley, California

- ✓ Brought outsourced accounting services in house.
- ✓ Built a new financial accounting system and chart of accounts for fund accounting and grants reporting
- ✓ Implemented a new accounting and FP&A software
- ✓ Developed a new budgeting structure to keep track of endowment and grant spending
- ✓ Built and managed high performing team from the scratch.
- ✓ Oversee all accounts, ledgers, and reporting systems ensuring compliance with appropriate GAAP standards and regulatory requirements.
- ✓ Maintain internal control and safeguards for receipt of revenue, costs, and program budgets and actual expenditures.
- ✓ Work with a development office on data base reconciliation and provide donor specific reports as needed.
- ✓ Administration and coordination of Federal and private foundation grants
- ✓ Federal student loan and work study program reporting and oversight
- ✓ Monitor endowment and grant spending, and reporting
- ✓ Coordinate annual audit activity.
- ✓ Manage and track the performance of invested assets in keeping with policies and investment guidelines.
- ✓ Consistently analyze financial data and present financial reports in an accurate and timely manner; clearly communicate monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements to management and board of trustees.

Director of Finance and Operations

09/2013 to 4/2015

Dowrion LLC (Start-up) – San Leandro, California

- ✓ Planned and directed all functions of the company, developed marketing plans, deployed resources to achieve financial forecast and business objectives.
- ✓ Established and integrated the functional strategies of the company utilizing business expertise to reach financial/operational goals and objectives.

Director of Finance and Accounting

07/2010 to 08/2013

Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation – Westminster, California

- ✓ Maintain general ledger as needed, generate and interpret accurate financial records and statements for management, oversee and train accounting associates, control payroll process, AR and AP, investigate budget and variance issues, perform internal audit and lead the team in year-end formal audit process.

- ✓ Manage financial and budgetary processes of the foundation, monitor and interpret budget and cash flows, prepare and interpret financial statements, manage company's financial accounting, monitoring and reporting systems, develop financial management mechanisms that minimize financial risk, conduct reviews and evaluations for cost-reduction opportunities.
- ✓ Managing and overseeing the daily operations of the accounting department. Establish and enforce proper accounting methods, policies and principles. Coordinate and complete annual audits. Monitor and analyze accounting data and produce financial reports or statements. Managing and coaching 6-8 accounting staff.

Business Manager/Accountant

10/2007 to 07/2010

Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation – San Diego, California

- ✓ Perform month-end and year-end closing activities, including posting journal entries, calculating accruals and deferrals, balance sheet reconciliations, payroll processing, Perform routine accounting tasks processing payments, reconciling daily bank activity, fixed asset accounting, travel and expense reporting, corporate credit cards, 1099 filing, oversee AR and AP, HR filing.

Education

MBA: Finance, Accounting

Jan 2005

Moscow Aviation Institute (State Technical University) Russian Federation - Moscow

Bachelor of Science: BS in Engineering

Jan 2003

International University – Ashgabat