

APPROVED



## Magnolia Public Schools

### Minutes

#### Regular Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Thursday November 9, 2023 at 7:40 PM

**Location**

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

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**Board Members:**

Mr. Mekan Muhammedov, Chair  
Ms. Sandra Covarrubias, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Umit Yapanel  
Dr. Salih Dikbas  
Ms. Diane Gonzalez  
Mrs. Esra Eldem Tunc

**Student Board Member:**

Melissa De La Rosa Aparicio

**CEO & Superintendent:**

Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava

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**Directors Present**

D. Gonzalez, E. Eldem Tunc, M. Muhammedov (remote), S. Covarrubias, S. Dikbas (remote), U. Yapanel

**Directors Absent**

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None

**Directors who arrived after the meeting opened**

M. Muhammedov, S. Dikbas

**Guests Present**

J. Lara

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**I. Opening Items**

**A. Call the Meeting to Order**

S. Covarrubias called a meeting of the board of directors of Magnolia Public Schools to order on Thursday Nov 9, 2023 at 7:44 PM.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Board, staff and guests conducted the pledge of allegiance.

**C. Record Attendance and Guests**

Refer to attendance information recorded above.

S.Dikbas, joined from MSA-San Diego (6525 Estrella Ave San Diego, CA 92120).  
Student Board Member, M. De La Rosa, was present in-person.

**D. Approval of Agenda**

D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| E. Eldem Tunc  | Aye    |
| S. Dikbas      | Absent |
| U. Yapanel     | Aye    |
| S. Covarrubias | Aye    |
| D. Gonzalez    | Aye    |
| M. Muhammedov  | Absent |

**E. Public Comments**

No public comments were made at this time.

**F. Announcements**

A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting. He will provide his comments during the Strategic Plan item.

**G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - October 12, 2023**

U. Yapanel made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 10-12-23.

D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| S. Covarrubias | Aye    |
| M. Muhammedov  | Absent |
| D. Gonzalez    | Aye    |
| E. Eldem Tunc  | Aye    |
| U. Yapanel     | Aye    |
| S. Dikbas      | Absent |

**II. Student Board Member**

**A. Updates on Goals for 2023 Year**

J. Hernandez, Director of Student Services, indicated that he had the honor to sit and discuss with the Student Board Member to discuss their new role and support needed. M. De La Rosa, Student Board Member, joined in-person. She stated her excitement for the opportunity and chance to be the voice of the students at the Board level. She presented that her mission in her role was student engagement. She described her vision of student engagement in both the classrooms and outside activities in an effort to reinforce positive behavior, academic success, social development and community involvement. She described her observations in MSA-5 with low engagement particularly in school clubs. She voiced that students should feel that they are part of the school and engagement is a key factor. By working alongside the Director of Student Services, Academic Department and the Board, she expressed that possible solutions are to build environments where teachers can build connections with the students as well as providing students with workshops, and guest speakers. She also expressed an effort to get insight from students in other MSA campuses. She added that student engagement can be measured through self assessments, student survey's that MPS does annually and through the reflection of test scores.

S. Dikbas arrived at 7:49 PM.

**III. Information/Discussion Items**

**A. Review & Discussion of the 2022-23 CEO Metrics & MPS Strategic Plan**

M. Muhammedov arrived at 8:08 PM.

A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, presented that in March of 2023, the Board was presented with MPS Strategic Plans which overlapped with the Board approved CEO

Metrics. The goals and metrics derived from the LCAP process and with keeping educational partners in mind. He added that as an organization, staff identified the most critical goals/metrics for the organization. All Home Office Departments (CEO Department, Academic Department, Accountability Department, Finance Department, Finance Department, Outreach & Communications Department, and Facilities Department) provided data and reflections to those plans as an update to the Board of the progress and the continued growth and next steps for each Department.

#### IV. Action Items

##### A. Approval of MSA-San Diego Administration Plan for 2023-2025

G. Serce, Regional Director & Principal at MSA-San Diego, presented a revision to their current organizational structure in an effort to better distribute responsibilities and to meet the school's needs. He presented the current and proposed structure. The changes are: eliminating one (1) Dean position and adding an Assistant Principal, and adding an Office Clerk. He went over the responsibilities of the Assistant Principal and Office Clerk positions, how it will benefit the school in regards to academics, accountability, student support and administrative duties. He also presented the current challenges faced with their existing model. He also presented the budget implications and their school's rise in enrollment.

U. Yapanel made a motion to approve the revised MSA-San Diego Administration Structure and Organizational Chart for 2023-2024.

D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

A typo was cleared up verbally. Instead of 2025 it would be 2024.

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

##### Roll Call

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| E. Eldem Tunc  | Aye |
| U. Yapanel     | Aye |
| S. Covarrubias | Aye |
| M. Muhammedov  | Aye |
| D. Gonzalez    | Aye |
| S. Dikbas      | Aye |

##### B. Approval of the Submission of a Countywide Benefit Charter Petition to the Orange County Board of Education

B. Olivares, Chief External Officer, informed the Board that MPS is proposing to submit a charter petition to the Orange County Board of Education. A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, added that the effort into looking to expand into Orange County has been a year long process. The Board was made aware of this venture back in May 2023 during the Strategic Planning presentation. MPS identified communities such as Orange Unified School District, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, Irvine Unified School District and Saddleback Valley Unified School District. He added that the Board will

receive further updates as it becomes available and the approval today will be the step to move forward as an organization. Board Members questions were addressed by staff. S. Dikbas made a motion to authorize MPS' Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent to finalize and submit a countywide benefit charter petition to the Orange County Board of Education for the establishment of Magnolia Science Academy Orange County, and to take all steps appropriate and necessary to obtain approval for the charter petition. U. Yapanel seconded the motion. The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

S. Covarrubias Aye  
U. Yapanel Aye  
E. Eldem Tunc Aye  
D. Gonzalez Aye  
S. Dikbas Aye  
M. Muhammedov Aye

**V. Closed Session**

**A. Public Announcement of Closed Session**

S. Covarrubias, Board Vice-Chair, announced that the Board will be going into closed session for the matter of conference with legal counsel regarding an existing litigation and would report out any actions that may be taken.

**B. Conference with Legal Counsel — Existing Litigation § 54956.9 - One Case**

This item was discussed in Closed Session.

**C. Report Out of Closed Session**

S. Covarrubias announced in Open Session at 10:39pm that the MPS staff apprised the Board of a litigation matter in efforts to settle it, the Board provided feedback and no votes were taken.

**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 10:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
S. Covarrubias