APPROVED

Magnolia Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday July 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM

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

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

Directors Present
E. Eldem Tunc (remote), M. Muhammedov, S. Covarrubias, U. Yapanel

Directors Absent
D. Gonzalez, S. Dikbas

Guests Present
J. Lara

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Muhammedov called a meeting of the board of directors of Magnolia Public Schools to order on Thursday Jul 11, 2024 at 8:30 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.

D. Approval of Agenda

U. Yapanel made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Public Comments

B. Olivares, Chief Impact Officer, introduced Senior Project Director, Fatima Cristerna Adame. She will be supporting the project work for grants and expansion as well as improving systems and structures for the organization.

F. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - June 17, 2024

U. Yapanel made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 06-17-24.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Gonzalez	Absent
M. Muhammedov	Aye

Roll Call

E. Eldem Tunc	Aye
S. Dikbas	Absent
U. Yapanel	Aye
S. Covarrubias	Aye

II. Closed Session

A. Public Announcement of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov announced that the Board will be going into closed session to discuss public employee performance evaluation for title: CEO & Superintendent and conference with legal for initiation of litigation and would report out any actions that may be taken.

B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957) - Title: CEO & Superintendent

This item was discussed in Closed Session.

C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to § 54956.9(c): 2 cases

This item was discussed in Closed Session.

D. Report Out of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov announced in Open Session at 9:55pm that the Board discussed both items and no actions were taken.

III. Information/Discussion Items

A. Update on the Non-Programmatic Trip to Costa Rica

E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent, reported on the update to the conclusion of the non-programmatic trip to Costa Rica. Twenty-eight (28) students participated. He recognized the effort from staff to finalize the logistics before the trip to ensure it went smoothly. A. Kaplan, Principal at MSA-5 was one of the chaperones that went on the trip and shared some of the activities in the itinerary that the students did which included community service, museum exploration and immerse in nature. He added that this tied in greatly

with global citizenship. A video was shared that highlighted student testimonials and their activities.

B. Facilities Project Updates

K. Jimenez, Assistant Project Manager, reported on updates from various ongoing facilities projects which included updates for MSA-5, MSA-1, MSA-7, MSA-2, and MSA-Santa Ana. Board Members questions were addressed by staff. It was reported that certain updates will come to the Board at the next facilities projects updates.

C. MPS College Acceptances Data Presentation

E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent, reported that MPS diligently works to ensure students are college ready and students are provided support during the college application submission and acceptances season. F. Ganda, College & Career Readiness Program Coordinator, presented data on acceptances to post secondary education. She provided a breakdown on University of California (UC), California State (CSU), private, and out of state acceptances. She also provided information of acceptances and commitments. She reported that Magnolia students are 20% more likely to enroll in college than students from similar schools in the U.S. She also reported that female Magnolia alumni are 54% more likely to graduate from a STEM field than their non-Magnolia peers. She reported on next steps in the College & Career Program. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.

IV. Consent Items

A. Approval of the MPS 2024-25 Student/Parent Handbook

Since the consent items are yearly standard approvals the Board moved to approve the Consent Items agenda which included IVA, IVB and IVC.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the MPS 2024-25 Student/Parent Handbook.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of MPS Board Committee Calendar

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the 2024-25 MPS Board Committee Calendar.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approval of ASES Memorandum of Agreement with YMCA and San Diego County Office of Education

M. Muhammedov made a motion to grant approval to Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO and Superintendent of Magnolia Public Schools to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for Magnolia Science Academy-San Diego Afterschool ASES Program with YMCA of San Diego County and with San Diego County Office of Education.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Action Items

A. Approval of MPS 2024-25 Student Board Member

M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, reported that Naim Bayruktar from MSA-Santa Ana was selected as the Student Board Member for the 2024-25 year. He reported that on June 17th the Board heard four (4) student finalists from MSA-2, MSA-3, MSA-5 and MSA-Santa Ana. He stated that the students were selected by their peers to be the finalists for their school. He also thanked all the students who were nominated for their courage and pursuit of the opportunity. Other Board Members shared their sentiments and thanked all the students.
U. Yapanel made a motion to approve Naim Bayraktar as the Student Board Member for the upcoming school year. The terms of service will begin July 12, 2024 and end of June 30, 2025.
S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Covarrubias	Aye

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Preferred Vendor Contracts for the Expansion & Replication of Magnolia Public Schools

B. Olandes, Director of Advancement, presented the recommendation of the following preferred vendors which will assist with the growth and expansion plans into Orange County. He reported that MPS has been in a continued partnership with Charter Charter School Growth Fund and recommended certain vendors that will assist MPS on the operations for the growth work. He stated that they have done the due diligence process for these vendors.

U. Yapanel made a motion to approve the partnership with the listed vendors for the expansion and replication of Magnolia Public Schools. These vendors include: Afton Partners, Attuned Education Partners, (in)field Leadership, Kitamba, and Mariposa Consulting Group.

M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Updated 2024-25 Employee Pay Raise Scale for Full-Time Teaching Positions & Non-Classroom Based Academic (“NCBA”) Positions & School Leaders

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, asked the Board to approve the revised pay raise scale to include the addition of a guidance counselor position with 5 points in light of the federal CSP award that was awarded to MPS and incorporated into the budget. Board Members questions were addressed by staff. She reported that college counselor and guidance counselor are very similar roles and part of their overhaul of the pay structure they will look at all the job titles to see if there is an opportunity to streamline the titles and this will be one to explore further. A public comment was made to which E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent addressed.

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the revised 2024-25 Employee Pay Raise Scale for Full-Time Teaching Positions & Non-Classroom Based Academic (“NCBA”) Positions & School Leaders.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
S. Covarrubias, was absent during the roll call vote. Her vote was collected when they returned.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

D. Approval of Creation and Elimination of Positions for Magnolia Science Academy-San Diego for the Improvement of School Operations

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, reported that with the various transitions occurring, one is the introduction of Megan Craig as the new Principal for MSA-San Diego. In light of the transitions, and in collaboration with school leadership and Home Office, staff had identified changes to the organizational structure to better align with the funding and continued focus to enhance support for students and educational partners. She reported that the new structure would include a Principal, Dean of Students, Dean of Academics, Family Success Coordinator, and Guidance Counselor. The previous structure contained an Assistant Principal role. M. Craig reported that with the addition of the Family Success Coordinator and the Guidance Counselor that would relieve the duties she had done in the Assistant Principal role. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
U. Yapanel made a motion to approve board resolution #20240711-01 for creation and elimination of position(s) for MSA-San Diego to improve the school operations effective 2024-25 school year.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
S. Covarrubias, was absent during the roll call vote. Her vote was collected when they returned.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

E. Approval of Board Resolution for Creation of Position for Magnolia Science Academy-8 for the Improvement of Academic Support

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, reported that through collaborative conversations between school site leaders and Home Office they have identified introducing a Dean of

Academics which would provide greater emphasis on the role with more direct access and support for students and teachers. She stated that in light on the decline of math and english scores, Home Office and the school had conversations on how to provide more support and intervene with a greater focus on academics and improving test scores. Through the strategic oversight of the Dean of Academics, they would help to increase enrollment as families are seeking high performing schools in the community. S. Acar, Interim Principal at MSA-Bell & Chief Operations Officer, explained his oversight at the school and some changes implemented to their school operations to address the needs. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
U. Yapanel made a motion to approve board resolution #20240711-02 for creation of position(s) for MSA 8 Bell due to improvement of academic support effective 2024-25 school year.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approval of College Counselor Position at Magnolia Science Academy-3

Z. Ocel, Principal at MSA-3, reported that there is a demand at their school for college counseling which would require a full time college counselor to adequately support the students with college applications, financial aid, and the area of dual enrollment. He reported that their part time college counselor will be going back to teaching and after seeing the demand from their students, the school would greatly benefit for a full time counselor. He reported that they have seen growth of students applying to college compared to previous years. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve Magnolia Science Academy-3 College Counselor as a full-time position for the 2024-2025 School Year.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G.

Approval of Charter Renewals Board Resolutions for Magnolia Science Academies: MSA-1, MSA-2, and MSA-3

B. Olivares, Chief Impact Officer, reported that it is standard protocol to receive MPS Board review and approval to charter renewals before brining it to the authorizers. She stated that renewals are every five (5) years. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve board resolutions #20240711-03, #20240711-04, and #20240711-05 that authorize the filing of the Charter Renewal Petitions with the Los Angeles County Office of Education for Magnolia Science Academy-1, Magnolia Science Academy-2, and Magnolia Science Academy-3, and give authority to the CEO & Superintendent to serve as the Lead Petitioner.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education

It was reported that the MOU is between Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation (MERF) and Orange County Department of Education. B. Olivares, Chief Impact Officer, reported that MSA-Orange County was approved by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). She stated that the MOU between MERF and OCDE will solidify proceeding with the partnership for Orange County growth and expansion.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to amend the motion and approve the MOU Agreement between Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation (MERF) and the Orange County Department of Education.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Approval of CEO Contract Renewal & 2024-25 CEO Metrics

M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, reported "As to this item regarding approval of the CEO/Superintendent employment agreement, I am required by law to indicate, prior to any vote on the employment agreement, that the agreement provides the following: 1. A three (3) year term of employment; 2. A work schedule of a minimum of 246 days annually; 3. A base annual salary of $271,500 for the 2024-2025 school year; 4. Paid Time Off to accrue at the rate of 10 days per year; 5. Vacation leave to accrue at the rate of 20 days per year; 6. Two (2) floating holidays per year. 7. $21,815.40 towards annual health benefit premium; 8. $ 50,000 towards basic life and basic AD&D life insurance; 9. $21,716.40 toward long term disability insurance premium; 10. Reimbursement of up to $1,000 for professional membership and dues; 11. $49,836.72 towards employer contributions for the State Teachers' Retirement Program, subject to program and eligibility requirements; 12. And entitled to tuition reimbursement up to $5,000 per year up to a maximum of 3 years pursuit to the Tuition Reimbursement Policy. I would also note that the annual salary is in keeping with the compensation comparability study the Board has received, reviewed, and adopted on June 17, 2024."
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the CEO & Superintendent contract effective retroactively to July 1, 2024. In addition, to approve the 2024-25 CEO Metrics.
S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

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 11:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Muhammedov