APPROVED

Magnolia Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday December 12, 2024 at 7:30 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

Student Board Member:
Naim Bayraktar

CEO & Superintendent:
Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava

Directors Present
D. Gonzalez (remote), M. Muhammedov, S. Dikbas (remote), U. Yapanel

Directors Absent
S. Covarrubias

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 Dec 12, 2024 at 7:34 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

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

Roll Call

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

E. Public Comments

No public comments were made at this time.

F. Announcements - CEO & Superintendent, Board, Student Board Member

A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, thanked all the schools for their hard work as the approach winter break. He also welcomed Corri Ravare as MPS Chief Schools Officer. C. Ravare shared that she was looking forward to support principals and academic outcomes. G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, thanked all college counselors and schools leaders for their support in students submitted college applications. He reported that the N. Bayraktar, Student Board Member, was also in the midst of submitting applications and he was able to visit him at their school to speak about their projects. Board Members welcomed C. Ravare to MPS.

G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - November 20, 2024

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 11-20-24.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Renewing Two Board Memberships

A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, expressed appreciation to the Board for their committment and involvement. U. Yapanel, Board Member & Chair of the Nominating/Governance Committee, went over the language in the Bylaws that stated the terms and number of Directors in MPS. He highlighted that both D. Gonzalez served since 2014 and S. Dikbas served since 2016. He also mentioned that their 3rd term renewal start would be retroactive since their term ended December 9th, 2024. Board Members thanked them for their dedication, service and time to serve on the MPS Board.
U. Yapanel made a motion to approve the membership renewal for Dr. Salih Dikbas and Mrs. Diane Gonzalez for a 5-year term for a beginning term retroactive on December 10th, 2024 through December 9th, 2029.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

III. Closed Session

A. Public Announcement of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, announced that the Board will be going into closed session to discuss conference with real property negotiations and conference with legal counsel - anticipated litigation.

B. Conference with Real Property Negotiations (§ 54956.8)

This item was discussed in Closed Session.

C.

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

This item was discussed in Closed Session.

D. Report Out of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov announced in Open Session at 10:34pm that the Board has discussed conference with real property negotiations and terms of the potential purchase including the price was discussed and no actions were taken. Board had also informed staff to take further action. Additionally, Board had conference with legal counsel in which they took no action.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of Magnolia Science Academy-4, 6, 7 and 8 Fiscal Benchmarks

Presented at the Finance Committee Meeting in which the Committee recommended for their approval. S. Budhraja, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the fiscal benchmarks given by LAUSD on actions MPS had to take and implement that related to internal controls, fiscal policies and procedures and others. He reported that in terms of consolidated financial systems, MPS has implemented Netsuite Oracle as the primary software system which was implemented in July 2024. Schools and the Home Office have access to the system. He added that with this action it would remedy all the concerns brought in the fiscal benchmarks to possibly close this item. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the actions taken by staff at Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) to fully address all of the Fiscal Benchmarks noted by Los Angeles Unified Schools District (LAUSD) during their last renewal for Magnolia Science Academy-4, 6, 7 and 8.
S. Dikbas seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of First Interim Reports for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year

Presented at the Finance Committee Meeting in which the Committee recommended for their approval. S. Budhraja, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the first interim in which he discussed ADA, revenues, expenditures and disclosed that some schools and Home Office are at a deficit at this time. He added there would be plans to address the school's deficits by working with the Principals to ensure staffing are in line with enrollment. A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, spoke upon the deficit at the

Home Office. He provided context and the challenges faced. He also added that there have been positive indicators such as enrollment, and the retention and recruitment of students that was brought by promising practices and initiatives'. He added that this would be addressed to reduce the deficit and to have a net income for all. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the First Interim Report for the 2024-25 fiscal year for all Magnolia Science Academy schools and the Home Office.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Contract Award for Magnolia Science Academy-2 Design and Engineering Services

P. Ontiveros, General Counsel & Director of Facilities, reported that an RFP was issued for the design and engineering services needed for the MSA-2 project at 16600 Vanowen Street. Three proposals were received by Berliner Architects, HED, and Rafael Franco & Associated. He added that they reviewed the proposals, sat down with the applicants and after review staff recommended that Berliner was the best selection. Representatives from Berliner spoke and introduced themselves. Richard Berliner was on the line. He spoke on their history with MPS such as the MSA-Santa Ana project, and others like MSA-1 and MSA-7. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the selection of Berliner Architects to provide architectural and engineering services for Magnolia Science Academy-2's new construction project at 16600 Vanowen Street in Van Nuys (the "Project") for a fee of $1,406,556.00, plus a ten percent contingency of $140,655.60 for additional services as may be deemed necessary and appropriate by MPS Staff, for a total of $1,547,211.60, and further approve that MPS Staff be authorized to negotiate and sign a professional services contract for said services in such form as MPS Staff may deem appropriate and in the best interests of MPS.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D.

Approval of Resolutions to Negotiate Bids for Magnolia Science Academy-5 Project Increment No.1 Construction

P. Ontiveros, General Counsel & Director of Facilities, provided background regarding the MSA-5 site in which originally it was a build-up construction which switched to a modular construction and further evaluation of the costs. He explained that increment 1 plans were submitted and approved by the Division of State Architect (DSA). Increment 2 plans for the academic building have been submitted to DSA and awaiting approval. He explained the bid process and the change from a multi prime delivery method consisting of several packages was bundled up to on one in an effort to address not receiving much interest in the bid and to get more traction. The resolutions would allow staff to engage in a negotiated bid and at the next board meeting staff will submit for Board approval a proposal to approve the contract for the the increment 1 work. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the Resolution #20241212-01 attached as Exhibit A to allow for a negotiated bid for the increment one scope of work for the Magnolia Science Academy-5 new campus project at 7111 Winnetka Ave (the "Project").
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
Typo was announed verbally. Report states #20242112-01 it should read #20241212-01
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approval of DLR Group, Architect of Record for Magnolia Science Academy-5 Project, Change Order for Increment No.3

P. Ontiveros, General Counsel & Director of Facilities, reported that this is to approve a change order for the Architect of Record for the MSA-5 project, DLR Group. He pointed that in order to receive a final apportionment for the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) of the remaining funds from the Charter School Facilities Project (CSGF) award, the complete project must be approved by the Division of State Architect (DSA). He added that OPSC requires DSA approved plans for all phases of the project. He went over DLR Group's proposal with the services and fees outlined. He added the scope of work is necessary in order to receive the final apportionment for the project. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the additional services proposal from DLR Group for the Magnolia Science Academy-5 new campus project at 7111 Winnetka Ave (the "Project"), for a total fixed fee of $265,000, the purpose of which is to prepare the plans for the gymnasium for submission to the Division of the State Architect ("DSA").
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. 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 11:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Muhammedov