APPROVED

Magnolia Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday June 18, 2025 at 5:00 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, M. Muhammedov, S. Covarrubias, S. Dikbas (remote), U. Yapanel

Directors Absent
None

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

U. Yapanel

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 Wednesday Jun 18, 2025 at 5:27 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Staff and guests conducted the pledge of allegiance.

C. Record Attendance and Guests

Refer to attendance information recorded above.

D. Approval of Agenda

D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the amended agenda with the removal of VA Customers Bank Presentation.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent, reported on the removal of the item.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

E. Public Comments

Several public comments were made from parents at Magnolia Science Academy-2. Board had directed staff to follow-up on the parent comments. A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, thanked the parents for their comments and added that he will meet with them.

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

A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, thanked the parents who made the public comments earlier for addressing their concerns at this space and added that he will coordinate to meet with them. He also added that MPS had celebrated many culminations and graduations across the schools. In addition he commented on the

recent immigration activity across the community which has incited fear and voiced that MPS stands in solidarity with the parents and students and remains committed to support the community. He concluded with the end of the school year and thanked the schools for their commitment and work and would take the time to reflect and grow for the next school year with the opening of new schools.

Board Members thanked the schools and community and remarked on their attendance to the graduations and congratulated the students for their successes.

G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - May 22, 2025

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 05-22-25.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

II. Student Board Member Elections

A. 2025-26 Student Board Member Candidate Presentations

U. Yapanel arrived at 5:49 PM.
Students presented their candidacy for the 2025-26 Student Board Member position from Magnolia Science Academy (MSA)-1, 4, and Santa Ana. The students who presented included S.Perez (MSA-1), J. Riyos (MSA-4) and Y. Montes De Oca (MSA-Santa Ana). Board thanked the student candidates and their questions were addressed by the students. M. Wittek, Director of Student Services, added that the formal vote will take place at the June 26th Regular Board Meeting.

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 public employee performance evaluation for CEO & Superintendent and conference with legal counsel for anticipated litigation.

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

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

C.

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

D. Report Out of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov announced in Open Session at 9:58pm that the Board discussed public employee performance evaluation for the CEO & Superintendent and took no action and directed staff to take certain actions. He also reported that they discussed conference with legal counsel for anticipated litigation and Board took no action and directed staff to take necessary actions.

IV. Consent Items

A. Approval of 2025-26 Certification of Assurances, Protected Prayer Certification, and Application for Funding

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Certification of Assurances, 2025-26 Protected Prayer Certification, 2025-26 Application for Funding and General Assurances as presented.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of 2025-26 Certification of Signatures Form and Resolution

D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Certification of Signatures Form for Charter School Funds Distribution Authorization. Signatures will be effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Signatories will include the CEO/Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operations Officer and MPS Governing Board Members.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C.

Approval of 2025-26 School Calendar for Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County – Placentia-Yorba Linda (“MSA-OC-PYL”)

U. Yapanel made a motion to approve the 2025-26 School Calendar for MSA-Orange County – Placentia-Yorba Linda (“MSA-OC-PYL”).
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Information/Discussion Items

A. Customers Bank Presentation

This item was removed during the approval of agenda.

B. 2024-25 CEO Metrics & Strategic Plan Update

A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, opened up the strategic updates for 2024-25. He reported that priorities were set and those were set around academic excellence outlined in the CEO metrics. He reported three (3) senior level members will present on the metrics and updates from their Department centered around meeting the priorities, metrics and LCAP goals. He added that by end of 2025, they will further present MPS's 2030 plans that will have more clear plans and goals. G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, presented on the Academic Department's metrics and achievements detailing data measurements, accountability measures, test results and performances. F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, presented on the People and Culture Department metrics detailing the Great Place to Work certification, reporting, credentialing, compensation clarity and benefits clarity. E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent, presented on the CEO Department metrics detailing the facilities projects that he supports with, growth and expansion, bond refinancing and financing that he also oversees and supports with. A. Rubalcava added that the other members will present on June 26th. Board Members thanked staff for the updates and the ongoing efforts in these areas. Their questions were addressed by staff.

C. Glows, Grows & Priorities Presentations

G. Yoon, Assistant Principal at Magnolia Science Academy (MSA)-7 and N. Bolden, Dean of Academics at MSA-7 presented on the school's glows, grows and priorities. Additionally, S. Acar, Chief Operations Officer and Interim Principal at MSA-8 presented the school's glows, grows and priorities for 2024-25. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.

D.

Enrollment Update

F. Cristerna-Adame, Senior Project Director of Growth & Expansion, presented on the enrollment updates as of most recent numbers and a comparison of last year's numbers. She went over each individual school site. She added that an update will be presented at the following board meeting with updated numbers inclusive of Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.

VI. Action Items

A. Approval of Adoption of Multitudes as the MPS Risk of Reading Difficulties Screener

K. Mann, Director of EL & ELA Programs, presented the compliance requirement by state law to require annual screening of all K-12 students for risk of reading difficulties, and to support early identification and intervention efforts that improve literacy outcomes.
D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the adoption of Multitudes as the Risk of Reading Difficulties Screener for Magnolia Public Schools, beginning in the 2025–26 school year, to comply with California Education Code Section 53008.
S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plans for All MPS Schools

A. Milteer, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) Coordinator, presented the ELOP plans for all school sites. He added that the plans must be revised every three (3) years and require approval. He went over the updates to the plans. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
U. Yapanel made a motion to approves the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan for Magnolia Science Academy 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Santa Ana and San Diego.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C.

Approval of MPS Ethnic Studies Policy

T. Lewin, Director of Educational Services, presented the ethnic studies policy designed to align MPS schools with California Assembly Bill 101 signed into law in 2021 which mandates all high school students complete a one (1) semester course in ethnic studies as a graduation requirement beginning with the class in 2030. She added that this policy would position MPS to meet the statewide graduation requirement while reinforcing the commitment to inclusive student centered learning environment. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) Ethnic Studies Policy effective August 1, 2025 in alignment with California Assembly Bill 101.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
M. Muhammedov	Aye
S. Covarrubias	Aye
U. Yapanel	Aye
D. Gonzalez	Aye
S. Dikbas	Aye

D. Approval of Addendum to the Services Agreement with InField Leadership Consulting

G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, presented the addendum to the services agreement with InField Leadership Consulting which MPS entered into a consulting agreement with them back in July 2024 for services aimed at codifying and supporting implementation of instructional enabling systems in anticipation of new school openings and network wide improvements. He added that the approval proposed would extend the scope to authorize a contract extension for two (2) additional in-person professional development days aligned with the ongoing initiatives. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve an addendum to the existing July 2024 agreement with InField Leadership Consulting to include additional strategic instructional development support during the June 9–10, 2025 in-person session with Magnolia Public Schools' leadership team.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
S. Dikbas	Aye
M. Muhammedov	Aye
D. Gonzalez	Aye
U. Yapanel	Aye
S. Covarrubias	Aye

E. Approval of State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Implementation Orange County Application

C. Turan, Senior Controller, presented the resolution for Magnolia Science Academy (MSA)-Orange County to start STRS benefits and added that the expense was incorporated on the July 1st budget. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the STRS Resolution and the STRS Redeposit Payroll Resolution for the 2025-26 year, covering the newly established Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County schools to allow for certificated staff to receive Cal STRS retirement benefits beginning in the 2025-26 school year.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Approval of the Education Protection Act (EPA) Resolution for the 2025-26 School Year

C. Turan, Senior Controller, presented the resolution for Education Protection Act (EPA) and added that it is part of LCFF. He also added that the revenue expense was incorporated on the July 1st budget. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Education Protection Act for the 2025-26 year.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approval of Resolution for the Orange County Department of Education to Issue Funds to Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County

C. Turan, Senior Controller, presented on the resolution for Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County aimed for the Orange County Department of Education to issue funds to the school. He added that this would allow the school to be able to receive funding through the treasury account as of July 1st.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Orange County Department of Education to Issue Funds to Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County so that Magnolia Public Schools can receive funds through Orange County Treasury beginning July 1, 2025.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

H. Approval of Security Companies RFP Winning Bid Decision

S. Acar, Chief Operations Officer and Interim Principal at Magnolia Science Academy-8, presented on the RFP proposals received to address MPS need of security companies for the school sites to provide services. He added that this was to ensure that the school sites and the construction sites are safe for educational partners and added that the services will comply with federal, state, and local regulations. He went through the RFP process and selection. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the following companies to be added to the approved vendors list of Magnolia Public Schools: Access Control Security, American Guard Services, Cityguards Inc., Code 4 Private Security.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Approval of Lot Improvement Proposal for Magnolia Science Academy-1

K. Jimenez, Assistant Facilities Project Manager, presented on the RFP process and selection to provide grading, surface stabilization and parking lot striping services for Magnolia Science Academy-1. She discussed the RFP postings and processes and ultimately the team recommended EPI Construction, Inc. to provide such services to the school. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the selection of EPI CONSTRUCTION, INC. to provide grading, surface stabilization, and parking lot striping services for Magnolia Science Academy-1’s parking lot improvement project at 18140-18160 Sherman Way, Reseda CA 91335 for a total fee of $146,888.34, which includes a 10% contingency ($13,353.49) on the base proposal of $133,534.85. MPS Staff further requests authorization 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** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

VII. 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 11:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Muhammedov