

APPROVED



## Magnolia Public Schools

### Minutes

#### Regular Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Thursday September 11, 2025 at 6:00 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

**Student Board Member:**

Ms. Sofia Perez

**CEO & Superintendent:**

Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava

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**Directors Present**

D. Gonzalez, M. Muhammedov, S. Dikbas, U. Yapanel

**Directors Absent**

S. Covarrubias

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**Directors who left before the meeting adjourned**

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U. Yapanel

**Guests Present**

J. Lara

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**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 Sep 11, 2025 at 6:01 PM.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Board, staff and guests conducted the pledge of allegiance.

**C. Record Attendance and Guests**

Refer to the attendance information recorded above. S. Perez, Student Board Member, was not present at this time.

**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**

S. Dikbas	Aye
U. Yapanel	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 staff for their work and preparedness for a successful first day of school across all MPS campuses. E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent, provided an update on the MPS 2030 Strategic Plan inclusive of the discussions held and next steps. A. Rubalcava, also voiced the observance of the 24th anniversary of September 11th. He thanked all schools for the activities held today in remembrance of that day.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, joined at this time from her school sports event. She announced her application to the Los Angeles County Superintendent's Student Advisory Council and that she should hear back soon. She also added that first day of school at Magnolia Science Academy-1 went well. M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, announced that as part of the steering committee for the 2030 Strategic Plan, he urged all levels inclusive of school staff and teachers to participate in these discussions in an effort to make impactful changes in the organization.

**G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - August 7, 2025**

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 08-07-25.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, voted as a yes as her opinion of this item.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**II. Information/Discussion Items**

**A. Ethics Training Part II**

J. Lara, Board Secretary, reported that this is a continuation from the training the Board received at the August 7th Regular Board Meeting which covered one (1) hour of the Ethics Training inclusive of the Brown Act. Janelle Ruley, Legal Counsel at Young, Minney, & Corr, conducted the remaining of training to satisfy the Ethics Training completion. Board Members who completed the Ethics Training in full are: Mr. Mekan Muhammedov, Dr. Umit Yapanel, Dr. Salih Dikbas, and Mrs. Diane Gonzalez.

Ms. Sandra Covarrubias, was absent from this meeting, and will complete the remaining portion of the Ethics Training with legal counsel separately. At this time she has fulfilled one (1) hour of the Ethics Training inclusive of the Brown Act.

**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 confidential student enrollment matter case #202501, and will report out of closed session.

**B.**

**Confidential Student Enrollment Matter – Consideration of Potential Enrollment of Previously Expelled Pupil Case No.: 202501**

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

**C. Report Out of Closed Session**

M. Muhammedov, reported in open session at 7:56pm that in regards to the closed session item, the Board approved enrollment regarding the confidential student enrollment matter case #202501, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the enrollment.

**IV. Consent Items**

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

S. Dikbas made a motion to grant approval to Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO and Superintendent of Magnolia Public Schools, to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Magnolia Science Academy – San Diego Afterschool ASES Program with YMCA of San Diego County (YMCA) for a retroactive date effective June 19th, 2025. I also move that the Board grants approval to Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the San Diego County Office of Education when it is received.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, voted as a yes as her opinion of this item.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**V. Information/Discussion Items**

**A. Enrollment Update**

B. Olivares, Chief Impact Officer, provided an extensive update on the enrollments across all MPS school sites. She also provided information of actions that will be taken such as after action review with each of the schools to establish goals and key benchmarks. She also added that per the request from the Board, staff are discussing and learning more from schools that are meeting or exceeding their goals so practices can be shared to Principals. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.

**VI. Action Items**

**A.**

### **Approval of 2024-25 Unaudited Actuals Reports**

S. Budhreja, Chief Financial Officer, presented the item speaking on the challenges faced this year with certain schools and the Home Office. He reported on the actual financials results for the fiscal year 2024-25 and changes to revenue and expenditures from the previous reporting. He went over the details for MPS and by each school site. Board Members questions and comments were addressed by staff.

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals Report for all Magnolia Public Schools and the Home Office.

D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, voted as a yes as her opinion of this item.

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

#### **Roll Call**

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

### **B. Approval of Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County California State Disability Insurance Program**

S. Budhreja, Chief Financial Officer, reported that with the expansion of the new schools in Orange County, comes with certain requirements. The resolution would allow employees to participate in the State Disability Insurance (SDI) specific for Magnolia Science Academy(MSA)-Orange County. The resolution would allow MSA-Orange County to participate in this program which is consistent with other MPS schools. He added that Finance will be processing all items related to the SDI on payroll and its reporting system to include this information as part of the quarterly wage and other financial reporting.

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the Resolution to allow Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County to participate in the State Disability Insurance Program (SDI), effective retroactively to September 1, 2025.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, voted as a yes as her opinion of this item.

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

#### **Roll Call**

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

### **C. Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Reports for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year for All MPS Schools**

J. Lara, Board Secretary, verbally pointed out the typo on the agenda which should have been reflected as 2024-25.

H. Ciftci, Senior Financial Analyst, presenting on behalf of G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer. He provided background that the Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) provides additional funding for arts education. He added that funds are delivered every year and can be used over a three (3) year period. He reported that most schools partially utilized the allocations and remaining amounts are to be carried over to the following year in accordance with CDE guidelines. He added that Magnolia Science Academy(MSA)-San Diego fully utilized its allocation and MSA-8 did not utilize its allocation in 2024-25 and will carry over to 2025-26. The annual report for each school was included. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.

U. Yapanel made a motion to approve the required Proposition 28 Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Annual Reports for Magnolia Science Academy (MSA)-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Santa Ana and San Diego for 2024-25 Fiscal Year.

M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, voted as a yes as her opinion of this item.

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

**Roll Call**

U. Yapanel Aye

S. Dikbas Aye

D. Gonzalez Aye

S. Covarrubias Absent

M. Muhammedov Aye

U. Yapanel left at 9:28 PM.

**VII. 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 legal counsel on anticipated litigation and conference with real property negotiations. They will report out of closed session.

**B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

**C. Conference with Real Property Negotiations (§ 54956.8)**

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

**D. Report Out of Closed Session**

M. Muhammedov, reported in open session at 9:50pm regarding the items on closed session, the Board took no action on the items and the Board directed staff to take necessary actions.

## **VIII. 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 9:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Muhammedov