

APPROVED



## Magnolia Public Schools

### Minutes

#### Regular Board Meeting

---

**Date and Time**

Thursday October 9, 2025 at 5:30 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:**

Ms. Sofia Perez

**CEO & Superintendent:**

Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava

---

**Directors Present**

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

**Directors Absent**

*None*

---

## 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 Oct 9, 2025 at 6:33 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 present. Serdar Orazov was in-person for this meeting.

### D. Approval of Agenda

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, gave her preferential opinion as a statement of yes for this item.

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

#### Roll Call

S. Covarrubias Aye

U. Yapanel Aye

D. Gonzalez Aye

M. Muhammedov Aye

S. Dikbas Aye

### E. Public Comments

No public comments were made at this time.

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

S. Perez, Student Board Member, announced her admission to the Los Angeles County Superintendent Student Advisory Council under LACOE Superintendent Dr. Debra Duardo. She stated that she will be able to represent Magnolia and share her perspectives given this opportunity.

E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent, provided updates to the MPS Strategic Plan and the current progress made and further work ahead.

B. Olandes, Director of Advancement, announced that MPS was selected as one of eight recipients of the Samueli Foundation which would aid to improve Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County Campus Improvement Project.

Board Members noted the amazing news presented from staff.

**G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - September 11, 2025**

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 09-11-25.

D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, gave her preferential opinion as a statement of yes for this item.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**II. Action Item - Board Membership**

**A. Approval of Board Candidate to the MPS Board of Directors**

U. Yapanel, Chair of the Nominating/Governance Committee, shared the discussions held at the Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2025 in regards to the nomination of Serdar Orazov to the MPS Board of Directors. The Committee moved to recommend his nomination. Serdar Orazov is familiar with Magnolia Public Schools, previously serving as a Board Member to its Chief Financial Officer. His expertise would be in finance and overseeing the facilities projects. Board Members provided their feedback on his nomination. A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, shared how his expertise would be critical to the capital projects and providing students with a improved physical space. Serdar Orazov, shared his delight to aid Magnolia Public Schools in his capacity as a Board Member.

M. Muhammedov made a motion to to accept the recommendation from the MPS Nominating/Governance Committee to appoint Mr. Serdar Orazov to the MPS Board of Directors for a 5-year term beginning on October 9, 2025 and ending on October 8, 2030.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, gave her preferential opinion as a statement of yes for this item.

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

**Roll Call**

U. Yapanel	Aye
M. Muhammedov	Aye
D. Gonzalez	Aye

**Roll Call**

S. Dikbas           Aye  
S. Covarrubias    Aye

**III. Information/Discussion Items**

**A. 2024-25 CEO Metrics & Strategic Plan**

G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, and D. Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer, provided several Academic updates as part of the strategic plan follow-up. D. Yilmaz noted that this is only preliminary data. Updates were inclusive of: MPS Demographics; Expanded Learning; Average Daily Attendance; data on Chronic Absenteeism; College-Going rates; CAASPP Proficiency results in ELA, math, and science; and MAP data. Each school site provided data on their glows, glows and priorities and school specific metrics and attendance. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.

**IV. 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 discipline/dismissal release, conference with legal counsel on anticipated litigation, and conference with real property negotiations. They would report on any actions taken.

**B. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal Release (§ 54957)**

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

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

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

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

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

**E. Report Out of Closed Session**

M. Muhammedov, reported in open session at 10:06pm that on all items in closed session, the Board took no action and guided staff on next steps.

J. Lara, Board Secretary, reported that S. Perez, Student Board Member, has left the meeting.

Mekan Muhammedov made a motion to table action items VIIA and VIIB.

J. Lara, Board Secretary, read the items that are being proposed to be tabled:

**VIIA:** Approval of General Contractor for Magnolia Science Academy 5 Charter School Facilities Program Increment #2

**VIIIB:** Approval of Solar Contractor for Magnolia Science Academy 5 Charter School Facilities Program Increment #2

Serdar Orazov, seconded the motion.

**Individual votes:**

Mekan Muhammedov voted Aye

Sandra Covarrubias voted Abstain

Umit Yapanel voted Aye

Salih Dikbas voted Aye

Diane Gonzalez voted Aye

Serdar Orazov voted Aye

Motion passed. Five (5) Aye and one (1) Abstain.

**V. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of 2025–26 Compliance Monitoring and Certification of Board Compliance Review for MSA–4, 6, 7, Bell, and Santa Ana**

S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Compliance Monitoring and Certification of Board Compliance Review for Magnolia Science Academy-4, 6, 7, Bell, and Santa Ana.

M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.

Serdar Orazov voted Abstain. Motion passed. Five (5) Aye and one (1) Abstain.

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

**Roll Call**

M. Muhammedov Aye

D. Gonzalez Aye

U. Yapanel Aye

S. Dikbas Aye

S. Covarrubias Aye

**B. Approval of Revised MPS Conflict of Interest Policy**

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the revised Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) Conflict of Interest Policy.

S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.

Serdar Orazov voted Aye. Motion passed. Six (6) Aye.

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

**Roll Call**

M. Muhammedov Aye

D. Gonzalez Aye

**Roll Call**

S. Dikbas           Aye  
U. Yapanel         Aye  
S. Covarrubias    Aye

**VI. Information/Discussion Items**

**A. MPS Annual Authorizer Oversight Reports**

D. Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer, reported on the oversight reports provided by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Highlights and key feedback were presented from governance, instruction and student achievement, organizational management, and fiscal operations. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.

**B. Enrollment Update**

B. Olivares, Chief Impact Officer, presented an update on enrollment across all MPS schools. She added that they increased census day enrollment this year to 3,811 compared to last census day. She went over the analysis on schools that have been successful in their enrollment projections and goals to improve internal practices and replicate. Board Members questions and feedback were addressed by staff.

**C. 2023–24 Teaching Assignment Monitoring Outcomes (TAMO) Data Report Presentation**

D. Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer presented the 2023-24 school year TAMO data. He stated that this is the most recent data from the state. He also stated that normally they will present along with the local indicators in June, but the state was late in releasing the data and it is mandated to present this data to the Board. He went over the teacher credential data and the main categories of teacher assignments. School sites individual data was presented. Board Members questions were addressed by staff.

**D. Comprehensive Diversity and Demographic Analysis: Organizational Workforce and Turnover Insights**

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, presented the analysis on MPS staff diversity and demographics. She stated that this insights gathered follow in the main points in connecting retention, recruitment and representation. Data was presented in retention trends, time to fill data and exit data. She shared the collaboration of receiving data from staff to improve internal capacities and strengthen organizational health. Board Members provided insight to the data presented.

**VII. Action Items**

**A.**

**Approval of General Contractor for Magnolia Science Academy 5 Charter School  
Facilities Program Increment #2**

Item was tabled.

**B. Approval of Solar Contractor for Magnolia Science Academy 5 Charter School  
Facilities Program Increment #2**

Item was tabled.

**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 11:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Muhammedov