



Magnolia Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday May 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location

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

Access to the Board Meeting

Teleconferencing locations are provided at each Magnolia Science Academy school site:

- Magnolia Science Academy-1 (18238 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335)
- Magnolia Science Academy-2 (17125 Victory Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406)
- Magnolia Science Academy-3 (1254 E Helmick St, Carson, CA 90746)
- Magnolia Science Academy-4 (11330 W Graham Place, Los Angeles, CA 90064)
- Magnolia Science Academy-5 (18238 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA 91335)
- Magnolia Science Academy-6 (745 S. Wilton Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90005)
- Magnolia Science Academy-7 (18355 Roscoe Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325)
- Magnolia Science Academy-8 (6411 Orchard Ave, Bell, CA 90201)
- Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Ana (2840 W 1st Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703)
- Magnolia Science Academy-San Diego (6525 Estrella Ave, San Diego, CA 92120)
- Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County Anaheim (412 W. Carl Karcher Way, Anaheim, CA 92801)
- Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County Placentia Yorba Linda (1891 Kellogg Dr, Anaheim, CA 92807)

Any interested parties or community members from remote locations may attend the meeting at any Magnolia Science Academy school, or the addresses where Board Members are joining from.

6525 Estrella Ave, San Diego, CA 92120 (Dr. Salih Dikbas)
5113 Babette Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (Mrs. Diane Gonzalez)

Dialing information for this meeting is included below:

Dial in: 1-669-444-9171

Meeting ID: 978 5606 4990 - **Passcode:** 021250

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97856064990?pwd=MHhBZCtGT0xEMIZpNEZQZVJ3RDBPZz09>

Accessibility

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, Magnolia Public Schools may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Members of the public who need special accommodations or translation are strongly encouraged to contact Magnolia Public Schools at least 24 hours in advance of the Board meeting so assistance can be assured. Contact 213-628-3634 or email board@magnoliapublicschools.org with such requests.

Any public records relating to an agenda item for an open session which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board Members shall be available for public inspection.

Public Comment Procedures

Magnolia Public Schools greatly values public comment during Board meetings. For members of the public who would like to speak, please fill out the Public Speaker Form which can be accessed at magnoliapublicschools.org, there will also be speaker cards to be filled out prior to the beginning of the meeting. By law, the Board is only allowed to discuss or take action on items listed on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, refer a matter to MPS staff or add the issue to a future board meeting date for discussion. Public speakers are limited to three (3) minutes and speakers with interpreters up to six (6) minutes.

Please note that the agenda presenting times for when that item will be discussed, or taken action on, is subject to change on the day of the Board meeting to accommodate public speaker times indicated above.

For any questions regarding this meeting please email board@magnoliapublicschools.org or call (213) 628-3634 ext. 21101.

Board Members:

Mr. Mekan Muhammedov, Chair
Ms. Sandra Covarrubias, Vice-Chair
Dr. Umit Yapanel
Dr. Salih Dikbas
Ms. Diane Gonzalez

Mr. Serdar Orazov

Student Board Member:

Ms. Sofia Perez

CEO & Superintendent:

Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

S. Orazov

Guests Present

T. Velazquez

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 May 21, 2026 at 6:30 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.

D. Approval of Agenda

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

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

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

J. Lara reopened the approval of the agenda to be amended after Closed Session at the request from the board with the following changes: the board will review consent, all action items, and remove information/discussion items IV.A Enrollment and Strategy Update and IV.B Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Update to be discussed at a later time. The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Public Comments

The Board heard public comments from multiple individuals during the public comment period. Public speakers expressed their opposition to the restructuring and elimination of positions across the network. Additionally, public speakers shared highlights from their campus for the academic year.

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

A. Rubalcava, the CEO and Superintendent, shared several exciting highlights from across the network. G. Serce, the Chief Academic Officer, provided detailed information about these highlights, including the Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished Schools awards, along with a recap of the STEAM Expo.

In addition, S. Perez, the Student Board Member, announced her initiative for a video project that will showcase student experiences at Magnolia.

G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - April 9, 2026

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 04-09-26.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

II. Closed Session

A. Public Announcement of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, reported that the Board would be entering into Closed Session to discuss a conference with legal counsel regarding anticipated litigation, as well public employee discipline/dismissal release and would report out following Closed

Session.

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 Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation §54956.9

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

E. Report Out of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov reported in open session at 10:04pm that the Board discussed the closed session items, for one of the anticipated litigation items the Board approved the preliminary agreement for a resolution of dispute and for the remaining items they took no reportable actions, and directed staff to take necessary steps.

J. Lara reopened the approval of the agenda to be amended with the following changes: the board will review consent, all action items, and remove information/discussion items IV.A Enrollment and Strategy Update and IV.B Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Update to be discussed at a later time.

S. Perez, Student Board Member, left the meeting at 9:04pm.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of the Provisions to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Magnolia Science Academy-5

M. Muhammedov made a motion to have the Board read, understand, and agree to the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Magnolia Science Academy-5 (“MSA-5”).

D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of 2026-27 School Calendars for Magnolia Science Academy-5

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the 2026-27 School Calendar for MSA-5.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Information/Discussion Items

A. Enrollment and Strategy Update

This item was removed from the agenda.

B. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Update

This item was removed from the agenda.

C. 2025-26 MPS Educational Partners Survey Results & Reflections and Public Feedback to Inform LCAP

D. Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer, presented data from student, parent, and staff surveys to improve the overall school experience.

G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, shared how the highest rated section for students is, and how some of the lowest are safety. The lowest category is how likely you are to recommend this school to another student or family.

B. Olivares, Chief Impact Officer, shared the data from family surveys and how it correlates with student persistence. In the survey free responses, she shared that areas of improvement are similar across students and families.

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, shared the data improvements across staff surveys and the areas of focus.

V. Action Items

A. Approval of the 2026-27 Employee Pay Raise Scale for Full-Time Teaching Positions & Non-Classroom Based Academic (“NCBA”) Positions & School Leaders

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the 2026-27 Employee Pay Raise Scale for Full-Time Teaching Positions & Non-Classroom Based Academic (“NCBA”) Positions & School Leaders effective July 1, 2026.

S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, explained the proposed changes to the teaching positions and the pay raise scale that will help attract talent and contribute to the organizational priority of retaining staff and improving the operational side.

All questions from the Board were addressed by staff.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of the 2026-27 Home Office Compensation and Salary Bands for Home Office Employees

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the salary band and the Home Office positions to be effective as of July 1, 2026.

D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, shared that this band rather defines the minimum and maximum ranges for each position and isn't a reflection of the value of every employee.

All questions for the board were addressed by staff.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approval of the Board Resolution for Creation and Elimination of Positions Across MPS Network for the Improvement of Educational Programs for Students

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve of the resolution to restructure positions across the MPS network, effective July 1, 2026, in support of educational programs, student achievement, efficiency, and long-term sustainability.

D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, explained the comprehensive fiscal stabilization process in response to evolving enrollment trends, average daily attendance (ADA) performance, rising operational costs, the expiration of one-time pandemic-era funding sources, and updated state budget assumptions for the 2026–27 fiscal year. MPS

leadership worked collaboratively with school principals and department leaders throughout the year to review enrollment trends, ADA performance, staffing allocations, master schedules, and budget assumptions.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Approval of the MPS School Site Classified Employees' Pay Raise Schedule for 2026-27 School Year

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the MPS school site classified employee's pay raise schedule for 2026-27 fiscal year effective July 1, 2026.

S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, shared the compensation structure as part of the annual budget development process.

Based on this analysis, MPS proposes the following compensation adjustments for school site classified employees effective July 1, 2026: A \$1,015 increase for all full-time classified exempt employees; A \$0.50 (50 cent) hourly increase for all classified hourly employees, including both part-time and full-time non-exempt employees.

These adjustments reflect MPS's continued commitment to supporting employees while aligning compensation decisions with current budget realities and long-term organizational planning.

All board questions were addressed by staff.

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

Roll Call

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

E. Approval of the Updated MPS Board Officers

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve Erdinc Acar to serve as the interim MPS Board Secretary effective May 21, 2026. All other current appointments remain the same

for 2025-26. The Board will revisit the Board appointments for the 2026-27 school year at a later scheduled Board Meeting for further revisions or continuations of the officers.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

A. Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent, shared that there is a current vacancy in the role of Board Secretary. The interim will serve to temporarily fill the role and sign minutes and execute the duties assigned to the role until it is filled and the Board makes the determination final.

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

Roll Call

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

F. Approval of the Magnolia Science Academy-5 Financing Contingency Plan and Ongoing Fiscal Oversight Framework

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the MSA-5 Financing Contingency Plan and Ongoing Fiscal Oversight Framework, and authorizes staff to submit the Board-adopted plan and related attachments to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) as requested by LACOE, subject to non-substantive edits approved by the CEO/Superintendent and legal/finance staff.

S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.

E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent, presented a Board-adopted contingency plan addressing the additional bond issuance debt associated with the MSA-5 facilities project. The plan responds to LACOE's request for a clear framework describing how MERF/MPS would respond if MSA-5 does not meet projected enrollment or ADA targets, experiences cash-flow pressure, or is otherwise unable to support debt-related obligations solely from site-level resources.

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

Roll Call

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

G. Approval of Resolutions for Restructuring and New Intra-Organization Loans

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the intra-organization loan restructuring, extensions, and new loan agreements among Magnolia schools and Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation (MERF).

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

C. Turan, Interim Chief Financial Officer, shared how this restructure would extend existing intra-organization loan arrangements to provide greater financial flexibility, align repayment terms with projected cash flows, and ensure continued operational support across Magnolia Public Schools.

The updated structure includes the following intra-organization loan relationships:

- MSA-8 → MERF → MSA-OC (Pass-through loan structure)
- MSA-8 → MERF → MSA-7 (Pass-through loan structure)
- MSA-6 → MERF → MSA-OC (NEW)

All questions and comments from the Board were addressed by staff.

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

Roll Call

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

H. Approval of Construction and Contractor Change Orders for the Magnolia Science Academy-5 (7111 Winnetka) Project

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the proposed construction change orders submitted by the prime contractors, Del Amo Construction, Pro-Craft Construction and Silver Creek Modular, and a contract amendment for IMEG for survey services for the Magnolia Science Academy-5 project located at 7111 Winnetka Ave (the "Project"), in a total net amount not to exceed Four Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Nine and 80/100 Dollars (\$424,899.80).

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

P. Ontiveros, General Counsel and Director of Facilities, shared that this item is solely to approve the construction change orders and contract amendments associated with the Project. The proposed change orders and contract amendments address additional work required due to site conditions and utility coordination identified during construction. Staff is bringing this item forward to maintain transparency and ensure the Board is informed of project cost adjustments as the Project progresses.

A few items that were modifications mentioned are the sidewalks and modifying the wording on the perforated screen to add "MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL."

All questions and comments were addressed by staff.

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

Roll Call

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

I. Approval of General Contractor for Tenant Improvement Projects at Magnolia Science Academy-Orange County Anaheim at 412 W Carl Karcher Way, Anaheim, CA 92801

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the selection of EPI Construction (the “Contractor”) to perform certain tenant improvements at 412 W. Carl Karcher Way, Anaheim, CA 92801 (the “Project”) for approve a budget for such Project consisting of a base fee of Four Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety and 39/100 Dollars (\$455,290.39), plus 10% contingency of Forty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars and Four Cents (\$45,529.04) to cover any unforeseen expenses that may arise for a total of Five Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$500,820.00). The Project consists of staff restroom additions; HVAC Replacement, and roof replacement. Staff further requests authorization to negotiate and execute a professional services agreement with EPI Construction in a form deemed appropriate and in the best interest of MPS.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

M. Sahin, Facilities Project Manager, shared information regarding the selection of the Contractor to complete tenant improvements at MSA OC Anaheim campus located at 412 W. Carl Karcher Way, Anaheim, CA 92801.

The scope of tenant improvements includes: Replacement of the existing HVAC system, Roof replacement/repair, and Addition of two staff restrooms.

All questions from the Board were addressed by staff.

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

Roll Call

D. Gonzalez Aye
M. Muhammedov Aye
S. Orazov Absent
S. Covarrubias Absent
S. Dikbas Aye
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 11:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Muhammedov