APPROVED

Magnolia Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday September 14, 2026 at 6:00 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
Mr. Serdar Orazov

Student Board Member:
Ms. Ilemi Cordoba

CEO & Superintendent:
Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava

Directors Present
M. Muhammedov, S. Covarrubias, S. Dikbas (remote), S. Orazov, U. Yapanel

Directors Absent
D. Gonzalez

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 Monday Sep 14, 2026 at 6:04 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Board members, staff, and guests.

C. Record Attendance and Guests

Refer to the attendance information recorded above. Student Board Member, I. Cordoba was present.

D. Approval of Agenda

S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
I. Cordoba, 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
S. Dikbas	Aye
D. Gonzalez	Absent
S. Orazov	Aye
M. Muhammedov	Aye

E. Public Comments

No public comments were made at this time.

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

A. Rubalcava, Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent, recognized MPS schools for a strong first month of the academic year and their focus on deeper learning. He also announced that all Board members completed the required Brown Act and Conflict of Interest trainings and received their certificates of completion by August 26, 2026.

G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting and Board Retreat - August 15, 2026

S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting & MPS Board Retreat on 08-15-26.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
I. Cordoba, 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
D. Gonzalez	Absent
S. Dikbas	Aye
S. Covarrubias	Aye
M. Muhammedov	Aye
S. Orazov	Aye

II. Closed Session

A. Public Announcement of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, reported that the Board will be going into Closed Session to discuss three items:

1. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957) - Title: CEO & Superintendent
2. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation pursuant to (§54956.9): 1 case
3. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (§54956.9): 1 case

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

Item was discussed in closed session.

C. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation pursuant to (§54956.9): 1 case

Item was discussed in closed session.

D. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (§54956.9): 1 case

Item was discussed in closed session.

E. Report Out of Closed Session

The Board returned from closed session at approximately 8:30 PM. M. Muhammedov reported out and corrected an error from the prior Board meeting with the following comment: "I would like to amend that at the July 23rd, 2026 meeting after exiting closed session, the board reported on the first closed session agenda item, public employee performance evaluation for the CEO and superintendent that the board took an action.

This report was made an error. The board confirms that the corrected report for that item at the July 23rd, 2026 meeting is as follows: No action was taken."
Additionally, Mr. Muhammedov, reported in open session that on all items in closed session, the Board took no action and directed staff to take next steps.

III. Information/Discussion Items

A. Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) Annual Authorizer Oversight Reports

S. Orazov, Finance, Audit, Risk and Facilities (FARF) Committee Chair, provided a brief summary of the MPS Annual Authorizer Oversight Reports from LACOE and LAUSD, noting that the item had been discussed in detail during the FARF Committee meeting. He shared that the Committee reviewed the reports, corrective actions, and planned next steps with staff.

B. Enrollment Update

B. Olivares, Managing Director of Enrollment and Community Engagement, presented an update on 2026-27 enrollment, noting that overall enrollment is trending positively and is close to the network's budgeted target. E. Acar, Deputy Superintendent, gave the finance and budget perspective. Staff identified MSA 3, MSA 4, and MSA Orange County–Anaheim as schools requiring continued enrollment focus and discussed strategies to strengthen student recruitment and retention.
Board members asked questions regarding enrollment gaps and factors affecting student retention. Staff provided clarification and discussed ongoing efforts to address these areas, including a continued focus on retention and transition from 8th to 9th grade.

IV. Consent Items

A. Approval of After School Education and Safety (ASES) Memorandum of Agreement with YMCA and San Diego County Office of Education for Magnolia Science Academy-San Diego

S. Orazov made a motion to approve Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO and Superintendent of Magnolia Public Schools, to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Magnolia Science Academy – San Diego After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program with YMCA of San Diego County (YMCA) for a retroactive date effective July 1, 2026. Additionally, to approve Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the San Diego County Office of Education when it is received.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
I. Cordoba, Student Board Member, gave her preferential opinion as a statement of yes for this item.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of the Updated Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) Employee Handbook for 2026-2027

S. Orazov made a motion to approve the updated 2026-27 Magnolia Public Schools Employee Handbook as presented effective immediately.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
I. Cordoba, 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

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

V. Action Items

A. Approval of Revised Preliminary, Non-Binding Stifel Engagement and Authorization to Submit a California School Finance Authority (CSFA) Application for Potential 2026C / 2026D Financing

C. Turan, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed approval of the preliminary non-binding Stifel engagement and authorization of CSFA applications for potential 2026C and 2026D financing. He clarified that the $22.5 million amount represents an application ceiling and does not authorize borrowing or final debt issuance. Board members asked questions regarding the financing timeline, maximum financing amount, and proposed terms. Staff and representatives from Stifel provided clarification and noted that the proposed financing details would be brought back to the Board at the October 8, 2026 meeting for further consideration.
S. Orazov made a motion to approve the preliminary, non-binding Stifel engagement and authorize/ratify submission of the related CSFA financing and credit enhancement applications for the proposed 2026C/2026D financing, substantially as presented. This action does not authorize final debt issuance.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.

I. Cordoba, 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

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

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

P. Ontiveros, General Counsel and Director of Facilities, presented the proposed approval of construction and contractor change orders for the MSA-5 project at 7111 Winnetka Avenue in an amount just under $100,000. He explained that the change orders included owner-requested anti-graffiti coating and building signage, as well as additional work related to project scope gaps.
Board members asked questions regarding the remaining project contingency, potential future change orders, scope gaps, and the cost of the building signage. Staff provided clarification and noted that additional change orders may be brought forward as the project nears completion.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the proposed construction change orders submitted by the prime contractor, Del Amo Construction for the Magnolia Science Academy-5 project located at 7111 Winnetka Ave (the “Project”), in a total amount equal to Ninety-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Six and 07/100 Dollars $99,756.07.
S. Orazov seconded the motion.
I. Cordoba, Student Board Member, gave her preferential opinion as a statement of yes for this item.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Dikbas	Aye
D. Gonzalez	Absent
S. Covarrubias	No
S. Orazov	Aye
M. Muhammedov	Aye
U. Yapanel	Aye

C. Approval of 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals Reports

S. Orazov, FARF Committee Chair, provided a brief summary of the 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals, noting that the item had been reviewed in detail during the FARF Committee meeting, including a comparison of year-end actuals to the Second Interim projections. The FARF Committee recommended approval of the item.

S. Orazov made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Unaudited Actuals for all MPS school sites and MERF as presented and authorize management to submit the approved reports to the applicable authorizers and regulatory agencies.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
I. Cordoba, Student Board Member, gave her preferential opinion as a statement of yes for this item.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

D. Approval of Board Resolution for Creation of Positions Across MPS Network for the Improvement of Educational Programs for Students for the 2026-27 School Year

G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, presented the proposed approval of the Board resolution for the creation of positions across the MPS network for the 2026-27 school year. He explained that the positions are needed to address increased special education needs, enrollment and program needs at MSA-5, and grant-funded Home Office positions that will provide support across MPS campuses. He also requested an amendment to change the two proposed full-time Physical Education (PE) Teacher Aide positions at MSA-5 to two part-time PE Teacher Aide positions.
Board members asked questions regarding the need for the additional positions, particularly special education staffing, and staff provided clarification.

M. Muhammedov made a motion to amend the existing motion and approve board resolution authorizing the creation of the following positions, effective immediately: * MSA-4: One (1) full-time Education Specialist * MSA-5: One (1) full-time Education Specialist, one (1) full-time Dean of Academics, one (1) full-time IT Technician, one (1) full-time SPED Aide, two (2) part-time Teacher Aides (PE), one (1) part-time ELA Teacher * MSA-7: Two (2) part-time SPED Aide. * MSA-OC Anaheim: Three (3) full-time SPED Aides, one (1) full-time Education Specialist * MSA-Santa Ana (“MSA-SA”): One (1) full-time SPED Aide, one (1) full-time Education Specialist * Home Office: One (1) full-time Special Programs Manager, one (1) full-time Grants Manager. The amended motion changed the two full-time Teacher Aides (PE) for MSA-5 to two part-time Teacher Aides (PE) for MSA-5.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

I. Cordoba, 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

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

E. Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Reports for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year for All Magnolia Public Schools

G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, presented the Proposition 28 Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Reports for the 2025-26 fiscal year. He explained that Proposition 28 provides dedicated state funding to support arts and music programs through staffing, outside partnerships, and program supplies. He noted that annual reporting is required and that reports were completed for all applicable MPS schools, with MSA Orange County to begin reporting in the following year.
Board members were provided an opportunity to ask questions or provide comments.

S. Orazov 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 2025-26 Fiscal Year.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
I. Cordoba, 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. Dikbas	Aye
S. Covarrubias	Aye
S. Orazov	Aye
D. Gonzalez	Absent
U. Yapanel	Aye
M. Muhammedov	Aye

F. Approval of Resolution Authorizing a Programmatic Trip to China

G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, and S. Keskinturk, MSA Santa Ana Principal, presented the proposed programmatic trip to China for high school students participating in the school's robotics program. They explained that the 10-day trip would provide students with learning experiences focused on robotics, artificial intelligence, engineering, and technology, including visits to high-tech companies and educational institutions.

Board members asked questions regarding trip costs, fundraising, insurance and safety, staff participation, and whether the trip may become a recurring opportunity. Staff explained that fundraising would be used to offset costs, with participating families covering any remaining balance, and that additional travel insurance options would be explored.

S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing and facilitating a programmatic Trip to China for students enrolled in the Robotics classes (High School Robotics Course students, and Advisory/Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) Robotics Course students) at Magnolia Science Academy Santa Ana.
S. Orazov seconded the motion.
I. Cordoba, 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	
D. Gonzalez	Absent
U. Yapanel	Aye
S. Covarrubias	Aye
S. Dikbas	Aye
S. Orazov	Aye
M. Muhammedov	Aye

G. Approval of Current Conflict of Interest Code & Policy and Submission of 2026 Multi-County Agency Biennial Notice to FPPC

A. Rubalcava, Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent, presented the review of the current Conflict of Interest Code and the 2026 Multi-County Agency Biennial Notice. He explained that the Conflict of Interest Code requires updates due to newly created positions, positions that no longer exist, and revisions to disclosure categories. He requested Board authorization for staff to proceed with the required amendments and submit the Biennial Notice to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) by the October 1 deadline.
S. Orazov made a motion to confirm that it has reviewed the current Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation (MERF) Conflict of Interest Code (“Code”) and determined that the Code requires updates and amendments in the following areas: 1. New positions which involve the making or participating in the making of decisions which may foreseeably have a material impact on a financial interest 2. Current designated positions need renaming or deletion 3. Disclosure categories need revision The Board directs Executive staff to prepare all appropriate changes to the Code and proceed with the procedures and steps outlined by the Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC”) to implement these changes.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

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

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 9:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Muhammedov