APPROVED

Magnolia Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday October 8, 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
D. Gonzalez, M. Muhammedov, S. Covarrubias, S. Orazov, U. Yapanel

Directors Absent
S. Dikbas

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 8, 2026 at 6:30 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

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

E. Public Comments

A public comment was made by S. Keskinturk, MSA Santa Ana Principal, who provided an update on the upcoming China trip, including student participation and fundraising progress.

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

I. Cordoba, Student Board Member, recognized MPS seniors as they begin the college application and financial aid process. She acknowledged the challenges of senior year and encouraged students to support one another throughout the process.

G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - September 14, 2026

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 09-14-26.
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
M. Muhammedov	Aye
D. Gonzalez	Aye
S. Dikbas	Absent
S. Covarrubias	Aye
U. Yapanel	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 four 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
4. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal Release (§ 54957)

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. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal Release (§ 54957)

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

F. Report Out of Closed Session

The Board returned from closed session at approximately 9:58 PM. M. Muhammedov reported in open session that the Board took no action on any of the four items discussed during Closed Session.
I. Cordoba, Student Board Member, signed out during Closed Session and was no longer in attendance when the Board reconvened in Open Session.

III. Information/Discussion Items

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

D. Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer, along with G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, and C. Turan, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the annual authorizer oversight reports from Orange County Office of Education (OCDE) and San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD).
For MSA Orange County, most requirements were met, with areas for improvement identified in English learner services, instructional materials, and financial reserves. For MSA San Diego, the report reflected strong academic performance and overall compliance, with a concern noted regarding cash liquidity. Staff discussed ongoing efforts to address these areas. Board members acknowledged and thanked staff for their work in meeting authorizer requirements across the MPS network.

B. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Update

G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, and M. Wittek, Director of Student Services, presented an update on Average Daily Attendance (ADA). They highlighted a one-percentage-point increase in ADA last year and shared current attendance data, school-specific targets, and ongoing strategies to improve attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism. Staff noted that three schools are currently below their targets and that monthly updates will be provided to monitor progress. The Board emphasized the importance of continued monitoring and improvement toward pre-pandemic attendance levels.

C. Comprehensive Talent and Workforce Insights: Organizational Health and Retention Trends 2025-26

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, presented the 2025–26 Comprehensive Talent and Workforce Insights report, highlighting staff retention, recruitment, exit survey results, workforce demographics, and organizational health. She noted a decline in retention, partly due to reductions in force, along with improvements in recruitment timelines, increased representation of women in leadership, and 100% completion of mandatory staff training. Board members discussed opportunities to strengthen the leadership pipeline for women, improve staff retention, and increase participation in exit surveys.

IV. Consent Items

A.

Approval of 2026-27 Compliance Monitoring and Certification of Board Compliance Review for MSA–4, 6, 7, Bell, and Santa Ana

No presentations were made for Consent Items IV-A and IV-B. Both items were considered together and approved by the Board through a single motion and vote.
S. Orazov made a motion to approve the 2026-27 compliance monitoring and certification of Board compliance review for MSA-4, 6, 7, Bell, and Santa Ana.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of the Updated 2026-27 Magnolia Public Schools (MPS) Employee Handbook

S. Orazov made a motion to approve the updated 2026-27 MPS employee handbook as presented effective immediately.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Action Items

A. Approval of California School Finance Authority (CSFA) Charter School Revenue Bonds (Magnolia Public Schools – Obligated Group – Issue No. 3), Series 2026C and Series 2026D (Taxable), and Adoption of Related Bond Resolutions (Magnolia Science Academy-1 and Magnolia Science Academy-2 Projects)

Staff recommended tabling Item V-A. C. Turan, Interim Chief Financial Officer, briefly explained that additional time was needed to explore financing options that may offer greater flexibility in repayment and refinancing while supporting MPS's long-term financial sustainability.
S. Orazov made a motion to table item V.A. Approval of California School Finance Authority (CSFA) Charter School Revenue Bonds (Magnolia Public Schools – Obligated Group – Issue No. 3), Series 2026C and Series 2026D (Taxable), and Adoption of

Related Bond Resolutions (Magnolia Science Academy-1 and Magnolia Science Academy-2 Projects).
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The Board voted to table Item V-A. No action was taken.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Board Resolution for Elimination of Positions for the Magnolia Science Academy ("MSA")-3 for the Improvement of Educational Programs for Students

F. Del Carpio, Chief People Officer, presented the proposed elimination of one vacant part-time Campus Supervisor position at MSA-3 in response to enrollment needs. Staff clarified that the position is currently vacant and no employee would be affected. A correction was noted in the Board report, changing “creation” to “elimination” in the proposed action language.
M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the Board resolution authorizing the elimination of the following positions, effective immediately: MSA-3: one part-time Campus Supervisor.
S. Orazov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. 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 construction change orders for the MSA-5 project at 7111 Winnetka Avenue, totaling $172,133. He explained that the changes included sewer connections, additional construction work, surveying, perimeter wall painting, and renewal of the Procore license. Board members asked questions regarding the completion of sewer work, additional electrical work, negotiated cost reductions, and document retention. Staff provided clarification, and the Board requested an updated report on the project's remaining allowances and contingency at the next meeting.

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the proposed construction change orders submitted by Pro-Craft Construction (“PCC”) and Del Amo Construction (“DAC”), and the Procore license renewal through Gateway Science & Engineering (“GSE”) for the Magnolia Science Academy-5 project located at 7111 Winnetka Ave (the “Project”), in a total amount equal to One Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Three and 21/100 Dollars ($172,133.21).
S. Orazov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approval of Payment to Sherman Way Terrace LP Pursuant to Existing Lease Agreement for Magnolia Science Academy-1

Staff recommended tabling Item V-D. P. Ontiveros, General Counsel and Director of Facilities, explained that additional time was needed to verify property tax payment amounts following discussions with the property owner regarding the parking and recreational space used by MSA-1.

M. Muhammedov made a motion to table item V.D. Approval of Payment to Sherman Way Terrace LP Pursuant to Existing Lease Agreement for Magnolia Science Academy-1.
S. Orazov seconded the motion.
The Board voted to table Item V-D. No action was taken.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Magnolia Public Schools Student Health & Administration of Medications Policy - 2026 Update

M. Wittek, Director of Student Services, presented the updated MPS Student Health and Administration of Medication Policy, which expands procedures for medication administration, medical emergency response, staff training, and individualized student

health plans. G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, noted that administrators and office managers would receive training to support implementation. Board members discussed student self-carry of emergency medications, safety precautions, and CPR and first aid training.
S. Orazov made a motion to approve the updated MPS Student Health and Administration of Medication Policy and corresponding documents.
M. Muhammedov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

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 11:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Muhammedov