APPROVED

Magnolia Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday July 23, 2026 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
Mr. Serdar Orazov

Student Board Member:
Ms. Sofia Perez

CEO & Superintendent:
Mr. Alfredo Rubalcava

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

Directors Absent
S. Dikbas

Guests Present
I. Gavrilof, K. Jimenez

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 Jul 23, 2026 at 5:42 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.

D. Approval of Agenda

D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Public Comments

One individual submitted a request to make a public comment but was not present when called upon. No other public comments were received.

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

No announcements were made by the CEO & Superintendent or the Board of Directors.

G. Approval of Minutes from MPS Regular Board Meeting - June 17, 2026

S. Orazov made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes from June 17, 2026. Board Meeting on 06-17-26.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

II. Student Board Elections

A. Approval of the 2026-27 Student Board Member

M. Wittek, Director of Student Services, clarified an error on the agenda incorrectly listing S. Perez as Student Board Member for the meeting. She explained that her term as the 2025-26 Student Board Member ended on June 30, 2026, and that the newly elected 2026-27 Student Board Member will be elected today. She also recognized and thanked all student candidates from the Magnolia Science Academy (MSA) campuses - Sofia Perez (MSA-1), Ilemi Cordoba (MSA-2), and Kaylee Godoy (MSA-4) - for their participation and leadership throughout the election process. M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, congratulated all candidates for their participation and announced Ilemi Cordoba as the elected 2026-27 Student Board Member. Board Members thanked Sofia Perez for her service and contributions as the former Student Board Member and congratulated Ilemi Cordoba on her election, expressing enthusiasm on working together to support and improve Magnolia schools. Ilemi Cordoba expressed gratitude for the opportunity and shared excitement about serving and representing Magnolia students.

S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve Ilemi Cordoba as the Student Board Member for the upcoming school year. The terms of the service will be retroactive on July 1, 2026 and end on June 30, 2027.

S. Orazov seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

III. Closed Session

A. Public Announcement of Closed Session

M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, reported that the Board would be going into Closed Session to discuss the following: Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957) – CEO & Superintendent; Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (§ 54956.9):

1 case; and Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (§ 54956.9): 1 case. He stated that the Board would report out following Closed Session.

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

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

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

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

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

Item was discussed in Closed Session.

E. Report Out of Closed Session

At 8:53 p.m., the Board returned to Open Session. M. Muhammedov, Board Chair, reported that the Board took an action regarding the Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957) for the CEO & Superintendent, pending legal review. He further reported that no action was taken regarding the Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation (§ 54956.9), or the Conference with Legal Counsel, Anticipated Litigation (§ 54956.9). The Board provided direction to staff on both litigation matters.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of Charter Renewal Board Resolution for Magnolia Science Academy-6

A. Zarnich, Director of Charter Petitions and Reporting, presented the request for approval of the resolution authorizing the submission of Magnolia Science Academy 6's charter renewal petition to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).
S. Orazov made a motion to approve the board resolution that authorizes the filing of the Charter Renewal Petition with the Los Angeles Unified School District for Magnolia Science Academy 6, and give authority to the CEO & Superintendent to serve as the Lead Petitioner.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Charter Renewal Board Resolution for Magnolia Science Academy-7

A. Zarnich, Director of Charter Petitions and Reporting, presented the request for approval of the resolution authorizing the submission of Magnolia Science Academy 7's charter renewal petition to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).
S. Orazov made a motion to approve the board resolution that authorizes the filing of the Charter Renewal Petition with the Los Angeles Unified School District for Magnolia Science Academy 7, and give authority to the CEO & Superintendent to serve as the Lead Petitioner.
S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Charter Renewal Board Resolution for Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Ana

A. Zarnich, Director of Charter Petitions and Reporting, presented the request for approval of the resolution authorizing the submission of Magnolia Science Academy Santa Ana's charter renewal petition to the Santa Ana Unified School District. He also noted that Principal Stephen Keskinturk's last name had been misspelled in the original resolution and clarified the correct spelling for the record.
D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the board resolution that authorizes the filing of the Charter Renewal Petition with the Santa Ana Unified School District for Magnolia Science Academy Santa Ana, and give authority to the CEO & Superintendent to serve as the Lead Petitioner.
S. Orazov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approval of Board Resolution Accepting Los Angeles County Office of Education Conditions of Authorization for Magnolia Science Academy-5

A. Zarnich, Director of Charter Petitions and Reporting, presented the request for approval of the resolution accepting the Los Angeles County Office of Education's

conditions for Magnolia Science Academy 5's approved material revision and authorizing staff to complete the required follow-up actions.
S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve the board resolution accepting the terms of the Los Angeles County Office of Education ("LACOE") Conditions of Authorization for the Magnolia Science Academy 5 material revision, and authorize the CEO & Superintendent, or designee, to submit evidence of the Board's acceptance and take all steps necessary to satisfy the conditions.
S. Orazov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approval of the 2026–27 School Safety Plan for the New Magnolia Science Academy-5 Campus at 7111 Winnetka

M. Wittek, Director of Student Services, presented the updated 2026–2027 Comprehensive School Safety Plan for Magnolia Science Academy 5's new campus located at 7111 Winnetka Avenue. She explained that the Board had previously approved the safety plan for the Reseda location in February 2026, as the new campus plan was not yet complete. Since then, the plan had been updated to reflect the new facility, including revised emergency evacuation maps, additional members of the emergency crisis team, and other site-specific safety information.
S. Orazov made a motion to approve the revised School Safety Plan (SSP) for the 2026-27 school year for Magnolia Science Academy – 5 Winnetka, and for the Board of Directors to authorize the Director of Student Services to update the School Safety Plan with any updates that will need to be made as the campus is occupied and staff are hired. These updates are necessary to ensure compliance and maintain a safe, equitable environment for all students and staff.
D. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F.

Approval of Resolution to Approve a Merger of the Finance Committee and Audit/Facilities Committee into the Finance, Audit, Risk, and Facilities Committee, and Assign Membership

A. Rubalcaba, CEO and Superintendent, introduced the item and turned the presentation over to M. Muhammedov, Board Chair. M Muhammedov presented the proposed merger of the Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee into a single Audit, Finance, Facilities, and Risk Management Committee to improve efficiency. He also announced the proposed committee membership, with S. Orazov serving as Chair, M. Muhammedov and D. Gonzalez serving as committee members, and U. Yapanel serving as the alternate member.
S. Orazov made a motion to approve the Resolution approving the merger and dissolution of the Finance Committee and the Audit/Facilities Committee into the established Finance, Audit, Risk, and Facilities Committee, effective immediately, including the appointment of S. Orazov as Chair of the Committee; M. Muhammedov and D. Gonzalez as Committee members; and U. Yapanel as the alternate member.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approval of the 2026–27 Magnolia Public Schools Board Committee Meeting Calendar

A. Rubalcava, CEO and Superintendent, presented the proposed 2026–2027 Board Committee Meeting Calendar. He explained that following the Board's approval of the 2026–2027 Regular Board Meeting Calendar, staff worked with legal counsel, at the Board's direction, to develop a resolution merging the Finance Committee and the Audit and Facilities Committee into the Finance, Audit, Risk, and Facilities Committee. Because the restructuring affected the Board Committee Meeting Calendar, implementation had been deferred pending Board approval. The proposed calendar reflects the newly established committee and the meeting schedule for all Magnolia Public Schools standing Board committees.
S. Orazov made a motion to approve the 2026-27 MPS Board Committee Calendar.
U. Yapanel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Covarrubias	Aye
M. Muhammedov	Aye
S. Orazov	Aye

Roll Call

D. Gonzalez	Aye
S. Dikbas	Absent
U. Yapanel	Aye

H. Approval of the Required Three-Year Update to the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan

T. Lewin, Senior Director of Educational Services, presented the 2026–2027 Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) Plans for each Magnolia Public Schools campus. She explained that, as required by the California Department of Education, each school develops a comprehensive ELOP plan every three years outlining how services will be provided to eligible students. She noted that the plans were reviewed to ensure compliance with state requirements and to address the unique needs of each school site. Board approval was requested prior to submission to the California Department of Education to maintain compliance and continued eligibility for ELOP funding.
S. Covarrubias made a motion to approve the required three-year updates to the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) plan.
S. Orazov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Approval of the Adoption of Science Curriculum for Grades 3-8

T. Lewin, Senior Director of Educational Services, presented the recommendation of the Science Curriculum Adoption Committee to adopt the Amplify Science curriculum for grades 3 through 8. She explained that the recommendation followed a review of state-approved instructional materials, classroom pilot implementation, and teacher feedback to ensure alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Magnolia Public Schools' instructional goals. She noted that the recommendation applies only to grades 3 through 8, as the current curriculum will remain in place for lower elementary and high school. G. Serce, Chief Academic Officer, reviewed the budget implications and explained that implementation will be phased based on existing curriculum licenses, with additional funding for MSA 7 and MSA Santa Ana to be addressed during the First Interim Budget. Board members' questions regarding the high school curriculum, professional development, and implementation were addressed by staff.
D. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the adoption of Amplify Science as the science curriculum for grades 3-8.
S. Covarrubias seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

J. Approval of the Revised 2026-27 Budget for Magnolia Science Academy Orange County and Adoption of the 2026-27 Budget for Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation (MERF)

C. Turan, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the revised 2026–2027 budget for Magnolia Science Academy Orange County and the proposed 2026–2027 Magnolia Educational and Research Foundation (MERF) budget. He explained that the revised budget reflects the decision not to open MSA Irvine for the 2026–2027 school year due to unresolved facility challenges and instead includes only MSA Anaheim. He also presented the MERF budget for adoption, noting that it had not been included in the Board's June budget approval. Board members' questions regarding projected grant funding and the MERF budget deficit were addressed by staff. Staff also acknowledged the Board's request to continue evaluating the MERF budget and to work with the Finance Committee to identify opportunities to reduce the projected deficit.

S. Orazov made a motion to approve the revised 2026–27 budget for Magnolia Science Academy Orange County and adopt the 2026–27 budget for the Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation. The revised Magnolia Science Academy Orange County budget reflects the removal of MSA-Irvine due to facility challenges that prevented the school from opening for the 2026–27 school year.

U. Yapanel seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

K. Approval of Construction 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 Magnolia Science Academy 5 project located at 7111 Winnetka Avenue. He explained that the change orders, totaling $361,255.17, are related to scope refinement, unforeseen field conditions, and the transfer of work between contractors to improve project efficiency. He also noted that a future resolution will reflect the corresponding credit associated with the scope transfer. Board members' questions regarding the remaining construction contingency and anticipated future change orders were addressed by staff.

M. Muhammedov made a motion to approve the proposed construction change orders submitted by the prime contractors, Del Amo Construction and Pro-Craft Construction for the Magnolia Science Academy-5 project located at 7111 Winnetka Ave (the “Project”), in a total net amount not to exceed Three Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Five and 17/100 Dollars ($361,255.17).

S. Orazov seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

V. 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 9:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Muhammedov