APPROVED

AMPS
AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amethod Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors

Date and Time
Thursday March 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location
1450 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804

The Board of Directors (Board) and employees of Amethod Public Schools will be holding this meeting in person at **1450 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804.**

Members of the public who wish to attend in person can join us in the Home Office's Board Room at 1450 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804. Or members of the public may meet via the Zoom meeting platform at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83187954557

We also offer two-way teleconference locations for the public to attend in our Oakland school sites:
Oakland Charter High School- 2365 Coolidge Ave, Oakland, CA 94601
Downtown Charter Academy- 2000 Dennison St, Oakland, CA 94606
Oakland Charter Academy- 4215 Foothill Blvd, Oakland, CA 94601

Participating by Telephone: 669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 831 8795 4557

Public Comment: Members of the public attending in person who wish to comment on an agenda item please fill out a speaker card and submit it to a staff member. Members of the public who are joining via teleconference, please use raise hand tool in the reactions tab located at the bottom of the zoom screen or press star (*) nine if joining by telephone. The Board Chair will call on you. Please note that comments are limited to two minutes. The Board Chair may increase or decrease

the time allowed for public comment, depending upon the topic and number of persons wishing to be heard.

Access to Board Materials: A copy of the written materials which have been submitted to the School Board with the agenda relating to open session items may be reviewed by any interested persons on the Amethod Public School's website at www.amethodschools.org following the posting of the agenda. Amethod reserves the right to show or distribute additional information and/or documents to the School Board at the meeting, and will make copies of such documents relating to open session items available to the public upon request.

Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting by calling (510) 436-0172. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

Directors Present
E. Quiroz, J. Lerma, M. Moncada, P. Hanley

Directors Absent
E. Gallegos, G. Lopez Jr.

Guests Present
A. Barnes, D. Clark, G. Barriga, K. Palmore, M. Arechiga, M. Busby

---

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

B. Record Attendance

C. Announcements

No Announcements

D. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

II. Consent

A. Approval of 2/25/2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

M. Moncada made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors on 02-25-25.

J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Quiroz	Aye
E. Gallegos	Absent
M. Moncada	Aye
J. Lerma	Aye
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent

B. Review and Consideration of Approval of the Audit Firm Selection

M. Moncada made a motion to approve the selection of the independent audit firm for 25/26.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Hanley	Aye
E. Gallegos	Absent
E. Quiroz	Aye
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
M. Moncada	Aye
J. Lerma	Aye

C. Review and Consideration of Approval of the February Check Register

M. Moncada made a motion to Approval of the February Check Register.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Gallegos	Absent
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
M. Moncada	Aye
E. Quiroz	Aye
J. Lerma	Aye

III. Business

A. Nominating Committee: Nomination/Presentation

The Nominating Committee provided an update, stating that they conducted an interview with Peter Hanley regarding potential appointment to the AMPS Board.

B. Interview and Consideration of Approval of New Board Member

M. Moncada made a motion to Approval of New Board Member.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.

The Nominating Committee presented Peter Hanley for consideration as a new board member. The committee provided a summary of Mr. Hanley's qualifications and experience, noting his previous service on the AMPS Board, including through the JHHS renewal process, resulting in a total AMPS experience of approximately six and a half years. Additionally, the committee emphasized his twenty years of service with the San Mateo Union High School District. Mr. Hanley expressed his enthusiasm to contribute his experience to the board, particularly regarding upcoming renewals. The board was offered the opportunity to ask questions, but no questions were presented.

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

Roll Call

E. Quiroz	Aye
E. Gallegos	Absent
J. Lerma	Aye
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
M. Moncada	Aye

C. Review and Discussion of BoardOnTrack Needs Assessment

Edgar Quiroz, Board President, presented the 2024-2025 Board On Track Needs Assessment, utilizing a slideshow to guide the discussion. He outlined the "Steps of Excellence" framework, indicating that the AMPS Board is currently operating at Level 3, the intermediate level. He highlighted areas identified for growth, namely board structure, recruitment roadmap, development and fundraising, and education. Mr. Quiroz then detailed the action plan that has been developed in collaboration with Gina, Senior Governance Coach for the Board On Track Platform.

D. 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook

M. Moncada made a motion to Table 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The 2024-25 Updated Employee Handbook was tabled for review and discussion at the next meeting.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Lerma	Aye
M. Moncada	Aye
P. Hanley	Aye
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
E. Gallegos	Absent
E. Quiroz	Aye

E. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan (OCA)

M. Moncada made a motion to Approve the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan (OCA).
J. Lerma seconded the motion.

Phillip Ellingberg, Director of Expanded Learning Programs, presented the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan for OCA, detailing the proposed budget breakdown. He highlighted the merit store, which serves as a student incentive program, and outlined the costs associated with elective courses. Edgar Quiroz noted that the projected expenditures for this year are lower than those of the previous year, a point that Mr. Ellingberg confirmed. Kimberly Palmore attributed this reduction to the increased number of participating schools, which effectively lowers the per-school allocation. Monica Moncada inquired about the qualifications of the instructors. Mr. Ellingberg responded that the school employs a vetting process to ensure instructors possess relevant experience. He acknowledged that while he is not an expert in instructor qualifications himself, he is confident in the school's selection process. Mary Busby, Chief Academic Officer (CAO), acknowledged the importance of instructor qualifications and stated that she will implement pre- and post-surveys to gather data and further evaluate instructor effectiveness.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Lerma	Aye
E. Gallegos	Absent
P. Hanley	Abstain
E. Quiroz	Aye
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
M. Moncada	Aye

F. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan (DCA)

M. Moncada made a motion to Approve the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan (DCA).
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
Phillip Ellingberg presented the 2025-26 Measure G1 Plan for DCA, outlining the proposed budget breakdown. Peter Hanley inquired about the nature of G1 funding. Dr. Ellingberg clarified that it is funding allocated for arts, music, and other elective programs. The allocated grant amount for the upcoming year is $104,649. Metrics for the program were presented. The funding expenditure is focused on fostering a positive and safe school culture, tailored to the needs of the student demographics served. Monica Moncada questioned the inclusion of field trips. Dr. Ellingberg explained that field trips to museums or theater shows are planned, with destinations typically determined by site leaders in collaboration with students.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
J. Lerma	Aye
E. Quiroz	Aye
M. Moncada	Aye
P. Hanley	Abstain
E. Gallegos	Absent

G. Review and Consideration of Approval of the Reservation of right to leave the CharterSafe JPA as of July 1, 2025

M. Moncada made a motion to Approve the Reservation of right to leave the CharterSafe JPA as of July 1, 2025.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board discussed the renewal of the CharterSafe Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement. It was clarified that while the AMPS Board will still submit its application to CharterSafe, this action includes reserving the right to withdraw from the JPA as of July 1, 2025, should a more favorable insurance or risk management option become available. This reservation allows the board to explore alternative providers and ensure AMPS secures the best possible deal.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Lerma	Aye
E. Gallegos	Absent
M. Moncada	Aye
P. Hanley	Aye
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
E. Quiroz	Aye

H. Review and Consideration of Approval of Health & Welfare Benefits

M. Moncada made a motion to Approve the Health & Welfare Benefits.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
Adrienne Barnes, CEO, reviewed the benefit renewal plans. She reported that both Kaiser and Sutter plans experienced increases: 21% for Kaiser and 4% for Sutter. Updated employee and dependent contribution rates were presented. Peter Hanley inquired about the cause of the significant Kaiser increase. Ms. Barnes explained that the increase was across the board.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Hanley	Abstain
E. Quiroz	Aye
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
J. Lerma	Aye
M. Moncada	Aye
E. Gallegos	Absent

I. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements

Edgar Quiroz clarified that the audit reports and financial statement presented were drafts and not the final copies. Kimberly Palmore presented the 2023-2024 draft audit. She reviewed the audit by Christy White, the independent audit firm, discussing revenue and expenses. Ms. Palmore reported that AMPS was found to be in compliance with

applicable regulations. She then covered the auditor's results, findings, and recommendations for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Due to the findings, a plan will be developed to prevent recurrence. Ms. Palmore will present the final audit document at the next meeting. Adrienne Barnes informed the board that changes are already being implemented to address the findings. A tentative special meeting date was set for either Thursday, March 27th or Monday, March 24th. No vote was taken at this meeting.

J. Review and Consideration of Approval of the 2025-26 School Calendar

J. Lerma made a motion to Approve the 2025-26 School Calendar.
P. Hanley seconded the motion.
Maria Arechiga, Chief of Strategy and Compliance, presented the proposed 2025-2026 school calendar. She explained the start and end dates, and detailed the scheduled days off and professional development days. Peter Hanley inquired about the summer school schedule, and Ms. Arechiga provided the relevant dates. She confirmed that the calendar reflects 180 instructional days.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Quiroz	Aye
J. Lerma	Aye
E. Gallegos	Absent
P. Hanley	Aye
G. Lopez Jr.	Absent
M. Moncada	Aye

K. Acting CEO Report

Adrienne Barnes, CEO, presented her report. She provided updates on the OCHS and RCA renewal dates. She expressed gratitude to Peter Hanley, Jorge Lerma, and Edgar Quiroz for their support during the OCHS renewal process. Regarding RCA, she noted that the initial public hearing has been repeatedly rescheduled, with the current date set for March 26th. She reported that the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for leadership has been implemented, and the CAP for governance is underway as the board expands to six members. The CAP for finance is progressing, with contracts being finalized and on track for implementation. Ms. Barnes provided several updates: the CCSA conference recently concluded, authorizer site visits are scheduled for BJE, DCA, and OCA, and spring break for all school sites will be from March 31st to April 4th.

IV. Closed Session

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

The board acknowledged the resignation of CEO Sylvia Flores, effective March 31, 2025. The board agreed to initiate the search process for a new CEO immediately.

B.

Public Employee Discipline/Dimissal/Release

No reportable actions.

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 8:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Quiroz

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE. *Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.* ***REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY.*** *The Governing Board's presiding officer reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.* ***REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.*** *Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Governing Board may request assistance by contacting the Amethod Public School Inc., 1450 Marina Way South Second Floor. Richmond, CA 94804; telephone, (510) 436-0172 gbarriga@amethodschools.org.* ***FOR MORE INFORMATION.*** *For more information concerning this agenda, please contact Amethod Public Schools Main Administration, 1450 Marina Way South Second Floor. Richmond, CA 94804; telephone, (510) 436-0172; Email: gbarriga@amethodschools.org*