APPROVED

AMPS
AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amethod Public Schools

Minutes

Special Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors

Date and Time
Wednesday September 24, 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:
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 Board of Directors 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 may distribute additional information and/or documents to the Board of Directors after the agenda is posted and at the meeting; these items and the full Board packet are available for inspection in the AMPS Board Room (located at 1450 Marina Way S, Richmond, CA 94804) and during the meeting. Any documents distributed to the Board of Directors during the meeting will be posted on the website Agenda following the meeting.

Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 72 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
D. Leung, J. Lerma, L. Martinez, M. DiGiorgio, P. Hanley, R. Ornelas

Directors Absent
None

Guests Present
A. Barnes, M. Arechiga, M. Busby (remote), Marisol Magana (remote), S. Li, Shameka Henderson

---

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

R. Ornelas called a meeting of the board of directors of Amethod Public Schools to order on Wednesday Sep 24, 2025 at 6:04 PM.

B. Record Attendance

Vice Chair Margie arrived at 6:10pm.

C. Announcements

Adrienne, CEO, announced that AMPS received five Families in Action Awards last week.

DCA was recognized with four awards for excellence in math and ELA readiness, specifically highlighting progress among English learners, African American students, and low-income students. OCHS received an award for achieving 100% A-G readiness, meaning all graduating students met the college-preparatory course requirements. She mentioned the state has voted against the appeal, and OCHS will proceed with its closure.

Board member Peter requested for an update on special education services.

D. Approval of the Agenda

D. Leung made a motion to approve the Agenda.
L. Martinez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. DiGiorgio	Absent
P. Hanley	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye
L. Martinez	Aye
J. Lerma	Aye

E. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Elly, a new substitute teacher, gave a shoutout to the outstanding work being done by the RCA teachers and staff.

II. Consent

A. Approval of 08/28/2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

M. DiGiorgio made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors on 08-28-25.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Lerma	Aye
M. DiGiorgio	Aye
L. Martinez	Aye
P. Hanley	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye

III. Closed Session

A.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

The board returned from closed session at 7:16pm and there were no reportable actions.

IV. Business

A. Review and Consideration of Approval of Revised Family Handbook

Maria, Chief of Staff presented the revised family handbook for board approval, noting that it had previously come before the board on June 30th. She explained that only minimal changes were made, primarily to correct typos. The most significant update appears on page 21, where the dress code policy was revised in response to parent feedback. Previously, students were only permitted to wear black or white shoes, but parents expressed concerns about the difficulty of finding affordable shoes in those colors. As a result, the policy was updated to allow gray and other neutral-colored shoes. Additionally, the revised policy now permits small amounts of color on shoe logos, such as a small red accent, as long as it is purposeful and minimal. Other changes in the handbook include clarification regarding early dismissal times. For example, a standard dismissal time of 1:30pm, while allowing schools the flexibility to adjust that schedule as needed.

Board Chair Rodolfo and Board Member Liz recommended that the staff be more specific about logo size and provide exact measurements to define what constitutes a 'small' logo.

Board member Liz pointed out a discrepancy between the attendance policies on pages 5 and 9 of the handbook. Page 5 outlines strict requirements for students to contact teachers about missed work, which could be misinterpreted as applying to all absences. However, page 9 clarifies, in alignment with the Education Code, that students with excused absences are allowed an equal amount of time to make up work. She suggested either amending page 5 to specify that the stricter guidelines apply only to unexcused absences or moving the clarification from page 9 earlier in the handbook to avoid confusion.

Board member Peter and Board Chair Rodolfo raised a concern about unclear language in the handbook, specifically a sentence stating that staff work traditional school hours but are also expected to support "a different type of public school program." He asked for clarification on what that phrase means, suggesting the wording may be vague or confusing.

Board member Peter noted that the handbook repeatedly emphasizes the role of families in supporting student success, not by doing the work for their children, but by creating conditions that help them succeed, such as ensuring they do their homework, have a quiet space to study, and attend school regularly. He pointed out that this level of family involvement goes beyond what is typically expected or stated in traditional public school handbooks.

L. Martinez made a motion to approve Revised Family Handbook with edits to specifying logo size and edits to the attendance policy.
R. Ornelas seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Hanley	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
M. DiGiorgio	Aye
J. Lerma	Abstain
L. Martinez	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye

B. Review and Consideration of Approval of Revised Employee Handbook

Shameka, HR Consultant explained that the handbook was initially presented earlier in the year but was awaiting legal review. Since then, attorneys have reviewed it and made updates to reflect new laws and regulatory changes.
D. Leung made a motion to approve Revised Employee Handbook.
M. DiGiorgio seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Hanley	Aye
L. Martinez	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
J. Lerma	Aye
M. DiGiorgio	Aye

C. Review and Consideration of Approval of Resolution of the Board of Directors of Amethod Public Schools Establishing Board Committees

Board Chair Rodolfo stated that now that the board is fully staffed, it's time to formally establish board committees. He proposed creating an Executive Committee, Financial Oversight Committee, Academic Oversight Committee, and Bylaws Review Committee. This aligns with recommendations from the board retreat and a consultant. He emphasized including “oversight” in committee names to reinforce the board’s role and suggested the Bylaws Committee should conduct a comprehensive review to ensure the bylaws continue to meet the organization’s needs.
D. Leung made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Board of Directors of Amethod Public Schools Establishing Board Committees.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Hanley	Aye

Roll Call

D. Leung	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye
M. DiGiorgio	Aye
L. Martinez	Aye
J. Lerma	Aye

D. Review and Consideration of Approval of Appointment of Treasurer of the Board

Board member Davis asked for clarification on whether the treasurer role is intended to be filled by a staff member rather than a board member.

Adrienne, CEO explained that the treasurer role was previously held by Kimberly, who has since resigned. The treasurer duties have temporarily defaulted to her, but she cannot take on the role.

Board Chair Rodolfo stated that this will be a temporary solution until a Director of Finance is hired to assume the treasurer role. He also requested clarification on the treasurer's responsibilities under these unique circumstances.
R. Ornelas made a motion to pull this item and reconvene at the next regular board meeting.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Lerma	Aye
P. Hanley	Aye
M. DiGiorgio	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye
L. Martinez	Aye

E. Review and Consideration of Approval of Appointment of Secretary of the Board

Adrienne, CEO stated that she has been holding the board secretary position and recommended appointing Sally as the new board secretary instead.
R. Ornelas made a motion to appoint Sally as the Secretary of the Board.
L. Martinez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Lerma	Aye
P. Hanley	Aye
L. Martinez	Aye
M. DiGiorgio	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye

F. Review and Consideration of Approval of Richmond Charter Academy MOU

Adrienne, CEO reported that the MOU was recently approved by the Contra Costa County Board of Education. She noted that it follows the county's standard template with a few adjustments in Schedule B for RCA, and staff is recommending it for board approval.
M. DiGiorgio made a motion to approve Richmond Charter Academy MOU.
P. Hanley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Lerma	Aye
M. DiGiorgio	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
P. Hanley	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye
L. Martinez	Aye

G. AB 1234 Ethics Training (including Brown Act)- Continued

Kaela Haydu from YMC resumes AB 1234 Ethics Training.

10/16/2025 meeting minutes amendments: All board members and home office staff have completed their Ethics and Brown Act Training and have received certificates of completion from YM&C.

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 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Ornelas

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 sallyli@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: sallyli@amethodschools.org*