APPROVED

AMPS
AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amethod Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors

Date and Time
Thursday October 16, 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

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
L. Martinez

Guests Present
A. Barnes, M. Arechiga, M. Busby, S. Li

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 Thursday Oct 16, 2025 at 6:03 PM.

B. Record Attendance

L. Martinez arrived at 6:06 PM.

C. Announcements

No announcements.

D. Approval of the Agenda

Adrienne, CEO proposed to remove Business II item G. Review and Consideration of Approval of Acacia Partners Contract from the agenda.
R. Ornelas made a motion to strike Business II item G. from the agenda and to approve the agenda.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments.

II. Consent

A. Approval of August Check Registers

P. Hanley made a motion to pull the 09/24/2025 board meeting minutes from the consent agenda for further review and to approve all other consent agenda items.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Approval of September Check Registers

III. Business I

A. Approval of 09/24/2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Board member Peter suggested amending the minutes for Business Item G to reflect that all Board members and home office leadership staff have completed the Ethics Training including Brown Act and have received their certificates.

Board member Jorge noted that he completed his Ethics Training including Brown Act earlier today, as he was not present for part 1 of the training during the August 28, 2025 Board meeting.
R. Ornelas made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments to the Special Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors on 09-24-25.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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

B. Benito Juarez Elementary Hispanic Heritage Wax Museum Presentation

Dr. Walker, Principal of BJE, introduced the Hispanic Heritage Wax Museum presentation. Dean Galindo, Dean Azor, first-grade teacher Ms. Lewis, and third-grade teacher Ms. Castellanos highlighted the projects their students created for the event. Students presented influential figures such as Frida Kahlo, Franklin Chang-Díaz, Roberto Clemente, Emiliano Zapata and many more.

Board member Jorge praised the presentation but suggested reconsidering the use of the term "Hispanic", as it centers Spanish while overlooking the diverse Indigenous languages and cultures of the Americas. He encouraged the staff to use more inclusive language that better reflects the multicultural and multilingual backgrounds of the students.

Board member Davis and Board Chair Rodolfo expressed appreciation for the students and all those involved in the project, recognizing their work and dedication.

IV. Closed Session

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

The board reconvened from closed session at 7:56pm and there were no reportable actions.

V. Business II

A. Review and Consideration of Approval of Downtown Charter Material Revision

P. Hanley made a motion to postpone this item to the 10/21/2025 special board meeting for further review.
R. Ornelas seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Review and Consideration of Approval of Revised Independent Study Policy

Mary, Sr. Director of Student Services and Special Education shared the revised Independent Study Policy, with minor updates to clarify language and expectations. The focus is on short-term independent study (up to 15 days), primarily for medical or mental health-related absences (not vacations) and now requires coordination with the Student Services Director and proper documentation, including a Master Service Agreement.
D. Leung made a motion to approve Revised Independent Study Policy.
L. Martinez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Review and Consideration of Approval of Annual Compliance Requirements

Maria, Chief of Staff shared the Annual Compliance Requirements for John Henry High School. She explained that the document is an annual governance and compliance requirement for all charter schools authorized by the State Board of Education (SBE). She collaborated with three departments to gather the necessary supporting materials. The document has been reviewed internally and they are now seeking board approval.

Board member Peter mentioned the link in item 16 is broken.

Maria said the link is tied to the CDE's website but she has provided screenshots of the requirements met which are included in the complete packet.
D. Leung made a motion to approve Annual Compliance Requirements.
M. DiGiorgio seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. DiGiorgio	Aye
D. Leung	Aye

Roll Call

L. Martinez	Aye
R. Ornelas	Aye
J. Lerma	Aye
P. Hanley	Aye

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

Adrienne, CEO recommended Maria Arechiga to be the Treasurer of the Board
R. Ornelas made a motion to appoint Maria Arechiga to Treasurer of the Board.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Review and Consideration of Approval of Application to Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Adrienne, CEO stated that AMPS wants to join the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and noted that the application requires notification to the board if they decide to leave. Therefore, she is seeking approval from the board first. She emphasized that joining is a great opportunity to engage with the community and the membership fee is $300.
P. Hanley made a motion to approve Application to Richmond Chamber of Commerce.
L. Martinez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Review and Consideration of Approval of Cengage Invoices

Adrienne, CEO requested board approval for Cengage invoices, which were technically quotes but exceeded her signing authority. She also asked for an additional $10,000 to cover one-off materials needed for new students, aiming to avoid returning to the board for each individual purchase. She clarified that the request was for core curriculum materials.

Vice Chair Margie asked for clarification on the curriculum.

Mary, Sr. Director of Student Services and Special Education shared Cengage is the ELD curriculum and the National Geographic curriculum that was adopted last year. This is just a re-up order.
D. Leung made a motion to approve Cengage Invoices.
L. Martinez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Review and Consideration of Approval of Acacia Partners Contract

Item was removed from the agenda.

H. Review and Consideration of Approval of Joyce Montgomery Contract

Adrienne, CEO shared that Joyce Montgomery has been assisting with cleaning up the organization's financial records since June 2024. Following the recent departure of the Director of Finance, she asked Joyce to take on additional responsibilities in the finance department. Until a permanent hire could be secured, she is requesting to increase Joyce's hours. Although her specific contract was not budgeted for, the position itself was, making this an offset. She proposed a cap of $150,000 for this arrangement.

Board member Peter asked whether there is a plan in place to fill the Director of Finance vacancy and whether the organization has considered engaging a search firm.

Adrienne responded that the position has been posted for some time, but there have been few qualified candidates. She has considered using a search firm but has not decided to hire a search firm at this time.

Board Chair Rodolfo shared that he had spoken with other CMO leaders who are experiencing similar challenges in hiring for finance roles. Even those who engaged search firms saw little success. He noted that many candidates are currently seeking fractional CFO roles rather than full-time positions. After reviewing job postings on various platforms, he confirmed that this is a widespread issue.
L. Martinez made a motion to approve Joyce Montgomery Contract.
P. Hanley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Review and Consideration of Approval of Get Empowered MOU for Richmond Charter Academy

Adrienne, CEO, presented the MOU for Richmond Charter Academy, noting that the vendor also provides after-school and ELOP services for both DCA and OCA. While the vendor has previously worked with RCA, this MOU represents a new contract, which includes summer programming for students. She requested board approval for funding up to $200,000 across AMPS to cover these services, similar to the earlier Cengage approval. Adrienne clarified that the amount is budgeted and will be funded through ASES, ELOP, and Measure G1 funds.

Board member Peter noted a typo on page 7.

Board member Jorge asked about the level of satisfaction and feedback from staff and students regarding the programs.

Adrienne responded that she had received positive feedback, which is why Get Empowered is being brought back.
R. Ornelas made a motion to approve Get Empowered MOU for Richmond Charter Academy pending edits to the typo in the MOU.
M. DiGiorgio seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

J. CEO Report

Adrienne, CEO highlighted continued collaboration among principals and senior leaders through Lead Liberated, fostering a strong sense of community and support. She noted progress with the Raise the Bar awards and work with a governance coach as part of their corrective action plan. The leadership team attended the CSDC conference, gaining valuable insights alongside other charter leaders. Upcoming events include a trustee tour

at Richmond Charter Academy, and Instructional walkthroughs are upcoming at both Oakland and Richmond schools. Adrienne addressed significant traffic and safety concerns near the Richmond campus, noting internal improvements and an upcoming external study to optimize traffic flow in coordination with the city. She closed by emphasizing the ongoing commitment to cultivating an anti-racist learning culture with support from Lead Liberated, thanking the board for their backing.

Board member Liz expressed gratitude for the efforts in putting the information together and for the ongoing communication. She acknowledged the heavy workload and recognized the effort being made to fulfill expectations.

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 8:23 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*