APPROVED

AMPS
AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Amethod Public Schools

# Minutes

## Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors

**Date and Time**
Monday December 15, 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

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**Directors Present**
D. Leung, J. Lerma, L. Martinez, M. DiGiorgio

**Directors Absent**
P. Hanley, R. Ornelas

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

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Call the Meeting to Order

M. DiGiorgio called a meeting of the board of directors of Amethod Public Schools to order on Monday Dec 15, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

### B. Record Attendance

### C. Announcements

No announcements.

### 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**

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

### E. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments.

## II. Consent

### A. Approval of 12/01/2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

D. Leung made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors on 12-01-25.
L. Martinez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## III. Closed Session

### A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

M. DiGiorgio made a motion to move into Closed Session.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

The board reconvened from closed session at 6:28pm and there were no reportable actions.

## IV. Business I

### A. Alder Presentation- Teacher Residency Program

Elise Darwish, who has a background with Aspire Public Schools, presented a proposal for a Teacher Residency Program at AMPS to address California's teacher shortage in critical areas like special education, math, science, and bilingual education. This program pairs residents with experienced AMPS mentors to earn both a teaching credential and a Master's in Education while receiving a stipend. In exchange, participants commit to teaching at an AMPS school for four years. The program, which aims to diversify the teacher pipeline by recruiting from within the community, would partner with Alder Graduate School of Education and be funded through a five-year state grant.

Board member Liz expressed concerns regarding the sustainability of the teacher residency program based on her previous experiences. She highlighted two significant challenges: the general difficulty of finding enough qualified mentors and a high correlation between ideal mentor candidates and those who are already overextended as teacher leaders or club advisors. This overlap created a capacity issue that ultimately made it difficult to provide a high-quality experience for the residents. Liz asked how they plan to address these potential capacity challenges to ensure the program remains sustainable and effective at AMPS.

Elise explained that the program is initially requesting funding for only six residents, primarily because the availability of qualified mentors is the limiting factor. Currently, there are 14 teachers within AMPS who meet the necessary criteria of having a clear credential and at least three years of teaching experience. The plan is to recruit mentors from this existing pool while utilizing the upcoming planning year to hire additional qualified staff. Furthermore, the grant provides flexibility by allowing funds to be rolled over for up to four years, effectively extending the program to a fifth year if the school is unable to secure enough mentors or residents in a given period.

Vice Chair Margie asked about the recruitment efforts for teacher candidates.

Elise outlined a tiered recruitment strategy for the teacher residency program based on Alder's successful model. The primary focus is on internal and local recruitment, starting with current paraprofessionals and instructional aides before reaching out to the broader community. The strategy also involves partnering with local nonprofit organizations, followed by traditional outreach through job boards, career fairs, and college recruitment.

### B. Review and Consideration of Approval of Board Resolution for Increasing Teaching Diversity

Elise Darwish introduces a board resolution aimed at increasing the diversity of the teacher workforce. The resolution serves as a formal statement of the board's support for cultivating a more diverse group of educators.
D. Leung made a motion to Approve Board Resolution for Increasing Teaching Diversity.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## C. Review and Consideration of Approval of Oakland Charter High School Asset Relocation

Adrienne, CEO addressed the closure of Oakland Charter High School due to its non-renewal. She explained that there is a significant amount of inventory and assets remaining on the campus that the administration wishes to redistribute among the other AMPS schools. Adrienne noted that Ms. Magana has coordinated with teams across the organization to develop a comprehensive inventory list and a distribution plan. She requested board approval to officially move these assets to the other campuses.
D. Leung made a motion to Approve Oakland Charter High School Asset Relocation.
L. Martinez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## D. Review and Consideration of Approval of Oakland Charter High School Closure Appointee

Adrienne, CEO recommended Kelly Le to be the school closure appointee.
L. Martinez made a motion to Appoint Kelly Le as the Oakland Charter High School Closure Appointee.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| P. Hanley | Absent |
| R. Ornelas | Absent |

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| M. DiGiorgio | Aye |
| L. Martinez | Aye |
| J. Lerma | Aye |
| D. Leung | Aye |

## E. Review and Consideration of Approval of John Henry High School Grad Night Proposal

Mary, Senior Director of Student Services and Special Education presented the John Henry High School Grad Night Proposal, to celebrate the seniors' achievement and strengthen the school community. Because it is an overnight trip to Disneyland it required formal board approval. She noted that the trip would be supervised by chaperones and at least one school administrator.

Board member Liz asked for the fundraising plans for the Grad Night trip. She observed that while the proposal mentioned several events, it only listed two, both of which involved selling World's Finest Chocolate. Liz asked for clarification on whether additional fundraising activities were planned and how the school had traditionally handled these costs in the past.

Mary explains that the student government is actively involved in fundraising, having previously organized activities such as selling hot chocolate. She notes that 90% of the students who wish to attend Grad Night have already paid. Because of this high level of upfront payment and consistent student-led fundraising efforts, she anticipates that the school will have very little overhead cost for the trip this year.

Board member Liz asked about the process for identifying students classified as foster youth or homeless. Her primary concern was to ensure that these students are not required to pay for the Grad Night trip. She asked if the designated appointee for foster youth had performed a check to confirm no eligible students would be charged. Mary said there are no identified seniors.
D. Leung made a motion to Approve John Henry High School Grad Night Proposal.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## F. Review and Consideration of Approval to Revise Board Meeting Calendar 2025-26

Adrienne, CEO recommends revising the January and May 2026 board meeting dates and asked the board to check if they'll be available. She suggested changing the January 15th regular board meeting to January 28th for the Audit Report and May 21st regular meeting to May 14th to approve COLA and at-will agreements for the 26-27 school year.
D. Leung made a motion to Approve Revising the Board Meeting Calendar 2025-26.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

## V. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

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

**Roll Call**

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. DiGiorgio

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***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*