APPROVED

AMPS
AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amethod Public Schools

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors

Date and Time
Thursday August 13, 2026 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 at our Oakland school site:
Downtown Charter Academy- 2000 Dennison St, Oakland, CA 94606

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, R. Ornelas

Directors Absent
None

Guests Present
A. Barnes, M. Arechiga, M. Busby, M. Magana, 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 Aug 13, 2026 at 6:01 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Announcements

No announcements.

D. Approval of the Agenda

R. Ornelas made a motion to move Business Item E. Review and Consideration of Approval of Employee Benefits Plan 2026-2027 as the first item of business, before closed session.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments.

II. Consent

A. Approval of 06/11/2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

M. DiGiorgio made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting of the AMPS Board of Directors on 06-11-26.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

III. Business

A. Review and Consideration of Approval of Employee Benefits Plan 2026-2027

Cory Fulton from NAVA Benefits provided an update on the benefit plan renewals for Amethod Public Schools for the upcoming plan year beginning September 1st. All plans were renewed with the existing carriers, but to mitigate substantial price hikes, including an initial 6.8% increase by Kaiser and 29.8% by Sutter, Amethod decided to balance the rate hike by reducing its HRA deductible funding in half starting January 1st. By reducing this HRA funding, NAVA negotiated the overall cumulative renewal increase to +5.3%, which is well below the typical 8%-12% industry trend. Despite these changes, the contribution strategy remains steady, with Amethod continuing to cover 100% of employee-only premiums while splitting the remaining increase proportionally across dependent tiers.
L. Martinez made a motion to approve Employee Benefits Plan 2026-2027.

M. DiGiorgio seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. Closed Session

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

The board resumed from closed session at 7:27pm and there were no reportable actions.

V. Business

A. Review and Consideration of Approval of Provisional Internship Permits (PIP) Public Notice

Sally, HR Coordinator presented a document to the Board seeking approval for Provisional Internship Permits for certificated personnel. She explained that these permits signify that the organization thoroughly searched for fully credentialed or intern teachers before hiring. The document lists the specific employees and subject areas slated to be signed for RCA, DCA, and John Henry High School.
D. Leung made a motion to Approve Provisional Internship Permits (PIP) Public Notice.
M. DiGiorgio seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Review and Consideration of Approval of Revised Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators (CL-500) for DCA

Sally presented a small revision to the Declaration of Need for Downtown Charter Academy. She requested board approval for a GELAP in math for a newly hired STEM teacher. Although the teacher is already fully credentialed in science, the permit is needed to ensure compliance while she works on completing her math CSET exams to obtain full math authorization.

Board Chair Rodolfo requested for progress updates.

L. Martinez made a motion to Approve Revised Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators (CL-500) for DCA.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Review and Consideration of Approval of Updated Fiscal Policies and Procedures

Adrienne, CEO presented updates to the fiscal policies and procedures, highlighting a provision regarding school-level cash management. Specifically, on page 19, she requested a change to the employment agreement approval level for the board, shifting the threshold requirement from a specific dollar amount to C-level employment agreements.
D. Leung made a motion to Approve Updated Fiscal Policies and Procedures.
M. DiGiorgio seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Review and Consideration of Approval of Employment Agreements 2026-2027 for M. Arechiga, M. Busby, and M. Magana

Adrienne suggested amending the agenda item in light of the board's prior approval of item C. She requested the board's review and consideration of approval for employment agreements for Ms. Arechiga (Chief Operating Officer) and Ms. Busby (Chief Academic Officer).
M. DiGiorgio made a motion to Approve Employment Agreements 2026-2027 for M. Arechiga and M. Busby.
R. Ornelas seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Review and Consideration of Approval of MS Custom Painting Change Order

Marisol, Senior Director of Operations presented a change order for the MS Custom Painting contract covering Downtown Charter Academy, John Henry High School, and Richmond Charter Academy. While the initial contract approved in June focused primarily on classrooms, additional needs have come up as school prepares to start, including the need for paint in other educational spaces and touch-ups. She requested approval for this expanded scope, along with an additional $10,000 contingency for potential future scope changes, bringing the additional requested spend to $47,000 (raising the total contract do-not-exceed limit to $168,750).

Board member Liz asked for a timeline of when the work will be completed.

Marisol stated the remaining work will be completed over the weekend and anticipates completion in the coming weeks.
D. Leung made a motion to Approve MS Custom Painting Change Order with a do not exceed amount of $168,750.
J. Lerma seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

F. Review and Consideration of Approval of Garfias Flooring Change Order

Marisol presented a request regarding the Garfias Flooring change order for Downtown Charter Academy. While previous flooring work focused primarily on common spaces and the former preschool area, summer deep cleaning and an inspection revealed that several classroom carpets could not be adequately restored and need to be replaced. She requested board approval to upgrade the flooring in these classrooms, noting that the installation would take place over weekends or school breaks so as not to disrupt school starting.
D. Leung made a motion to Approve Garfias Flooring Change Order.
R. Ornelas seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Review and Consideration of Approval of Celebrations Speech Group Master Contract

Mary, CAO presented the contract for Celebration Speech Group, explaining that they are the contracted vendor providing Speech and Language Pathologists and speech-language pathology assistants across all four Amethod Public School sites to deliver direct speech services to students.
R. Ornelas made a motion to Approve Celebrations Speech Group Master Contract.
L. Martinez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Review and Consideration of Approval of Get Empowered Master Purchase Order

Adrienne presented a proposal to streamline contracting with Get Empowered, an organization that provides after-school, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, and summer programming. Rather than bringing multiple individual MOUs as was done in previous years, she requested board approval for a master purchase order with a not-to-exceed limit of $250,000.
M. DiGiorgio made a motion to Approve Get Empowered Master Purchase Order with a not to exceed amount of $250,000.
R. Ornelas seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. AMPS Summer Update

Adrienne presented an update on staff recognition, sharing that employee service awards were handed out for 1 year, 3 year, 5 year, and 10 year milestones, and presented the board members with 1 year service pins to thank them for their dedication.

Marisol presented the current enrollment numbers, noting that most schools are very close to meeting their budgeted targets, with high school showing a slight increase. The high school team is actively monitoring incoming students to ensure projected figures translate to actual attendance by tracking orientation attendance and uniform pick-ups.

Additionally, Amethod is running targeted Facebook and Google ads focused on local zip codes to communicate that applications are still open for the 2026-2027 school year.

Mary shared a comprehensive series of professional development initiatives to prepare leadership and staff for the upcoming school year. Principals and Deans participated in three Monday PD sessions focused on aligning assessment calendars, conducting data dives to build school level data stories, setting goals, establishing consistent coaching expectations across sites, and updating the ELD program playbook and reclassification process. They also completed a 3-day leadership retreat with partners from Lead Liberated to finalize and calibrate their instructional walkthrough rubric using video evaluations, alongside team-bonding activities. Finally, the entire network staff gathered for a two day summit featuring 3.5 hours of curriculum instruction from vendors, HR system updates, alignment on AMPS's core pillars, employee service pin recognition, and team building games.

Adrienne announced two upcoming events scheduled for August 27th: an appreciation brunch at Caliber for local partners and the Contra Costa County Authorizer, followed by a board meeting on August 27 where the board will vote to approve the unaudited actuals.

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 7:49 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*