APPROVED

Alma del Mar

Minutes

Alma del Mar Board of Trustees

October 2025 Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday October 22, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Anti-Racism Statement: Alma del Mar strives to be an anti-racist institution. We seek to dismantle racist and white supremacist structures in pursuit of justice and racial equity. We will fight against racism when we encounter it both within and outside of our school community. We will actively work to ensure that all of our community members, including scholars, families, and staff, feel included, celebrated and empowered. By resisting racism and white supremacy, we will lay the foundation to challenge all forms of oppression. ***Please read the Equity Lens Guidelines in the Opening Items below before the meeting.***

Trustees Present
C. Bator (remote), C. Holley (remote), D. Melo (remote), D. Prentiss (remote), G. Fortes (remote), J. Fox (remote), J. Korn (remote), M. Rosa (remote), M. Rosario (remote), S. Furtado (remote)

Trustees Absent
A. Cortez, C. Wood, J. Wallace

Guests Present
B. Kurie (remote), T. DeLoach (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Equity Lens Guidelines

B. Record Attendance

C. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Prentiss called a meeting of the board of trustees of Alma del Mar to order on Wednesday Oct 22, 2025 at 5:40 PM.

D. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

J. Korn made a motion to approve the minutes from Alma del Mar Board of Trustees on 09-24-25.
M. Rosario seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Furtado	Aye
D. Melo	Aye
C. Wood	Absent
G. Fortes	Aye
C. Holley	Aye
J. Fox	Aye
D. Prentiss	Aye
C. Bator	Aye
A. Cortez	Absent
M. Rosario	Aye
M. Rosa	Aye
J. Wallace	Absent
J. Korn	Aye

II. Executive Director Report

A. October 2025 Board Dashboard

T. DeLoach highlighted a few items in the dashboard, including teacher retention which is trending slightly lower this fall compared to last year. Leaders are keeping a close eye on this point and do not see any concerning trends.

Suspension data is tracking really positively so far this school year, thanks to the hard work of our Culture Team for finding ways to keep scholars in school and in class.

B. Executive Director's Report

T. DeLoach presented the report as written by acting executive director A. Teevens.

J. Korn asked whether the Joint Committee on Education hearing was held yet. B. Kurie shared that it was held with a great turnout, and that we will share more details and the next call to action later during this meeting.

III. Academic Excellence

A. MCAS Results

J. Korn pointed out the improvement for specific groups and grades.

D. Prentiss asked what is believed to be working to improve outcomes for scholars over the past year. T. DeLoach discussed the encouraging trends in educational performance, attributing progress to a strong curriculum and high teacher retention rates. The curriculum team's efforts in coaching teachers and providing quality instruction were noted as essential for continued improvement. J. Korn added that addressing school-to-school differences is crucial for overall performance enhancement.

B. Update on DUET/Bachelors Initiative

J. Korn presented the draft agreement and policies related to Alma's Teacher Scholarship Program. B. Kurie shared that three teachers have applied for the Duet program in recent weeks, which has allowed us to better understand the enrollment process as well as how it will work for Alma's Foundation to pay tuition for these participants.

The project is on track to launch early this winter, with teachers being able to enroll and begin the program in January 2026.

IV. Development

A. Board Involvement in Development

B. Kurie thanked J. Korn, S. Furtado, G. Fortes, D. Prentiss, D. Mello and J. Fox for handing in their personalized notes to be included in the appeal mailing! There is still time to drop off your notes!

V. Finance

A. DRAFT FY25 Audit

J. Fox made a motion to approve the draft FY25 audit and authorize Alma's Board Chairperson to sign the final audit in accordance with DESE guidelines.
D. Melo seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Furtado	Aye
C. Bator	Aye
J. Wallace	Absent
G. Fortes	Aye
M. Rosa	Aye
D. Melo	Aye
J. Korn	Aye
C. Holley	Aye
M. Rosario	Aye
A. Cortez	Absent
J. Fox	Aye
D. Prentiss	Aye
C. Wood	Absent

B. Financial Advisor-CIBC

C. Holley presented a proposal from Mike Onorato at CIBC (Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce USA Private Wealth) to serve as a financial advisor to the Alma del Mar Foundation and Board.

D. Prentiss highlighted that CIBC was selected based on their reasonable rates and nonprofit expertise, although concerns were raised by S. Furtado regarding their customer service and the overall cost of $26,250 annually. J. Fox and D. Melo also contributed to the discussion, questioning the thoroughness of the selection process and the need for more transparency regarding other firms that were considered.

The discussion centered on a one-year financial advisory contract, with C. Holley indicating that there would be quarterly reviews. S. Furtado and J. Korn expressed concerns about performance expectations and the need for a termination clause in the contract. Dave Prentiss proposed delaying the motion to allow for additional information to be collected, emphasizing the importance of addressing the concerns raised.

C. FY26 Q1 Financials

C. Holley reported that the financial status is stable through Q1, with adjustments to salaries expected in Q2.

VI. Governance

A. Governance Committee Report

This report will be given at the next board meeting due to C. Wood's absence.

VII. Other Business

A. Charter Schools - State and Federal Landscape

Dear Alma Trustees,

We need your help today! We must tell elected officials not to hurt charter public schools like ours.

Elected officials have filed bills that, if adopted, would dramatically reduce funding for charter public schools, like ours. These bills would mean fewer kids could attend charter public schools in Massachusetts. Funding would be cut so much that some schools could even be forced to close.

The good news is, if we all speak up, we can stop these bills! Elected officials will be taking important votes on these bills soon, so we need your help writing to elected officials and calling their offices to let them know that our school, and all charter public schools, offer important and valuable options for families that should not be cut.

To help protect our school, visit ma4charters.org/Fall25Action today.

Follow the instructions provided to email and call your state representative and state senator. Ask them to help stop these bills. It's quick, easy, and will make a real difference.

Please make your voice heard now. Stand up and speak out for our school today!

Thank you!

P.S. Share this with friends and family! Every email and phone call counts.

B. 2025-2026 Board & Committee Meeting Dates

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

M. Rosario made a motion to adjourn the board meeting.

S. Furtado seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

D. Melo	Aye
C. Bator	Aye
A. Cortez	Absent
J. Fox	Aye
G. Fortes	Aye
C. Wood	Absent
M. Rosa	Aye
J. Korn	Aye
D. Prentiss	Aye
S. Furtado	Aye
C. Holley	Aye
M. Rosario	Aye
J. Wallace	Absent

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
B. Kurie

Documents used during the meeting

- AY2025-26 Alma del Mar Board Dashboard - October 2025.pdf
- E.D. Report 10.22.25.pdf
- 10.22.25 Board MCAS slides.pdf
- Alma Proposal_ Supporting Teachers w_Bachelors Degree (1).pdf
- ALMA Audit Presentation 10.16.25.pdf
- CIBC.pdf
- 1. FY26 September SNP.pdf
- 2. FY26 September Combined P&L.pdf
- 3. FY26 September Campus P&Ls.pdf