APPROVED

El Camino Real Charter High School

Minutes

Regular Board meeting

4-28-2025 Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday April 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location
El Camino Real Charter High School - North Campus

7401 Shoup Avenue West Hills CA 91307

Meeting can also be seen and heard at:

Media Center (Main Campus) - 5440 Valley Circle Boulevard Woodland Hills CA 91367

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

For board meeting materials, please go to the school's main office, or call (818) 595-7500. Some board meeting materials are also posted on the school's website (https://ecrchs.net - click the ECR Board tab).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND OTHER MEETING ATTENDEES: El Camino Real Alliance (“ECRA”) welcomes your participation at ECRA’s Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) is to conduct the affairs of ECRA in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our charter school. To assist you in the ease of speaking/ participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Agendas are available to all audience members at the door to the meeting.

2. “Request to Speak” forms are available to all audience members who wish to speak on any agenda items or under the general category of “Public Comments.” “Public Comments” is set aside for members of the audience to raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. However, Due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond or take action during the Public Comments periods. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.

NOTE: Public Comments, effective with the March 24th, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, are limited to two (2) minutes and total time allotted to all agenda and non-agenda items will not exceed thirty (30) minutes.

A member of the public who requires the use of a translator, in order to receive the same opportunity as others to directly address the Board, shall be permitted twice the allotted time to speak. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.

3. You may also complete a “Request to Speak” form to address the Board on Agenda items. With regard to such agenda items, you may specify the item(s) on your “Request to Speak” form and you will be given an opportunity to speak for up to three (3) minutes before the item is addressed, and total time allocated to agenda items will not exceed six (6) minutes for a Discussion item and nine (9) minutes per Vote item. A member of the public who requires the use of a translator, in order to receive the same opportunity as others to directly address the Board, shall be permitted twice the allotted time to speak, and the total allocated time shall be appropriately increased as well.

4. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and adhere to the time limits set forth. In order to maintain allotted time limits, the Board Chair may modify speaker time allocations or the total amount of allotted time for an item.

5. Any public records relating to an agenda item for an Open Session of the Board which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members shall be available for public inspection at 5440 Valley Circle Blvd., Woodland Hills, California, 91367.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENTS: Effective September 2022, public comments presentations at all ECRA Regular and Special Board Meetings and at Committee Meetings must be made in person. There is no obligation on the part of the school to have a school official read public comments during inperson Board Meetings. Powered by BoardOnTrack 2 of 4 A member of the public is welcome to appear at the Board meeting to make a public comment or make arrangements with another person in attendance to speak on the person's behalf.

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and may be approved/enacted by the Board in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a Board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board votes on them. The Executive Director recommends approval of all consent agenda items.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, El Camino Real Alliance may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations shall be made 24 hours prior to the meeting to David Hussey, in person, by email at comment@ecrchs.net, or by calling (818) 595-7500.

Directors Present
Alexandra Ramirez, Brad Wright, Gregg Solkovits, Ronald Laws, Steven Kofahl

Directors Absent
Sebastian Winter

Guests Present
Ryan Guinto

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Brad Wright called a meeting of the board of directors of El Camino Real Charter High School to order on Monday Apr 28, 2025 at 6:05 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America (USA)

Mr. Wright led the Board members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America (USA).

D.

Public Comments

Here are the public comments:

1. Amy Carter, a teacher at El Camino since its charter conversion in 2011, expressed concern over recent teacher layoffs and the first-ever teacher strike during her tenure. She noted that a proposed 3.5% bonus for non-union staff is on the agenda—originally negotiated by teachers to offset lost pay from the strike. Carter opposed extending this bonus to administrative and support staff while teacher layoffs are occurring, urging the board to vote **no** on the proposal.

2. Unnamed Speaker, delivered a passionate and critical statement regarding the school board's recent decisions, particularly highlighting dissatisfaction with teacher layoffs, administrative raises, and proposed bonuses for non-union staff. They criticized the board for mismanaging the budget, prioritizing aesthetic upgrades over educational needs, and lacking leadership during the teacher strike. The speaker condemned the perceived disregard for teachers' contributions and the impact on students, calling the board's actions out of touch and disrespectful to the school community.

3. Daniel Sutherland, a science teacher at El Camino and one of those impacted by the current teacher layoffs, urged the board to support a severance package proposed by the teachers' union. He emphasized that many laid-off teachers have young families and depend on continued health insurance, especially during vulnerable periods. He noted the 3.5% bonus received does not adequately cover health costs and asked the board to demonstrate care and accountability by advising administration and legal counsel to accept the union's severance proposal.

4. Aaron Sanders, a teacher and parent at El Camino Real Charter High School, expressed deep concern over declining enrollment, negative public perception, and a lack of transparency from school leadership. She criticized the new parent board representative, Ms. Ayvazian Iwal, for not responding to multiple emails sent in March and highlighted that only Board Member Mr. Hussey had acknowledged her outreach. Sanders shared that due to these issues, her second child would attend Calabasas High School instead of El Camino. She emphasized that recent discussions of laying off up to 44 teachers have further damaged trust among families, deterring new enrollments. Urging the board to ask tougher questions and engage more directly with the school community, Sanders called for action to retain quality educators and restore confidence in the institution’s future.

E. Executive Director Update

Mr. Hussey gave a detailed Executive Director Report.

Academic Decathlon

- **National Championship:** Our Academic Decathlon team is heading to Iowa this week for the opportunity to bring home another national championship. We wish the team and the coaches Good luck.

Standardized Testing

- **SBAC & MAP Testing**: Ongoing efforts are in place to achieve the state-mandated 95% participation rate. Students are being called from classes to meet this requirement.

Advanced Placement (AP) Testing

- **AP Exams Schedule**: AP testing is scheduled from May 5 to May 16, 2025. Last year, over 2,000 exams were administered, with similar numbers expected this year.

Upcoming Senior Events

- **Senior Awards Night**: Scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2025, from 5:30 PM
- **Prom**: Set for Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM
- **Graduation**: Planned for Friday, June 6, 2025, at 6:00 PM

F. Chief Business Officer Update

Chief Business Office Update – Janneyra Verduzco

1. **2025–2026 Budget Collection**
    - Approximately **86%** of department budgets have been submitted.
    - Remaining budgets are expected by **end of the current week**.
    - A **final audit** will commence once all submissions are received.
2. **California Department of Education (CDE) Audit**
    - The team is addressing **five identified findings**.
    - All necessary documentation is being gathered and submitted.
    - A **final in-person exit review meeting** with the CDE is scheduled for **next Thursday**, after which the audit process will be finalized.

G. Board Chair Update

Board Chair Update – Brad Wright

1. **Acknowledgment of Public Comments**
    - Expressed appreciation for the community's engagement and feedback.
    - Emphasized that all comments are important and valued by the board.

2. **Clarification of Board Role**
    - Noted that the board relies on the administration's work and decisions.
    - Stated that the board acts as the final decision-making body based on administrative input.
3. **Gratitude for Participation**
    - Thanked attendees for their presence and for sharing their perspectives during the meeting.

II. Consent

A. Approve Minutes of March 4, 2025, Special Board Meeting

Gregg Solkovits made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board meeting on 03-24-25.
Steven Kofahl seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye
Gregg Solkovits	Aye
Sebastian Winter	Absent
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye

B. Approve Minutes of February 27, 2025 Regular Board meeting

Gregg Solkovits made a motion to Approve Minutes of February 27, 2025 Regular Board meeting.
Steven Kofahl seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Sebastian Winter	Absent
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Gregg Solkovits	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye

C. Discuss and Vote on the March 2025 Check Registers

Gregg Solkovits made a motion to Approve on the March 2025 Check Registers.
Steven Kofahl seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Ronald Laws	Aye
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye

Roll Call	
Sebastian Winter	Absent
Gregg Solkovits	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye

D. Discuss and Vote on the March 2025, Credit Card Charges

Gregg Solkovits made a motion to Approve on the March 2025, Credit Card Charges.
Steven Kofahl seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Finance

A. March 2025 Investment Update

Presented by Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance

1. **Starting Investment Balance**
    - Reported starting balance: **$30,844,000**
2. **OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Payments**
    - Total payments for retiree benefits over nine months: **$475,612**
3. **Investment Performance**
    - Net gains/losses: **$1,063,507**
    - Portfolio growth: **Increased by 3.4%**
4. **Ending Investment Balance**
    - Current balance: **$31,000,400**
    - Reflects a **1.9% total increase** during the reporting period

B. March 2025 Financial Update

Presented by Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance

1. **Cafeteria Profit & Loss (P&L) Summary**
    - **15% increase in meals served** from February to March.
    - Additional **5,141 meals** served in March.
2. **Meal Service Highlights**
    - Total meals served in March: **39,397**
        - **Breakfast**: 19,952
        - **Lunch**: 19,445
3. **Free & Reduced-Price Meal Program (FRPM)**
    - Noted a **decrease in students approved** for FRPM services.

C.

Discussion and Review of the 2023-2024 IRS Form 990 (Non-Profit Tax Return)

Presented by Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance

1. **Key Revisions**
    - **Page 6**: Student enrollment figure revised from **3,260** to **2,900**.
    - **Correction**: Adjusted to ensure accurate reporting of the service population.
2. **Disclosure Confirmation**
    - **Page 10**: Highlighted **Section 11a** — confirmed that a **complete Form 990** has been provided to the board for review.
3. **Vendor Update**
    - **Page 12**: Added a new consulting vendor: **Impact Philanthropy Group**, a new **mental health services provider**.
4. **Financial Overview**
    - **Page 28**:
        - **Total Revenue**: $55,308,000
        - **Total Expenses**: $43,049,322
5. **Board Acknowledgment Required**
    - **Page 34 (Part VI, Section B, Line 11b)**: Reiterated that the board must notify the Director of any changes **prior to submission to the IRS**.
    - **Next Step**: Form will be submitted following final board approval.

The board entered the closed session at 6:26 PM on the 28th of April, 2025.

IV. Reconvene to Open Session

A. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session, If Any

The board reconvene to open session at 8:06 PM on the 27th of February, 2025.

Closed Session Report-Out

- The board **instructed management to cost out the UTLA severance pay proposal** and report back at the next board meeting.
- **Vote Outcome**:
    - **Yes**: Alexandra Ramirez, Ronald Laws, Greg Solkovits
    - **No**: Brad Wright, Steven Kofahl
- No further actions were reported from the closed session.

B. Possible Vote on One-TIme Bonus 3.5% for Unrepresented Certificated and Classified Employees

Ronald Laws made a motion to Vote on One-TIme Bonus 3.5% for Unrepresented Certificated and Classified Employees.

Steven Kofahl seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Steven Kofahl	Aye
Brad Wright	Aye
Ronald Laws	Aye
Gregg Solkovits	No
Alexandra Ramirez	Aye
Sebastian Winter	Absent

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Steven Kofahl made a motion to Adjourn Meeting.
Alexandra Ramirez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryan Guinto