DRAFT

El Camino Real Charter High School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

10-22-26 Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday October 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location
El Camino Real Charter High School - Media Center

5440 Valley Circle Woodland Hills CA 91367

Meeting can also be seen and heard at:

North Campus - 7401 Shoup Ave. West Hills CA 91307

ANNUAL MEETING AND 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.

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 in person 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 Emilie Larew, in person, by email at comment@ecrchs.net, or by calling (818) 595-7500.

Directors Present
Alex Placencio, Beatriz Chen, Beth Corbett, Brian Archibald, Mandy Rogers, Mariellen Webster

Directors Absent
Steven Kofahl

Guests Present
Ryan Guinto

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Mariellen Webster called a meeting of the board of directors of El Camino Real Charter High School to order on Thursday Oct 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

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

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

D. Public Comments

1. Daniel Pallets
- Board Stabilization

- Acknowledged that the Board has become more stable since previous meetings, with three existing members and additional members selected.
- Expressed optimism that the Board can now focus on the school's most pressing priorities.

- Charter Renewal as Top Priority

  - Emphasized that charter renewal is the school's most critical issue at present.
  - Stressed the importance of prioritizing charter renewal without distractions from other internal issues, including staffing concerns, special meetings, and administrative leaves.
  - Highlighted that successful charter renewal is essential to preserving the school's future.

- Low Parent Participation

  - Expressed concern over the low attendance at Board meetings despite the school having more than 2,000 students, teachers, and a large alumni community.
  - Noted that fewer than 10 attendees appeared to be current parents, with more administrators present than parents.
  - Believed that parents may not be fully aware of the seriousness of the charter renewal situation.

- Call for Increased Parent Involvement

  - Urged attendees to encourage other parents to participate in upcoming Board meetings.
  - Emphasized that parents need to be informed and actively involved in protecting the school's future.
  - Encouraged the Board and school community to find ways to increase parent engagement and attendance.

- Board Advocacy

  - Supported the Board's continued expansion, noting that additional members could encourage greater participation.
  - Warned that the seven-member Board cannot carry the responsibility of advocating for the school alone.
  - Emphasized the need for collective support from parents and the wider school community.

2. Haley Smith
- Request to Hire a Compliance Officer

  - Represented faculty members in requesting that the Board hire a dedicated Compliance Officer.
  - Emphasized that this is a necessity, not merely a preference, and should take priority over retaining an HR Director.
  - Proposed that the Compliance Officer serve as an independent safeguard for students, employees, public funds, and school operations.

- Compliance and Accountability

  - Highlighted recurring failures in compliance with:
    - Education Code (Ed Code) and employment laws.
    - Board policies and collective bargaining agreements.
    - Ethical standards and financial accountability requirements.
  - Stressed the need for proactive oversight to prevent legal disputes, employee grievances, financial losses, regulatory violations, and further damage to public trust.

- Protection of Students and Employees

  - Emphasized that the role would help protect student rights, promote equitable access to education, and ensure timely services, particularly for special education and high-needs student groups.
  - Called for consistent administrative procedures and proper implementation of employee rights and collective bargaining agreements.
  - Requested clear processes for reporting concerns, accessing policies, and obtaining fair reviews without fear of retaliation.

- Improved Leadership and Internal Controls

  - Recommended establishing clear boundaries, procedures, and accountability measures across the organization.
  - Called for stronger financial integrity, ethical leadership, and independent oversight.
  - Expressed concern over self-serving or ineffective leadership and emphasized the need to prioritize the school's best interests.

- Acknowledgment of Recent Improvements

  - Thanked the Board for its time and dedication to the school.
  - Recognized positive changes and acknowledged administrators and department leaders who stepped up during a period of significant challenges.

- Call for Accountability and Corrective Action

  - Stated that staff, students, and the community will no longer accept excuses or unfulfilled promises.
  - Emphasized that good intentions and apologies are not substitutes for accountability.

- Urged school leadership to acknowledge mistakes openly and take meaningful corrective action.

3. Super Dylan
- Acknowledgment of Leadership Challenges

- Recognized the challenges the school has faced over the past four months.
- Thanked Mr. Bennett and Dr. Clark for their efforts in keeping the school operational despite difficult personnel decisions.
- Expressed concern over how Mr. Alba and Mr. Camp were treated during the summer.

- Whistleblower Protections

- Acknowledged the recent professional development presentation on whistleblower protections.
- Supported strengthening protections for employees who report concerns.
- Described the previous work environment as one characterized by alleged intimidation and fear among staff members.

- Concerns Regarding Charter Schools Division (CSD)

- Raised questions about the involvement of CSD representatives, the former Board President, HR, and the school's legal counsel in handling previous concerns.
- Stated that staff members had attempted to report concerns to CSD but were allegedly directed to submit complaints to the school Board.
- Expressed frustration over the lack of an independent reporting and review process, particularly when concerns involved Board leadership.

- Concerns Regarding Legal Counsel (YMC)

- Questioned the fairness and impartiality of investigations conducted by YMC.
- Shared that some investigation questions appeared to lead toward conclusions favorable to the former Board President.
- Requested that the Board consider retaining different legal counsel to better serve the school and its community.

- Lack of Trust in Human Resources (HR)

- Reported that many employees remain uncomfortable bringing workplace concerns to HR.

- Expressed concern that recent HR meetings and professional development sessions have not sufficiently restored staff confidence.
- Emphasized that HR should:
    - Provide accurate information and guidance.
    - Apply policies consistently and fairly.
    - Offer independent and candid advice, even when it challenges administration.
    - Maintain appropriate boundaries and impartiality when handling employee concerns.

- Need to Rebuild Staff Confidence

- Acknowledged the recent whistleblower protection presentation as a positive step.
- Stressed that rebuilding trust requires more than leadership changes or the removal of individuals previously perceived as problematic.
- Called for meaningful improvements in reporting procedures, independent oversight, and employee protection.

4. Albert Vasquez
- Appreciation for Current Leadership

- Thanked Dr. Clark and Mr. Bennett for their efforts in restoring order and rebuilding the school following previous challenges.
- Acknowledged that their work is difficult but expressed confidence that the school is moving in a positive direction.
- Recognized Dean's role as an act of service rather than a pursuit of power or personal ambition.
- Shared that staff members are beginning to regain confidence in the school's leadership.

- Concerns Regarding Leadership Hiring Practices

- Shared concerns about the previous hiring process for school leadership positions.
- Pointed out that some leadership appointments were made after only one interview, despite the positions carrying significant responsibilities and salaries.
- Clarified that he was pleased with the performance of the recently hired Assistant Principals, and that his concerns were about the hiring process rather than the individuals.

- Recommendation to Reform Hiring Procedures

- Recommended adopting a more transparent and inclusive hiring process for incoming Executive Directors, Vice Principals, and other leadership positions.
- Shared his experience at Green Dot, where hiring committees included:
    - Parents
    - Students
    - Teachers
    - Classified staff
    - Union representatives
- Suggested using objective evaluation rubrics to ensure fair and consistent candidate assessments.

- Proposal for a Representative Hiring Committee

- Supported the membership-approved proposal to establish a hiring committee.
- Recommended including parents, teachers, representatives from both unions, and students.
- Clarified that the committee would serve in an advisory capacity rather than make the final hiring decision.
- Emphasized that community participation would promote transparency and shared decision-making.

- Connection to Charter Renewal

- Highlighted that inclusive hiring practices would demonstrate the school's commitment to accountability and community involvement.
- Believed that implementing the proposal would send a positive message about the school's direction moving forward and support its charter renewal efforts.

5. Angel Sanchez
- Concerns Regarding the New Lunch Policy

- Raised concerns about the newly implemented policy requiring students to leave the main building and hallways during lunch.
- Acknowledged the school's need to maintain campus safety and supervision but stated that the policy has created difficulties for students.
- Presented a petition signed by 140 students, including Student Council members, requesting that the policy be removed or revised.

- Insufficient Outdoor Seating and Facilities

- Highlighted that the campus does not have enough outdoor seating to accommodate more than 2,000 students.

- Expressed concern that students are forced to sit on the ground, potentially exposing them to heat and rain.
- Noted that concentrating thousands of students in limited outdoor areas creates overcrowding, excessive noise, and an overstimulating environment.

- Impact on Students' Academic Needs

- Explained that students need a quiet space during lunch to rest between classes and complete homework.
- Raised concerns that the outdoor-only policy limits students' ability to use their lunch break productively.

- Insufficient Time and Movement Restrictions

- Stated that the original 10-minute building access rule was insufficient, particularly when cafeteria lines are long and students need teacher passes.
- Acknowledged the increase from 10 to 15 minutes as a significant improvement but emphasized that it does not resolve the underlying concerns.
- Explained that restrictions make it difficult for students involved in extracurricular activities and campus projects to move between designated areas.

- Request for Policy Reconsideration

- Described the policy's implementation as rushed and poorly timed.
- Requested that the administration reconsider or modify the policy to better accommodate students' needs.
- Emphasized that the petition was not intended to challenge or disrespect school leadership but to advocate for a more practical solution.

- Acknowledgment of School Improvements

- Recognized the administration's efforts to create a safer, more supportive, and positive school environment.
- Expressed concern that the new lunch policy feels like a step backward despite the school's recent improvements.

6. Dalia Vinky
- Concerns Regarding the 4:15 PM Campus Clearance Policy

- Raised concerns about the email sent on October 5 requiring students to leave the new campus by 4:15 PM unless they have an approved reason to remain.

- Questioned whether the policy genuinely promotes student safety and well-being.
- Argued that forcing students off campus simply shifts potential safety risks to surrounding streets and public areas.

- Student Safety and Community Concerns

- Expressed concern about gang violence in nearby communities.
- Raised concerns about increased ICE enforcement activities in the surrounding area.
- Highlighted the school's large Latino student population and the potential risks of racial profiling and questioning based on appearance or perceived ethnicity.
- Warned that requiring students to wait outside campus could leave them vulnerable to safety threats.

- Impact on Working Families

- Explained that many parents work multiple jobs or have unpredictable work schedules and cannot always pick up their children by 4:15 PM.
- Emphasized that students should not be forced to leave campus simply because their parents cannot arrive at the designated time.

- Loss of Academic Support and Resources

- Raised concerns that the policy limits students' access to:
  - Quiet study areas.
  - Academic resources and facilities.
  - Peer study groups and academic support.
- Noted that some students depend on campus facilities because their home environments may not provide suitable spaces for studying.

- Environmental and Weather-Related Safety

- Highlighted students' exposure to extreme heat, severe weather, and poor air quality caused by nearby fires.
- Expressed concern about requiring students to wait outside during unfavorable environmental conditions.

- Request for Policy Reconsideration

- Urged the administration to reconsider the mandatory 4:15 PM campus clearance requirement.

- Requested that students be allowed to remain safely on campus while waiting for transportation or using academic resources.
- Emphasized that campus safety policies should consider students' actual circumstances and vulnerabilities.

E. UTLA Update

Miss Herrera:

- Welcome to Incoming Board Members

- Welcomed incoming Board Members Beatrice Chen, Brian Archbold, and Alex Glenfield.
- Thanked them for volunteering to serve and acknowledged the significant changes within the Board.
- Emphasized that although progress has been made, more work remains.

- Vote of No Confidence

- Reported that approximately 280 teachers, counselors, classified staff, parents, and community members signed a vote of no confidence petition.
- Noted that the petition originally addressed the previous Board, but the community's concerns remain unresolved despite the appointment of a new Board.

- Leadership and Administrative Concerns

- Noted the recent resignation of the Chief Business Officer (CBO), which the Board accepted.
- Reported that the Director of Facilities remains on paid administrative leave pending an investigation.
- Raised concerns that the HR Director remains in her position despite staff members' lack of confidence in her leadership.

- Alleged Parent Board Election Irregularities

- Called for transparency and accountability regarding alleged election fraud involving the Parent Board Representative election.
- Emphasized that the election involved public funds and that the community deserves to know the investigation's findings and any resulting corrective action.

- Community's Role in Board Changes

- Highlighted that the new Board was established through significant efforts, communication, and advocacy from teachers and the wider school community.
- Emphasized that every Board seat was filled through the community's efforts.
- Reminded the incoming Board that the community's work and advocacy must continue.

- Leadership and Hiring Priorities

- Called for leaders who demonstrate engagement, consideration, and accountability.
- Requested:
  - A nationwide search for a new Executive Director (ED).
  - Appointment of a new Chief Business Officer (CBO).
  - Hiring of a dedicated Compliance Officer instead of an HR Director.
  - A Board Chair and Vice Chair who prioritize the interests of the school, teachers, and students.

- Board Governance and Policy Reforms

- Urged the Board to amend its bylaws to prevent similar governance and leadership issues from happening again.
- Emphasized the need for lasting structural changes rather than simply replacing Board members.

F. AFSCME Update

Mr. Richard Russell:
- Welcome and Support for the New Board

- Introduced himself as a longtime El Camino Real alumnus, Athletic Director, and President of the Classified Employees Union, APSME Local 540.
- Thanked the newly elected Board for recognizing classified employees and providing them with opportunities to participate in discussions about the school's future.
- Expressed support for Alex Placincio as the classified employees' representative on the Board.
- Shared that Mr. Placincio attended a meet-and-greet with approximately 20 classified employees, participated in a Q&A, and received unanimous support through a straw poll.

- Importance of Employee Representation

- Emphasized that having classified employees represented on the Board is an important step toward strengthening relationships across the school community.

- Highlighted that employees' experiences and perspectives should be considered in decisions affecting students, teachers, and staff.

- Concerns Regarding Past Communication and Decision-Making

- Shared that employees have previously felt their concerns were not adequately heard.
- Expressed concern that decisions were sometimes made without input from the employees directly affected.
- Noted that poor communication has contributed to a decline in employee trust.

- Three Key Areas for Improvement

- Identified three priorities for rebuilding trust:
  - Communication: Establish consistent opportunities for employees to raise concerns and receive responses.
  - Employee Involvement: Seek input from employees closest to the work before making decisions that affect them.
  - Accountability: Ensure employees know their concerns are being considered and understand what actions will follow.

- Preserving El Camino Real's Identity

- Emphasized the importance of protecting the school's history, traditions, and community identity.
- Stated that progress should build upon what makes El Camino special while addressing areas that need improvement.
- Recognized the dedication, experience, and contributions of employees who continue supporting students and the school.

- Call for Collaborative Leadership

- Encouraged the new Board to listen to employees, seek their input, and consider the real-world impact of decisions.
- Emphasized that strong leadership requires open communication, taking concerns seriously, and a willingness to learn and improve.
- Expressed the classified employees' willingness to collaborate with the Board to rebuild trust and move the school forward.

G. Executive Director Update

Mr. Dean Bennett:

School Activities and Events

- Homecoming Week: Celebrations are underway.
  - Homecoming game scheduled for the following day, featuring the first-ever drone show in El Camino history.
  - Homecoming dance scheduled for Saturday.
- Senior Activities: Senior Halloween bowling night scheduled for the following Tuesday, with senior superlative winners to be announced.
- VAPA Fall Showcase:
  - Held the previous Tuesday with a Dia de los Muertos theme.
  - Organized by students and reportedly had the largest turnout in recent years.
  - Featured instrumental and choral music, theater, visual arts, music and audio production, filmmaking, and marching band.
- Marching Band:
  - Recently competed midway through the season and earned first place in multiple categories.
  - Preparing for upcoming competitions leading to the championships.

Administrative and Governance Updates

- Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (FCMAT):
  - Scheduled to visit the campus the following Monday and Tuesday.
  - Approximately two dozen individuals will be interviewed as part of the investigation previously approved by the Board.
- Charter Renewal:
  - Charter renewal intake meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2026, at the Vojree Building.

H. Board Chair Update

- Noted that the Board had already received most of the updates through the presentations.
- Thanked everyone and proceeded with the meeting agenda.

II. Consent

A. Approve Minutes of October 16, 2026 Special Board Meeting

Beth Corbett made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 10-16-26.
Mandy Rogers seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Mandy Rogers	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent

B. Approve Minutes of October 20, 2026 Special Board Meeting

Beth Corbett made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting on 10-20-26.
Mandy Rogers seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Steven Kofahl	Absent
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye

III. Governance

A. Discuss and Vote to Install (2) Two Community Representatives

- Interim Board Chair Mariellen Webster presented the item for the installation of two community representatives.
- The two nominees identified were:
  - Brian Archibald
  - Beatriz Chen
- The Board will vote on each nominee separately, corresponding to the respective vacancies.
- Each representative will serve the remaining term associated with the vacancy.

Mandy Rogers made a motion to install Mr. Brian Archibald as a community representative.
Beth Corbett seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Mariellen Webster	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye

Beth Corbett made a motion to install Ms. Beatriz Chen as a community representative.
Mandy Rogers seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call	
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent

B. Discuss and Vote to Install Classified Representative

Mandy Rogers made a motion to install Dr. Alex Placencio.
Beth Corbett seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye

C. Elect 2026-2027 Board Chair

Election of 2026–2027 Board Chair
- Brian Archibald was nominated for the position of Board Chair for the 2026–2027 term.
Mariellen Webster made a motion to elect the 2026-207 Board Chair, Mr. Brian Archibald.
Beatriz Chen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Alex Placencio	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent

- Mr. Brian Archibald was elected as the 2026–2027 Board Chair.
- Thanked the Board for the support and expressed enthusiasm about working with fellow Board members.
- Acknowledged the positive changes already implemented and expressed commitment to continuing progress.
- Emphasized the importance of working collaboratively with the entire school community.
- Requested a future Board agenda item focused on Board Governance, including:
    - Clarifying the Board’s roles and responsibilities.

- Strengthening engagement and collaboration with the community.
- Defining how the Board will carry out its oversight responsibilities.
- Establishing stronger controls and accountability over school operations.

D. Elect 2026-2027 Board Vice-Chair

Two Board members nominated themselves for Vice-Chair:

- Ms. Beth Corbett
- Ms. Mariellen Webster

Candidate Statements
- Ms. Beth Corbett

- Highlighted her professional background as a studio teacher and student welfare worker, enforcing labor laws and state regulations.
- Emphasized her experience balancing stakeholder interests while ensuring strict compliance with rules.
- Stressed the importance of ethics, accountability, compliance, and protecting children.
- Expressed commitment to ensuring that political pressure does not compromise ethical standards.

- Ms. Mariellen Webster

- Shared her experience serving as Interim Board Chair for the past two months.
- Acknowledged the Board's progress in expanding from three to six members through community collaboration.
- Expressed interest in continuing to support the Board and community.
- Recognized that she is still learning Board procedures, protocols, and governance responsibilities.
- Highlighted her willingness to continue working through complex personnel and legal matters while gaining more Board experience.

Board Governance Clarification

- Mr. Brian Archibald clarified that the Board Chair and Vice-Chair do not hold greater authority than other Board members.
- All Board members have equal voting rights, governance responsibilities, and opportunities to contribute, regardless of their leadership positions.

Motion to elect 2026-2027 Board Vice-Chair, Beth Corbett.
Board Members voted:

Brian Archibald - Beth Corbett

Beatriz Chen - Beth Corbett
Dr. Alex Placencio - Beth Corbett
Mandy Rogers - Beth Corbett
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Brian Archibald	Aye
Alex Placencio	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent

E. Elect 2026-2027 Secretary

Ms. Mandy Rogers had already been previously elected to serve as the Board Secretary 2026-2027.

F. Discussion and Vote on Board Committees' General Membership and Chairpersons

Background and Committee Reorganization

- Ms. Mandy Rogers presented the item for discussion and approval of Board committees, their members, and chairpersons.
- The committees formed during the August 27 regular Board meeting needed to be reorganized because:
    - Not all Board members were present during the initial formation.
    - Some previously appointed members had resigned or were no longer serving.
- The Board agreed to review and reassign committee memberships.

Committee Structure

- Six committees were identified:
    1. Executive Director Evaluation
    2. Finance and Investment
    3. Capitalization Project
    4. Safety
    5. Technology
    6. Travel
- The Finance and Investment Committee is the only standing committee.
- The remaining committees are ad hoc committees.
- Board members were encouraged to select committees based on their interests and areas where they could best contribute.

- The Board emphasized the need to establish committees promptly to support effective governance.

Executive Director Evaluation Committee

- Several Board members expressed interest in serving on the committee.
- The Board discussed limiting committee membership to three members to avoid having a majority of the Board on the committee.
- Proposed committee membership:
  - Chair: Dr. Alex Placencio
  - Member: Brian Archibald
  - Member: Mandy Rogers

Mariellen Webster made a motion to approve the General Membership for the Executive Director Evaluation Committee.
Mandy Rogers seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Alex Placencio	Aye
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Mariellen Webster	Aye

Finance and Investment Committee

- The Board discussed reorganizing the Finance and Investment Committee due to changes in Board membership.
- Members noted that the committee is a standing committee, so there is no limit on the number of members.
- The Board discussed committee membership and leadership based on members' backgrounds and experience.
- Mr. Brian Archibald was nominated as Chair, but he declined, noting that he was already serving as Board Chair.
- To maintain a separation of responsibilities, the Board agreed that another member should lead the committee.
- Proposed Committee Composition:

- Chair: Ms. Mandy Rogers
- Member: Mr. Brian Archibald
- Member: Dr. Alex Placencio

Brian Archibald made a motion to approve the General Membership for the Finance and Investment Committee, Ms. Mandy Rogers as Chair, Mr. Brian Archibald and Dr. Alex Placencio.
Beth Corbett seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Alex Placencio	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Brian Archibald	Aye

Capitalization Project Committee

- The Board discussed reorganizing the Capitalization Project Committee, an ad hoc committee.
- Members confirmed that there are ongoing capital projects, including work related to the farm and construction activities.
- The Board invited members to volunteer for the committee.
- Proposed Committee Composition:
  - Chair: Ms. Beth Corbett
  - Member: Ms. Beatriz Chen
  - Member: Mr. Brian Archibald

Beth Corbett made a motion to approve the General Membership for the Capitalization Projects Committee.
Brian Archibald seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Alex Placencio	Aye
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye

Safety Committee

- The Board discussed the responsibilities of the Safety Committee, including:
    - Campus security and on-campus safety concerns.
    - Student concerns and issues raised during public comments.
    - Cybersecurity was also raised as a possible area of responsibility, but its placement was not fully clarified.
- Board members volunteered to serve on the committee.
- Proposed Committee Composition:
    - Chair: Ms. Beatrice Chen
    - Member: Ms. Beth Corbett
    - Member: Ms. Mandy Rogers

Mariellen Webster made a motion to approve the General Membership for the Safety Committee.
Brian Archibald seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Alex Placencio	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye

Technology Committee

- The Board discussed the membership and leadership of the Technology Committee.
- The Technology Committee was confirmed as an ad hoc committee.
- Proposed Committee Composition:
    - Chair: Ms. Mariellen Webster
    - Member: Ms. Beatriz Chen
    - Member: Ms. Mandy Rogers

Beth Corbett made a motion to approve the General Membership for the Technology Committee.
Beatriz Chen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Alex Placencio	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye

Roll Call

Brian Archibald	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye

Travel Committee

- The Board discussed the purpose and responsibilities of the Travel Committee.
- The committee's role is to review and approve school-related travel, particularly **overnight and out-of-state trips**, including the associated travel budget.
- Board members questioned whether travel approvals should be handled by the Executive Director rather than a Board committee.
- It was clarified that the existing process requires Board-level review and approval for certain travel requests and related expenditures.
- The Board agreed to maintain the Travel Committee as part of the current committee structure.
- **Proposed Committee Composition:**
  - Chair: Ms. Mariellen Webster
  - Member: Mr. Brian Archibald
  - Member: Ms. Beatriz Chen

Beatriz Chen made a motion to approve the General Membership for the Travel Committee.
Mandy Rogers seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Mandy Rogers	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Alex Placencio	Aye

The Board also discussed the possible creation of a **Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee**. Members discussed the need to clarify the committee's purpose, responsibilities, and expected outcomes before formal establishment.

Questions were also raised regarding the scope and authority of the Travel Committee, particularly regarding travel approvals and the distinction between Board oversight and the Executive Director's operational responsibilities.

G. Resolution Authorizing Submission of Charter Renewal Petition to LAUSD Board of Education

Presenter: Dean Bennett, Interim Executive Director

The Board discussed the resolution authorizing submission of the school's charter renewal petition to the **Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education**.

Dean Bennett explained that, at the September regular Board meeting, the Board had previously authorized the charter renewal submission and identified **Ms. Larew as the lead petitioner** and **Mr. Duke as the financial representative**. Because Ms. Larew would be unavailable to present at the October 29 charter renewal intake meeting, Dean Bennett asked whether a separate Board action was needed to authorize him to present on her behalf. The Board determined that no additional authorization was necessary, as Dean Bennett would be acting on behalf of the previously designated lead petitioner.

The Board then discussed the status of the charter renewal petition. Members asked whether everyone had reviewed the most current version. It was noted that the petition was still being revised, including ongoing legal review and input from various departments. Dean Bennett clarified that the document was not yet final and that the current version would continue to be updated before the submission deadline.

Board members requested that the **most current version of the petition be circulated to all current Board members** so they could review the document before the October 29 intake meeting.

The Board also clarified that the resolution was **not a vote approving the final content of the petition**. Rather, it authorized the submission of the petition, with the final document continuing through the established process and final preparation prior to the deadline.

Staff noted that the charter renewal work had involved the Executive Director, Dr. Clark, legal counsel, finance, and other departments, with input from multiple areas of the school. The Board and staff emphasized that the petition was being developed collaboratively and that the school was working under a compressed timeline due to significant organizational changes.
Beth Corbett made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing submission of the charter renewal petition to the LAUSD Board of Education.
Mandy Rogers seconded the motion.
5 - 1
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Brian Archibald	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Beth Corbett	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Alex Placencio	No

Roll Call

Beatriz Chen Aye

IV. Finance

A. Discuss and Vote to Approve the September 2026 Check Registers

Presenter: Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance

Ms. Verduzco introduced herself as the Director of Finance and presented the September 2026 check registers for all four bank accounts, together with the ASB Trust Balance Report. She reported that the registers reflected approximately **177 payments totaling $1,545,095.45**, with each register reconciled to approved purchase orders.

ASB Trust Balance Report

- Total balance: approximately **$411,107.73** across **112 club accounts** as of September 30, 2026.
- Three accounts were reported as having negative balances.
- The Boys Soccer account had a negative balance of approximately **$2,891.21**; a fundraiser was underway with projected proceeds of approximately $8,000–$13,000.
- The Step Team account had a negative balance of approximately **$2,282.68**. A transfer was subsequently approved in October, bringing the balance to approximately **$34.70**.

ASB Trust Account — Ending 1826

- **29 checks totaling approximately $81,821.20**.
- Expenditures were for approved student club activities.
- Major expenditures included approximately **$15,580.84** for the Class of 2027 senior getaway/senior picnic and **$11,706.68** for 260 football uniforms.

General Account — Ending 1769

- **Five ACH payments totaling approximately $99,839.78**.
- Payments primarily covered recurring insurance and retirement-related obligations.
- Major items included the October insurance premium paid in advance and recurring retirement funding payments.

Fundraising Account — Ending 1287

- **Three checks totaling approximately $457.60**.
- Payments primarily covered Chartwells and faculty/staff appreciation bagels.

Accounts Payable Account — Ending 1796

- **140 checks totaling approximately $1,362,976.86**.
- Major expenditures included approximately **$332,887.52** for September employee benefits, **$240,708.44** for English textbooks for grades 9–11, and **$120,425.54** for August special education support services.

Board Discussion
Board members asked questions regarding:

- Reissued checks and whether stop-payment fees had been incurred.
- Documentation supporting stop-payment transactions.
- Positive Pay procedures and independent financial controls.
- A July 11 Board-member reimbursement and whether the reimbursement request was submitted within the required 30-day period.
- The approval process for the Board-member reimbursement.
- ASB negative balances and the requirements governing balances maintained in ASB accounts.

Ms. Verduzco explained that stop-payment/reissue fees had been waived and that she had been added to the bank account to perform Positive Pay review. She described the process as verifying issued checks against bank activity before payments are released.

Regarding the Board-member reimbursement, Ms. Verduzco stated that she would verify the submission date and provide additional information. The Board noted that the reimbursement policy generally requires submission within 30 days and requested clarification if the request was submitted outside that period.

Ms. Verduzco also confirmed that the reimbursement had received Executive Director approval.

Board members indicated that additional questions regarding expenditures would be addressed through further review with the Finance Committee.

Ms. Webster stepped away from the meeting at **7:24 PM** during the discussion and **returned at 7:29 PM**.
Beth Corbett made a motion to approve the 20 September 2026 Check Registers.
Alex Placencio seconded the motion.
2 Abstains - 3 no - 1 yes
The motion did not carry.

Roll Call	
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Brian Archibald	Abstain
Mariellen Webster	Abstain

Roll Call	
Alex Placencio	No
Beatriz Chen	No
Mandy Rogers	No
Beth Corbett	Aye

B. Discuss and Vote to Approve the September 2026 Credit Card Statements

Presenter: Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance

Ms. Verduzco presented the September 2026 credit card report, including Ms. Emily Larew's card activity. The statement reflected **33 charges totaling $30,679.69** for the September 2026 statement period.

She reported that all charges had been audited and reviewed against approved purchase orders. **Five charges exceeding $1,000 totaled approximately $21,482.13, representing about 70% of total spending.**

Major expenditures included:

- **Music Theater Competition of America (MTCA): $13,086.15** — individual and group registration fees for students to participate in theater workshops.
- **Project Lead the Way: $2,400** — registration fees for the 2026–2027 courses for teachers.

The Board asked questions regarding **Duo.com**. Ms. Verduzco clarified that Duo is used for **multi-factor authentication (MFA) for the school's servers**.
Beth Corbett made a motion to approve the September 2026 credit card statements.
Beatriz Chen seconded the motion.
5 yes - 1 no
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Beth Corbett	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Brian Archibald	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Alex Placencio	No
Beatriz Chen	Aye

C. Investment Update – September 2026

Presenter: Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance

Ms. Verduzco presented the September 2026 investment update, which is overseen by **Beacon Point**, the school's investment advisor.

The school's investments closed September at approximately **$46.64 million**, reflecting a **2.1% decline for the month**.

- **OPEB Trust:** $36,846,663 — approximately 81% of total investments; retiree benefit obligations managed by Beacon Point.
- **General Fund:** $7,881,465 — approximately 17%; operating reserves managed by Beacon Point.
- **Midland Annuity:** $466,239 — approximately 1%.
- **Treasury Bills:** $445,856 — approximately 1%; managed by City National Bank.
- **Total Investments: $46,640,223**.

Ms. Verduzco noted that both Beacon Point portfolios declined approximately 2.1% during September, while the Midland annuity and Treasury bill accounts were not similarly affected.

Board Discussion
A Board member asked which portions of the portfolio contributed to the 2.1% monthly decline, noting that the S&P 500 had declined by a smaller percentage during the same period.

Ms. Verduzco stated that she did not have the specific breakdown of the portfolio performance at the meeting and would confirm the information with Beacon Point.

Follow-up: Beacon Point will be invited to participate in a Finance and Investment Committee meeting to review the September investment performance and identify the portfolio components contributing to the decline.

V. School Business

A. Discussion and Vote to Adopt amended Standard Operations Procedure

Presenter: Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance

Ms. Verduzco presented an amended Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) addressing **segregation of duties and financial transactions involving the current or former Chief Business Officer (CBO)**. The SOP was presented as a corrective action addressing CBO oversight and would take effect upon Board approval.

The amended SOP establishes the following safeguards:

- The CBO may not be the sole approver or signer for related-party transactions.
- The CBO may not review or reconcile transactions that they previously approved.
- The Business Office will screen vendors and flag potential related-party concerns.
- Transactions identified as potential related-party transactions will be paused pending review.
- Related-party transactions will be reported to the Board at each regular Board meeting.
- Noncompliance will be reported to the Board immediately.
- The SOP will be reviewed annually by the Board.

Board Discussion
Board members questioned why the SOP was limited specifically to transactions involving the CBO rather than applying more broadly to other Finance Department personnel.

Ms. Verduzco explained that the current scope was focused on concerns identified by the **Charter Schools Division (CSD)** and the school's response to the related Notice of Allegations/Violations. She acknowledged that the policy could be broadened in the future.

Board members also raised concerns regarding the definition and practical implementation of an **independent reviewer**, particularly if the reviewer reports within the Finance Office overseen by the CBO. The Board discussed the need for a mechanism that would allow concerns to be raised independently, including strengthening related policies and reporting mechanisms.

Ms. Verduzco stated that the school is implementing additional controls, including a whistleblower policy portal, and that the Business Office is reviewing service contracts and required W-9 documentation. Administration and the Executive Director were identified as potential reviewers of related-party transactions.

Board members recommended strengthening the independent-review component and expanding the SOP in the future to address broader potential conflicts and segregation-of-duties concerns.

Beth Corbett made a motion to Adopt amended Standard Operations Procedure.
Mariellen Webster seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Beatriz Chen	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent

Roll Call

Beth Corbett	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Alex Placencio	Aye

B. Discussion and Vote to Adopt the FCMAT ASB Manual

Presenters: Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance, and Dr. Minita Clark, Administrative Director

- **Purpose:** Board was asked to adopt the most recent **FCMAT Associated Student Body (ASB) Manual** as ECRCHS's ongoing standard for ASB financial practices.
- **Background:**
  - FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team) provides a statewide standard for managing student body funds, including cash handling, fundraising, spending, budgeting, and internal controls.
  - ECRCHS had not previously had a Board-adopted ASB fiscal manual since the school's inception.
  - The manual will complement, but not replace, existing student-written ASB bylaws, which govern student leadership and organizational roles.
- **Key Benefits/Controls:**
  - Establishes clear and current financial procedures for students, advisors, administrators, and staff.
  - Strengthens governance, internal controls, compliance, and risk mitigation.
  - Helps ensure ASB expenditures comply with California requirements, including restrictions on prohibited uses of public funds.
  - ECRCHS will automatically follow future updates to the FCMAT ASB Manual without requiring separate Board adoption each time.
  - The Business Office will communicate updates and ensure ASB personnel receive training **at least every two years**.
- **Three-Signature Requirement:**
  - Adoption establishes a mandatory three-signature standard for ASB transactions.
  - Signatures will include the **student, ASB advisor, and administrator**.
- **Implementation:**
  - Dr. Clark and Ms. Verduzco will work together on ASB oversight, financial practices, budgeting, and organization of ASB-related activities.
  - The school plans to review and organize existing ASB, athletics, and other program structures to ensure proper financial and administrative alignment.

Mariellen Webster made a motion to Adopt the FCMAT ASB Manual.

Mandy Rogers seconded the motion.
5 yes - 1 abstain
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Alex Placencio	Abstain
Brian Archibald	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye

C. Discussion regarding California IT in Education (CITE) Recommendation

Presenter: Ryan Guinto, Director of Technology

Independent Assessment Presenters: Andrea Bennett and Eric Calderon, CITE

- **Purpose:** The Board reviewed the final independent CITE technology assessment of ECRCHS.
- **Overall Finding:** ECRCHS has a **strong technology foundation**, including established technology platforms, network infrastructure, a service catalog, and a committed technology team. The next priority is strengthening technology governance, funding, documentation, and sustainable operations.

Strengths Identified:

- Strong enterprise platforms, including Aeries and Canvas.
- Established wireless/network infrastructure.
- Well-developed technology service catalog.
- Dedicated and responsive technology staff.
- Strong alignment between technology, instructional priorities, and the LCAP.
- Resilient internet service through multiple providers.

Key Areas for Improvement:

- **Governance and Procurement**
  - Establish stronger oversight of technology purchases and major investments.
  - Develop formal software evaluation criteria covering accessibility, privacy, cybersecurity, integration, total cost of ownership, and instructional value.
  - Strengthen vendor review, contract oversight, conflict disclosures, recusals, and performance monitoring.
- **Cybersecurity and Disaster Recovery**

    - Further mature cybersecurity practices and formally document existing safeguards.
    - Develop and test comprehensive disaster recovery and business continuity plans, including recovery time and recovery point objectives.
    - Formalize administrative access, backup, retention, and restoration procedures.
    - Consider established cybersecurity frameworks such as CIS Controls or NIST 800.
- **Technology Lifecycle and Infrastructure**
    - More than **4,100 devices** are managed by the Technology Department.
    - Approximately **900 devices** are due for refresh in 2027.
    - **26 network switches** are beyond vendor support.
    - **78 lab workstations** are beyond their expected lifecycle.
    - Develop a multi-year refresh plan covering network switches, servers, power protection, devices, and laboratory equipment.
- **ERP and Service Management**
    - Improve documentation and backup/restore procedures for the current ERP/IQ environment.
    - Evaluate the long-term cost, functionality, compliance, and sustainability of the current ERP.
    - Increase use of ticketing analytics and service-level metrics to identify recurring issues and measure response times.
- **Staffing and Organizational Continuity**
    - Develop cross-training and backup assignments for critical systems.
    - Reduce reliance on single individuals for essential technology functions.
    - Update documentation and succession plans to preserve institutional knowledge.
    - Establish structured annual professional development related to technology, security, and privacy.

Staff Survey:

- 71 employees participated.
- 69% reported that technology enables them to complete their work effectively.
- 62.9% reported that technology issues are reported and resolved in a timely manner.
- 59.2% reported inconsistent training, indicating a need for more formalized training opportunities.

Board Discussion/Direction:

- The CITE representatives confirmed that the presented report was the **final report**.
- The Board discussed the need for additional documentation regarding the current ERP and its backup/recovery processes.

- The Technology Committee will review the assessment recommendations and suggested remedies as part of its future work.

D. Discuss and Vote to Approve 2026-2027 Prop 28 Budget

Presenters: Ryan Guinto, Director of Technology; Janneyra Verduzco, Director of Accounting and Finance; Kevin Thurow, Band Teacher; and Heidi Hutson, Theater Teacher

- **Purpose:** Board reviewed and considered approval of the **2026–2027 Prop 28 Arts and Music budget**.
- **Prop 28 Overview:**
  - Prop 28 provides ongoing dedicated funding for arts and music education.
  - The budget follows the required allocation of **80% for staffing/personnel and 20% for programs and materials**.
  - Remaining funds from the prior Prop 28 cycle are being used for the 20% program/materials allocation.
- **2026–2027 Staffing Budget:**
  - Eight positions were proposed.
  - Proposed annual salaries: **$323,378**.
  - Statutory and health benefits: **$130,651**.
  - Total proposed staffing cost: **$454,039**.
  - Assistant Music Director position is vacant and budgeted part-time for 2026–2027.
  - Assistant Theater Director position increased from part-time to full-time with benefits.
  - Technical Director and Band Tech Assistant rates were also adjusted.
- **Budget Monitoring:**
  - The proposed staffing budget exceeds the stated staffing allocation of approximately **$371,000**.
  - Janneyra Verduzco, the VAPA Chair, Kevin Thurow, and Heidi Hutson will meet monthly to monitor expenditures.
  - The next review will compare **budget versus actual personnel expenditures**, particularly considering the vacant Assistant Music Director position.
- **Program Showcase:**
  - **Band/Orchestra:** Kevin Thurow highlighted student achievements in orchestra, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, marching band, color guard, and drumline. Prop 28 funds support walk-on coaches and specialists, as well as instruments, repairs, and equipment.

- **Theater:** Heidi Hutson highlighted the four-year theater program and the technical theater program created through Prop 28 funding. Funds support the technical director, student training, costumes, props, competitions, and theater-related educational opportunities.
- The theater program also highlighted student participation in MTCA and the Broadway Student Summit.

Mandy Rogers made a motion to Approve 2026-2027 Prop 28 Budget.
Mariellen Webster seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Beatriz Chen	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Alex Placencio	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye

E. Discussion about the 2025-2026 California Dashboard

Presenter: Dr. Minita Clark, Administrative Director

- **Purpose:** Board reviewed the recently released **2025–2026 California Dashboard** results and discussed student achievement, subgroup performance, and school climate indicators.
- **Dashboard Release:** Results were released October 15, 2026, following the state embargo.
- **Local Indicators:**
  - All five locally reported indicators were reported as meeting standards.
  - Areas included basic conditions, teacher qualifications, instructional materials, facilities, academic standards implementation, parent/family engagement, school climate, and broad course offerings.
- **Academic Performance:**
  - **English Language Arts:** Declined **12.6 points** and moved from green to **yellow**. Despite the decline, ECR remained above the state average/proficiency level.
  - **Math:** Increased **13.4 points**, moving from yellow to **green**. However, overall math performance remained below proficiency and was identified as an area requiring continued improvement.
  - **Science:** Remained **green** and has maintained strong performance over several years.
  - **English Learner Progress: Blue**, with approximately **70.5%** of English Learners making progress, an **11.6-point increase**.

- **College and Career Readiness:** Remained **green**.
- **Graduation Rate: 92.7%**, compared with the statewide rate of approximately 88.1%; remained **green**.
- **Suspension Rate:** Approximately **0.7%**, remaining in the green range.

• **Factors Discussed Regarding Math Improvement:**
- Increased use of **Edge Elastic** to better align instruction and assessment questions with academic standards.
- Greater alignment of instructional practices and pacing across mathematics courses.
- Development of common pacing guides and grading practices to promote consistency and equitable instruction.

• **Factors Discussed Regarding ELA Decline:**
- The school experienced the loss of approximately five to six English teachers several years ago, including several teachers serving the 11th grade, which is the testing grade.
- Three of the five previously lost English positions have since been replenished.
- Staffing changes were identified as a possible contributing factor, although staff did not attribute the decline solely to staffing.

• **English Learner Performance:**
- Approximately **70.5%** of English Learners were making progress.
- English Learners represent approximately **2.7%** of enrollment, or about 83 students.
- Approximately 34% of English Learners were reclassified during the prior year.
- Continued alignment, dedicated EL support, and instructional practices were credited as contributing factors.

• **African American Student Outcomes:**
- Board discussed continued declines in achievement among African American students across several measures.
- The school reported ongoing efforts focused on equitable and culturally proficient instruction, differentiated instruction, diversified curriculum content, family engagement, and tutoring.
- RISE and increased parent engagement were identified as areas for continued focus.
- The Board requested comparisons with nearby/local charter schools, including **Renata and Birmingham**, to determine whether similar trends exist and identify practices that may be producing stronger outcomes elsewhere.

• **School Climate:**
- Approximately **60% of parents** affirmed campus safety.
- Approximately **64% of students** reported safety concerns, creating a notable parent/student perception gap.

    - Approximately **42% of students** reported enthusiasm toward attending school.
    - Approximately **47% of students** reported feeling respected by adults.
    - Bathroom safety, including concerns related to vaping and student behavior, remained an area of concern.
    - The school is working with its new security provider and exploring **EpGuard** as a potential additional safety measure.
- **Board Discussion:** Board members requested additional analysis of subgroup performance and local-school comparisons, particularly for African American student outcomes and the factors contributing to math growth.

Ms. Chen stepped away from the meeting at 7:50 pm during the discussion and **returned at 7:54 PM**.

F. Presentation with ECR Parent Groups

Presenters: Wendy True, EL Coordinator; Dr. Leslie Lockhart, RISE Parent Co-President; Matt Wright, ECR Royal Family Parent Lead

- The Board received updates from ECRCHS parent groups and discussed opportunities to strengthen parent participation and support for students.
- **ELAC:** Continues to meet approximately four times annually and focuses on EL testing, reclassification requirements, student needs, and parent input.
- **RISE:** Re-established after approximately two years without an active parent committee. First meeting scheduled for **November 4, 2026**.
- **ECR Royal Family:** Reported significant growth in parent participation, averaging approximately **24 parents per meeting**.
- Mr. Wright requested:
    - Board approval/authorization for ECR Royal Family to operate as a school-supported booster organization with appropriate oversight.
    - Restoration of the banner fundraising program, historically generating approximately **$10,000 annually**.
- Administration discussed the possibility of providing **$7,500 per parent group** for student-focused programming, subject to Board discussion and required protocols.
- The Board expressed appreciation to the parent volunteers for their continued support of students and staff.

G. Discussion and Vote to Amend the Articles of Incorporation

Presenter: Dean Bennett, Interim Executive Director

- Dean Bennett presented the proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation to add **CalSTRS-compliant language**.
- The amendment is required to allow ECRCHS to submit the necessary CalSTRS compliance form certifying compliance with applicable **IRS and California Education Board requirements** for offering CalSTRS benefits.
- The current Articles of Incorporation do not contain the required language.
- Dean Bennett clarified that the amendment addresses a **new CalSTRS requirement**.
- Legal counsel prepared the proposed amendment for Board consideration.

Mariellen Webster made a motion to Amend the Articles of Incorporation.
Mandy Rogers seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Alex Placencio	Aye
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Beth Corbett	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Beatriz Chen	Aye

The board entered the closed session at 9:16 PM on the 22nd of October, 2026.

VI. Reconvene to Open Session

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

The board reconvene the open session at 10:52 PM on the 22nd of October, 2026.

- The Board reconvened in **open session** and reported on actions taken during closed session regarding the **2026 Parent Representative Election**.
- The Board approved a statement addressing the complaint alleging interference with the online parent representative election conducted August 10–19, 2026.
- An independent digital forensics review **substantiated the central allegation**, finding that a substantial number of ballots were cast using parents' voting credentials without their knowledge.
- The investigation found **no indication that any candidate knew of or participated in the interference**.
- Nearly all fraudulent ballots were cast on August 18–19, 2026. Authenticated records showed that as of August 17, **Mandy Rogers held 76% of the parent votes**, and legitimate ballots cast afterward could not have changed the outcome.
- On **October 16, 2026**, the Board voted to certify the election without the fraudulent ballots and confirm **Mandy Rogers as the parent representative**. Ms. Rogers recused herself from the Board's deliberations and vote on the matter.

- To protect future elections, the Board will conduct school elections through **in-person paper ballots with voter eligibility verification** until adequate safeguards for digital elections can be established.
- Administration was directed to strengthen election procedures and information-system security.
- The Board reported that action had been taken regarding the individuals determined to be primarily responsible for the election interference. No further personnel details were disclosed due to privacy requirements.
- The Board placed on record that a **complaint with supporting evidence was submitted to law enforcement**.
- The Board thanked staff who raised the concerns and parents who participated in the election and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that school elections reflect the choice of the parent community.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Mandy Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Beatriz Chen seconded the motion.
Single Voice Vote
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
Beth Corbett	Aye
Steven Kofahl	Absent
Mandy Rogers	Aye
Alex Placencio	Aye
Mariellen Webster	Aye
Brian Archibald	Aye
Beatriz Chen	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryan Guinto