

APPROVED



Connecting Waters Charter Schools

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

(A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation)

Date and Time

Thursday August 28, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Location

Connecting Waters Central Valley Resource Center, Board Room
2300 E. Briggsmore Ave. Modesto, CA 95355

Additional Teleconference Locations:

- Connecting Waters East Bay Resource Center, Bay Bridge Room (Room 3)
703 C Street, Union City, CA 94587
- Connecting Waters Charter Schools, Back Classroom (Entrance is facing G Street)
12420 Bentley Street, Waterford, CA 95386
- Livestream link view only: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85271398615#success>

Agenda Posting Locations

This agenda was posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at the following locations:
Connecting Waters Charter Schools, 12420 Bentley Street, Waterford, CA 95386; Connecting Waters Charter School Resource Center, 12705 Bentley Street, Waterford CA, 95386; Connecting Waters East Bay Resource Center, 703 C Street, Union City, CA 94587; Connecting Waters Central Valley Resource Center, 2300 E. Briggsmore Avenue, Modesto, CA 95355.

Instructions for Presentations to the Board by Parents and Citizens

Connecting Waters Charter Schools (“Schools”) welcomes your participation at the School’s Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) is to conduct the affairs of the Schools in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our Schools. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

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 “Hearing of the Public.” “Hearing of the Public” 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. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes and total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. 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 that agenda item on your “Request to Speak” form and you will be given an opportunity to speak for up to three (3) minutes when the Board discusses that item.
4. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and address from the podium and adhere to the time limits set forth.
5. A member of the public requiring a translator will be provided twice the allotted time for public comment per individual speaker in accordance with Section 54954.3 of the Government Code.
6. 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 12420 Bentley Street, Waterford, California

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and upon request, Connecting Waters Charter Schools may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require appropriate alternative modifications in order to participate in Board meetings are invited to contact the Executive Director’s office by calling (209) 874-1119 Ext. 6 as soon as possible prior to the meeting.

Directors Present

B. Cerruti, E. Melton, J. Louie-Monzon (remote), K. Corrales, K. Fatima (remote), L. Addipah

Directors Absent

None

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

J. Louie-Monzon

Ex Officio Members Present

J. Levers

Non Voting Members Present

J. Levers

Guests Present

L. Joseph, M. Miller, T. Echaide, T. Hushaw

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

E. Melton called a meeting of the board of directors of Connecting Waters Charter Schools to order on Thursday Aug 28, 2025 at 3:03 PM.

B. Roll Call

J. Louie-Monzon arrived at 3:05 PM.

C. Oath of Office - New Board Members

New Board Members L. Addipah and K. Corrales took the Oath of Office and have been officially sworn in as Board of Directors

D. Approval of the August 28, 2025, Board of Directors Agenda

B. Cerruti made a motion to Approve the August 28, 2025, Board of Directors Agenda.

J. Louie-Monzon seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

L. Addipah	Aye
B. Cerruti	Aye
E. Melton	Aye
J. Louie-Monzon	Aye
K. Fatima	Aye
K. Corrales	Aye

E. Pledge of Allegiance

Led By: B. Cerruti

F. Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

B. Cerruti- Expressed her disappointment with receiving an invitation to the dedication of the Multicultural Library to Sherri Nelson with only a two day notice.
No members from the public are present

G. Hearing of the Public on Agenda Items

No members of the public are present

II. Administrative Reports

A. Facilities - Presented by Malinda Miller, Operations & Facilities Administrative Assistant

M. Miller shared with the Board the building and maintenance projects happening at all three of our school sites. She gave a progress report on the land acquisition taking place for the future Waterford Resource Center. She shared updates and progress on the remodeling and expansion taking place at our East Bay Resource Center in Union City. Finally, she shared the facility maintenance happening at our Central Valley campus. The Board received her report and thanked her for the presentation.

B. Student Testing Data - Presented by Curriculum and Accountability Director, Shoni Johnson

S. Johnson shared her presentation with the board and offered the raw data and big trends that we are seeing as of this time for student assessment. This information will be used to celebrate progress and see where we need to offer greater supports.

S. Johnson offered an update on our Amira Screening tool used for screening reading for Kindergarten through second grade. The state mandated that we adopt a tool to use to screen all K-2 grade students within 45 days of enrollment starting this year. The state approved the Amira screening tool but it is having technical difficulties at this time and we are working with Amira to resolve these so that we can meet the statute the state requires. It is not just our school that has run into these difficulties so we will keep you updated on the situation.

C. Human Resources and Financial Services - Presented by 9Dot

Michael Canney, CEO and Cynthia Harsen, CFO from 9Dot were with us online to share about their services and answer questions.

Our board thanked them for presenting to our staff the previous day and shared how much they appreciated the time they took to answer each question thoroughly.

III. Directors' Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

J. Levers gave her report to the Board and they received it. The highlights she shared were the new virtual college and career center that has been created by our Guidance team. As part of the APLUS advisory committee that J. Levers and T. Hushaw serve on, they look at the legislative bills being presented in congress and participate in advocating for our school and all charter schools. At this time, the legislative bills that are being watched closely are AB 84 and SB 414. J. Levers thanked our Vendor Relations team and J. Boersma for joining her at the Capitol when she visited to advocate for Charter Schools.

She provided an update on our Resource Center Orientations and shared that a new feature this year was free haircuts, offered by one of our site assistants. The addition was very well received.

Trustee McDonald from ACOE joined us at the CWEB Orientation for the ribbon cutting ceremony on the renovations taking place over there. Since we will no longer need to have the mobile science lab at CWEB we are going to place it at CW to offer science classes in Waterford.

Finally, on the open positions that are listed, we are moving forward with conducting interviews and filling those positions.

B. Deputy Executive Director Spotlight

T. Hushaw presented her report to the Board — Projects that are happening at the schools part 1 is painting a tiger on the wall of the multipurpose room at CV. We have met with some local artists, and we are still trying to determine the best artist for the project. She gave some examples to the Board that they are considering. We are looking at another artist that is a former student that we are also considering. Part 2 is a playground that was requested by a student who came to a board meeting and asked for something for our students at CV to play on. We are looking at games that can be painted onto our cement for the students. The other component of this is asking our students what games they would like to see us paint on the ground.

T. Hushaw noted that we did have a restorative practices training that she will bring us more information on at the next meeting. They offered a painting that can also be done on the ground that can help students process emotions.

We will be doing more trainings with Family Concern Counseling to provide more training opportunities for our staff on restorative practices.

IV. Consent Items

A. Approval of Amended Minutes - May 27, 2025 Regular Meeting

B.

Approval of Minutes - June 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

- C. Approval of Minutes - June 17, 2025 Special Meeting**
- D. Approval of New Hires List**
- E. Approval of Separations List**
- F. Approval of Resignation Letter from Board Member Ron Mayo**
- G. Approval of Resignation Letter from Board Member Bonnie Cerruti**
- H. Approval of the May 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School**
- I. Approval of the May 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School, East Bay**
- J. Approval of the May 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School, Central Valley**
- K. Approval of the June 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School**
- L. Approval of the June 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School, East Bay**
- M. Approval of the June 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School, Central Valley**
- N. Approval of the July 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School**
- O. Approval of the July 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School, East Bay**
- P. Approval of the July 2025 Warrant Report from DMS for Connecting Waters Charter School, Central Valley**
- Q. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for May-June 2025**
- R. Summer Institute Stipend Memorandum of Understanding Between Connecting Waters Charter Schools and Connecting Waters Charter Schools Certificated Employees**
- S.**

Approval of Items on the Consent Agenda

K. Corrales made a motion to approve items A-R except Morgan Hushaw in item E and item G was pulled from the consent agenda.

L. Addipah seconded the motion.

Pull item G- B. Cerruti's resignation letter

J. Levers would like to amend item E- Morgan Hushaw is not leaving us

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

Roll Call

- L. Addipah Aye
- E. Melton Aye
- K. Corrales Aye
- K. Fatima Aye
- J. Louie-Monzon Aye
- B. Cerruti Aye

V. Items Scheduled for Consideration and/or Action

A. Bonnie's resignation letter Jennifer would like to discuss the possibility of Bonnie not resigning Bonnie will gladly be available to stay with us until her therapy takes place and will be able to join us for the Board retreat.

B. Cerruti stated that she is still not sure what her therapy will look like for the future and once she has more information she will be able to better determine if she is able to remain on the Board. All of the current Board Members added that they would be happy to have her remain if she is able to do so.

K. Corrales made a motion to approve B. Cerruti's resignation letter.

J. Louie-Monzon seconded the motion.

The motion unanimously did not carry.

Roll Call

- K. Corrales No
- J. Louie-Monzon No
- B. Cerruti Abstain
- E. Melton No
- L. Addipah No
- K. Fatima No

B. Approval of the Connecting Waters Charter School 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals

K. Fatima made a motion to Approve the Connecting Waters Charter School 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals.

B. Cerruti seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

B. Cerruti Aye
K. Corrales Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye
L. Addipah Aye
K. Fatima Aye
E. Melton Aye

C. Approval of the Connecting Waters Charter School, East Bay 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals

L. Addipah made a motion to Approve the Connecting Waters Charter School, East Bay 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals.

K. Corrales seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Louie-Monzon Aye
K. Fatima Aye
B. Cerruti Aye
E. Melton Aye
K. Corrales Aye
L. Addipah Aye

D. Approval of the Connecting Waters Charter School, Central Valley 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals

B. Cerruti made a motion to Approve the Connecting Waters Charter School, Central Valley 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals.

L. Addipah seconded the motion.

T. Hushaw pointed out that Debbie took the time to prepare a grant report for us as well

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

Roll Call

J. Louie-Monzon Aye
B. Cerruti Aye
K. Fatima Aye
E. Melton Aye
L. Addipah Aye
K. Corrales Aye

E. Approval of the Decision for Connecting Waters Charter Schools to not Participate in the Consolidated Application (ConApp) for 2025-2026

B. Cerruti made a motion to Approve the Decision for Connecting Waters Charter Schools to not Participate in the Consolidated Application (ConApp) for 2025-2026.

K. Corrales seconded the motion.

This has to do with categorical funding that we do not take.

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

Roll Call

E. Melton Aye
L. Addipah Aye
K. Fatima Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye
K. Corrales Aye
B. Cerruti Aye

F. Approval of the Connecting Waters Charter Schools 2025-2026 Employee Handbook

B. Cerruti made a motion to Approve the Connecting Waters Charter Schools 2025-2026 Employee Handbook with changes requested.

K. Corrales seconded the motion.

J. Louie-Monzon would like to confirm that the links are working on the first page, and then she would like to have the page numbering fixed when finalized. Language should be changed to Board Chair on page 50 double check to see if it is once or twice listed as Board President.

The updated version will be provided to the board for review to verify the changes were made.

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

Roll Call

K. Fatima Aye
L. Addipah Aye
B. Cerruti Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye
K. Corrales Aye
E. Melton Aye

G. Approval of the Connecting Waters Charter Schools Workplace Violence Prevention Plan

K. Corrales made a motion to Approve the Connecting Waters Charter Schools Workplace Violence Prevention Plan.

L. Addipah seconded the motion.

Page 3 has been corrected very last page can we please fix the bottom to say that it is page 8 of 8 we will make that correction put the pages on each page and keep it consistent make sure that we have all times it was approved and revised.

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

Roll Call

E. Melton Aye

Roll Call

K. Fatima Aye
L. Addipah Aye
K. Corrales Aye
B. Cerruti Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye

H. Approval of the Connecting Waters Charter Schools Suicide Prevention Policy

J. Louie-Monzon made a motion to Approve the Connecting Waters Charter Schools Suicide Prevention Policy.

B. Cerruti seconded the motion.

removal of page 4 rogue O

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

Roll Call

E. Melton Aye
K. Fatima Aye
L. Addipah Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye
K. Corrales Aye
B. Cerruti Aye

I. Approval of the Connecting Waters Charter Schools Education Records and Student Information Policy.

L. Addipah made a motion to Approve the Connecting Waters Charter Schools Education Records and Student Information Policy.

J. Louie-Monzon seconded the motion.

No changes were made just a clean copy was provided we will change the date on the bottom to the 28th

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

Roll Call

B. Cerruti Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye
E. Melton Aye
K. Fatima Aye
K. Corrales Aye
L. Addipah Aye

J. Approval of the Amended 2025-2026 Certificated Pay Scales.

K. Corrales made a motion to Approve the Amended 2025-2026 Certificated Pay Scales.

L. Addipah seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

L. Addipah Aye

Roll Call

E. Melton Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye
K. Fatima Aye
B. Cerruti Aye
K. Corrales Aye

K. Approval of the Amended 2025-2026 Exempt Education Specialist Pay Scales

K. Corrales made a motion to Approve the Amended 2025-2026 Exempt Education Specialist Pay Scales with changes.

B. Cerruti seconded the motion.

The Board Members asked clarifying questions and mentioned recommendations for the document presentation.

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

Roll Call

K. Corrales Aye
B. Cerruti Aye
K. Fatima Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye
E. Melton Aye
L. Addipah Aye

VI. Items scheduled for Information & Discussion

A. Chief Business Officer (CBO) Position Discussion

The idea of creating a Chief Business Officer (CBO) position at Connecting Waters was discussed. Last year, the possibility of hiring a fractional CFO was considered, but our attorneys advised against it, recommending that the role be filled in-house. After consulting with leadership and advisors, there is strong support for establishing a CBO position, as it would provide valuable internal support for planning, financial oversight, and HR-related matters. This role would also offer additional assistance to both administration and HR staff. The proposal was brought forward for board input.

The Board has determined the next step is to bring to the board a job description and a salary study.

B. Food Truck Addition Discussion

We are looking at a mobile food trailer to accommodate our culinary students in the East Bay.

A trailer would allow us to accommodate entrepreneurial opportunities that could also benefit our Business CTE program and give our culinary students some real time experience. We could also partner with the church to help feed the homeless. This would provide more families and students with equitable access to the culinary program.

C. 2025 Graduate Exit Survey

When our students graduate they all get an exit survey. They do not all fill it out but those that do help us see some valuable data. Please let us know if you would like other things added to the exit survey.

K. Fatima would like to see a survey to our past students to see where they are now. These could be success stories that we offer to all of our authorizers.

K. Corrales suggested this as a spotlight on the website and our social media sites.

D. 2025 Spring Canvas Survey Results

J. Louie-Monzon would like to consider adding some questions in for the 8th grade and up about classes they are interested in next year.

VII. Board Governance Actions

A. Appointment of Connecting Waters Charter Schools Board of Directors Secretary

K. Corrales made a motion to Table this item off of the agenda until further notice.

L. Addipah seconded the motion.

B. Cerruti will remain in the position

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

Roll Call

J. Louie-Monzon	Aye
L. Addipah	Aye
B. Cerruti	Aye
K. Corrales	Aye
E. Melton	Aye
K. Fatima	Aye

B. Appointment of Connecting Waters Charter Schools Board of Directors Assistant Secretary

B. Cerruti made a motion to Table this item until we have more board members in our boards.

L. Addipah seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

K. Corrales	Aye
B. Cerruti	Aye
E. Melton	Aye
J. Louie-Monzon	Aye

Roll Call

L. Addipah Aye
K. Fatima Aye

VIII. Report on Closed Session Actions

A. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release

The Board voted 6 of 6 which means it was unanimous to give direction to legal counsel regarding the resolution of a personnel complaint.

And, by a vote of 6 of 6, which means it was unanimous to give direction to the Executive Director regarding the continued assessment of employee compensation matters.

B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation Title: Executive Director

Nothing to report

IX. Return to Open Session

A. Board Members Bonnie Cerruti and Lydia Addipah excused themselves from the Closed Session at 7:02 p.m.

Board Members B. Cerruti and L. Addipah excused themselves from the Closed Session at 7:14 p.m.

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

K. Corrales made a motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

K. Fatima seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

B. Cerruti Absent
K. Corrales Aye
J. Louie-Monzon Aye
K. Fatima Aye
E. Melton Aye
L. Addipah Absent

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Melton

LCAP/WASC Goals

1. Increase the percentage of students who are on track to graduate college and career-ready.
2. Close the achievement gap for low-performing students in English and Math.
3. Increase the percentage of EL students who achieve proficiency in English Language Arts and Math.
4. Foster positive relationships through community outreach.