

**Santiago Middle School Charter Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

The Santiago Middle School Charter Board met in-person September 18, 2024. Directors present at the meeting are noted with an “X”.

X	John Haug		Susan Gibb (Certificated Rep)
X	John Besta (Chairperson/Community Rep)	X	Desiree Ortiz (Parent Rep)
X	Alicia Abifadel (Vice Chairperson/Teacher Rep)	X	Julia McCuistion (Parent Rep)
X	Pat Connolly (Teacher Rep)	X	Steve Arnett (Certificate & Classified Rep)
X	Ashley Pedroza (Secretary/Curriculum Rep)	X	Cynthia Robles (Classified Rep)
X	Eric Philips (Parent Rep)	X	District Representative: Ken Miller

An “*” indicates directors who were not present for the entire meeting.

A meeting notice, together with an agenda packet, was provided to each director by September 16, 2024. On the same date, a meeting agenda – including date, time and place – was posted at the entrance to the school office, on the office bulletin board and on Santiago’s website.

- 1. Call to order:** John Besta at 6:29a
- 2. Quorum was established.**
- 3. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve by Julia McCuistion
Approved: 11-0

4. Approval of Minutes: August 14, 2024

Motion to approve by John Haug

Approved: 9-0, recusals: Ashley Pedroza, Alicia Abifadel

6. Public Comments: NA

7. Information/Discussion Items:

A. Board Comments:

- Alicia Abifadel - we had a former student band play at Orange Street Fair and they did great
- Crossing Guards throughout Orange are being reinstated throughout Orange
- John Haug - great class of Freshman from Santiago

B. Principal's Report:

- Enrollment: We are consistent with the enrollment we opened the 2024-2025 school year plus the Independent Study students we have added to the program. We currently have 1135 in-person students and about 20 Independent Study students residing throughout Southern California.
- Fundraiser: Kicking off the fundraiser this week with the schoolwide goal of \$50,000. This fundraiser helps to keep so many innovative opportunities Santanas have, at no cost.
- CHYA: We continue to work with the community and our staff on the adoption and rollout of the new CHYA curriculum. We will be going to the PTSA Meeting in September to get parent insight regarding the new adoption and rollout. This new curriculum will be in effect for students in the Spring of 2025.
- Back to School Night: We had a very successful Back to School Night this year with tons of parents. A huge shout out to our staff, parents and community for making this night memorable and supportive of the start to the school year.
- Long-Term Independent Study: We currently have over 20 Long-Term IS students utilizing curriculum from an accredited university and monitored and tracked by Santiago staff. These students have access to daily synchronous instruction with Santiago staff.
- GRIP: Santiago is proud to partner with OC District Attorney, OC Sheriffs and other local organizations to incentivize good attendance, behavior, and academics for some of our most at-risk students. Our staff learned more about local influences in a most recent PD.
- AC Units: - Quotes pending on 100's, 400's, library, and admin building...all others are completed and working great.
- Fall Sports: Our after-school sports are underway and we are well into the Girls and Boys Soccer Season. A huge shout out to our Athletic Director, Mr. Connolly and Assistant AD, Mr. Nava, for creating these opportunities for students.
- We are going to make a significant investment in the fields this year, most likely during the holiday break as we have more activity than ever before and are in need of leveling off of some parts of the field as well as other field related repairs. We planned on this happening
- Attendance Rate: We are working with our attendance team to get on top of attendance from the start of the year. Students who are Open Enrollment and struggling with

attendance already, are invited to parent meetings, etc. August Attendance: 97.47% AND September Attendance (up to 9/13): 96.18%

- STW: We have our first recertification meeting of the 2024-2025 School Year on 9/25. The California League of Educators will be visiting to affirm our application (turned in summer 2024) and recertify Santiago with another STW term starting in the 2024-2025 School Year. We are honored to be highlighting our rigorous academic programs, CTE-electives and some of the new programs we have at Santiago. We would love to invite any Charter Board members who are interested in attending the visit on 9/25. Please let us know and will give you all the details.
- Grants: The Santiago Grant Team is working feverishly to get some early grants in for the 2024-2025 school year. 1) CTEig with focus on CTE and application written for \$523,000 (last year awarded 1/3rd so we are anticipating similar, hopeful of more). 2) SWP - we are currently working on two different SWP applications, one on CTE electives and another on Dual Enrollment. We are hopeful to be awarded about \$400,000 between the two applications.
- CSEA has reached an agreement with OUSD on contract negotiations. They have settled on a similar deal as OUEA and OUSD. Santiago has honored the equal to or better than clause by matching the CSEA/OUSD agreement at this time. The negotiations are all for the past school year and we are soon opening our 2024-2025 negotiations.
- El Rancho Charter just received a 7 year charter renewal...which only high performing schools can obtain. From what I witnessed, it went very well. Santiago would be eligible for the same 7 year- high performing term if we were up for renewal last year or even this year...but our term is usually on years ending in "5" or "0"...but all charter schools were backed up by 3 years due to COVID, instead of our charter term being up in 2025, it is now up in 2028. We will begin working on that renewal in 2025-2026 with a plan to present during the 2027 school year to avoid any last minute rush.

8. Consent Items

A. Personnel Report:

Approval of personnel reports requiring action that may include extra pay projects, separation of service, short-term employment, change of status and new hires.

Fiscal Impact: \$311,234.15

B. Purchase Orders

Board will vote on purchase orders 2950-2960 which have been processed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Charter Board and applicable requirements of the State of California.

Fiscal Impact: \$37,869.24

C. Warrants List

Board will vote on warrants 2881-2921 and 11113-11139 which have been processed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Charter Board and applicable requirements of the State of California.

Fiscal Impact: \$1,990,197.23

Motion to approve by Ashley Pedroza

Approved: 8-0, Recusals: Pat Connolly, Alicia Abifadel and Cynthia Robles

Meeting Adjourned 7:08p

Call to order Public Hearing: John Besta at 7:08p

Public Hearing on Resolution 47-24 of Santiago Charter Board on Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2024-2025 Williams Settlement Legislation.

Close of Public Hearing: John Besta at 7:09p

Call to order Regular Meeting: John Besta at 7:09p

Public Hearing:

9. Action Items

- a. Resolution 47-24 of Santiago Charter Board on Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2024-2025 Williams Settlement Legislation
Motion to approve by John Haug
Approved: 11-0
- b. Prop 28 Annual Report
Motion to approve by Alicia Abifadel
Approved: 11-0
- c. Revised School Calendar for 2024-2025 School Year
Motion to approve by Julia McCuiston
Approved: 11-0

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by John Besta at 7:18p

Next meeting: October 16, 2024

Reviewed and edited by Ashley Pedroza

The Board of Directors has approved the foregoing minutes

Ashley Pedroza, Secretary