

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2025
Time: 3:09 pm
Location: 1718 Yale Blvd SE
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Regular Meeting	X	Special Meeting	
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I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **3:09 PM MST**

II. Roll Call

Board Member in Attendance

BOARD MEMBERS	Present	Absent
Bruce Langston, President	X	
Pam Kissoondyal, Vice President	X	
Liza Knight, Treasurer		X
Andee Hendee, Secretary	X	
Tami Hill		X

Others in Attendance

JoAnn Mitchell, CEO/Founder	X	
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III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Langston motioned to accept the agenda as written. Member Hendee seconded.

The agenda for the meeting was read and approved as presented.					
YEA	3	NAY	0	ABSTAIN	0

IV. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Member Langston has motioned to approve the previous minutes for August. Member Hendee seconded.

The approval of previous minutes for the meeting was read and approved as presented.					
YEA	3	NAY	0	ABSTAIN	0

V. CEO REPORT

CEO, JoAnn Mitchell, stated that the students have started taking their IA's and should be expecting our first round of data coming in. Staffing and enrollment are still looking good. No major news other than next board meeting there will be data to present.

The approval of the CEO Report was approved as presented.					
YEA	3	NAY	0	ABSTAIN	0

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Member Langston reported on a parent concern may surface at the next board meeting. The issue arose following a vaping incident in which a student was identified by camera footage as being present in the restroom with several other students when the vape detection device was triggered. Multiple students admitted to vaping and identified the student in question as a participant. The student initially denied involvement but later signed a statement indicating participation. The parent disputed the student's involvement and objected to the school's vaping awareness protocol. MAS policy allows students the option to participate in an educational program on vaping and substance use in lieu of immediate suspension. The parent declined this option, electing for the disciplinary process. As a result, the student received a 10-day suspension under MAS's zero-tolerance policy. During subsequent discussions, the student and parent reconsidered and agreed to participate in the vaping awareness program. Accordingly, the suspension was adjusted, and the student returned to class. While staff, including the middle school leader and principal manager, addressed the parent's concerns, the parent has requested to present her perspective directly to the Board. Member Langston emphasized that the parent will be afforded the opportunity to provide a written statement for the record and, if desired, may attend a meeting to address the Board in accordance with protocol. He further advised Board members to respond individually at their discretion should the parent reach out independently remembering no one on the board can act as an individual member with authority to make decisions on behalf of the board. Member Langston emphasized that the school took an amicable and educational approach in this case, noting that the response could have been far more severe. Because the incident involved marijuana, the school could have referred the matter to law enforcement, as possession, distribution, or use of a controlled substance on school property is a violation of the Children's Code. This option could have led to arrests but was deliberately avoided in favor of education and support for the student.

Ms. Mitchell highlighted that while MAS maintains strict zero-tolerance policies for physical violence and drugs, the school has worked to reduce exclusionary practices by implementing an alternative educational model. Instead of only suspending students, MAS offers a class focused on the harms of vaping and substance use. This model has proven more effective in

preventing repeat behaviors than short suspensions or warnings alone, while still holding students accountable. Member Langston concluded by underscoring the seriousness of the issue, citing the rise of fentanyl overdoses and the emergence of new dangerous substances, including a horse tranquilizer linked to recent student deaths in Albuquerque-area schools such as Atrisco Heritage, West Mesa, Highland, and Del Norte. He stressed that the school will not compromise student safety, even if it means facing conflict with parents. “I would rather suspend a student and confront difficult conversations than have to call a parent to say their child will not be coming home,” he stated. Statistics show that these outcomes are common, and it is essential that we protect students from exposure to these drugs.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- a.** Presentation of BARS: The following BARS were presented and reviewed.

BAR #1: 542-000-2425-0001-I
BAR #2: 542-000-2425-0002-I
BAR #4: 542-000-2425-0004-I
BAR #5: 542-000-2425-0005-IB
BAR #6: 542-000-2425-0006-I
BAR #7: 542-000-2425-0007-I

Member Langston motioned for approval of the BARS. Member Hendee seconded.

Approval of the BARS as presented.					
YEA	3	NAY	0	ABSTAIN	0

VIII. REQUEST FOR NEW AGENDA ITEMS OR NEW BUSINESS

- a.** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 3:00 PM.
- b.** Mr. Langston called for adjournment of the meeting at 3:27 PM.