North Valley Academy
Governing Council Agenda – Regular Meeting
7939 4th Street NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM 87114
September 25, 2025, at 4:30 PM

The Governing Council will meet remotely via Zoom. Members of the public wishing to attend and listen may do so via the phone number or meeting link below.

ZOOM Meeting Info:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7863453364?pwd=WVJxY2Q1czdBRUpwR0tiWENqcS9SZz09&omn=81774869873
Passcode: 257728
Telephone Dial-In: +1 253 215 8782 US OR +1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 880 0393 6175

A. OPENING BUSINESS

1. Call to Order:

The Vice Chair, Thomas Walmsley Jr, calls the meeting to order at 4:34 pm

2. Roll Call:

Name	Title	Present	Absent
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		x
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x	
Ellen Argyres	Member	x	
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x	
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x	

Other attendees: Julie Geldmacher – Principal; Dan Hill - DMH Law, Gowan Hays - Axiom, Tammy

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. leads the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Vote to Approve 9/25/25 Agenda:

Council member Ellen Argyres motioned to approve the 9/25//2025 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by the council member, Crystal Sanchez

Roll call vote:

Name	Title	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

5. Vote to Approve Minutes:
Council Secretary Jacki Kinnunen motioned to approve the minutes from the 8/28/25 meeting. The motion was seconded by council member Ellen Argyres.

Roll call vote:

Name	Title	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Bank Reconciliations:
Gowan Hays presented bank reconciliations from August 2025. There are no journal entry differences for the month. Hays reports nothing abnormal for this month.

Council member Ellen Argyres motioned to approve the presented back reconciliations and check

register for August 2025 as presented. The motion was seconded by council member Jackie Kinnunen.

Roll call vote:

Name	Title	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

2. Budget Adjustment Requests

Gowan Hays presented BARS 504-000-2526-0002-IB for the $25,000 award for Early Reading and Literacy Support.

Council member Ellen Argyres motioned to approve 504-000-2526-0002-IB. The motion was seconded by council member Jackie Kinnunen.

Roll call vote:

Name	Title	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

3. AP-PR Vouchers

Gowan Hayes explained this is part of the check listing. 1 employee was added to the payroll, resulting in an increase this month.

Secretary Jackie Kinnunen made a motion to approve the the AP and PR vouchers as presented. Member Ellen Argyres seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Name	**Title**	**Yay**	**Nay**	**Abstain**
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

4. Part-time Resolution

Gowan Hays explained that this resolution would be done every year. The resolution applies to employees that work between 15 and 20 hours per week. Employees work at NVA and Montessori Rio Grande - NMPSIA would also need to approve the allowance of employees working under 20 hours per week access to insurance benefits after board approves resolution. Only applies to 1 employee this year.

Julie Geldmacher reported that the school is working on the MOU with Rio Grande Montessori and NVA.

Member Crystal Sanchez made a motion to approve the part-time resolution. Member Ellen Argyres seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Name	**Title**	**Yay**	**Nay**	**Abstain**
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	

Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

5. Open Meetings Act SY-2026

The board reviewed the Open Meetings Act, which was updated by DMH Law. Dan Hill, legal counsel, reported that there are no major changes in this year's OMA. The form from last year was updated with dates.

Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. made a motion to approve the OMA. Member Ellen Argyres seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Name	**Title**	**Yay**	**Nay**	**Abstain**
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

6. Black Education Act

Julie Geldmacher discussed Black Education Act with updated changes on the policy. Reporting now goes to the anti-racism and anti-oppression portal. Annual staff training is also conducted with staff. Portal is posted on school website. Additional PED PD is offered throughout the year.

Secretary Jackie Kinnunen motioned to approve the changes in policy. Member Ellen Argyres seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Name	Title	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

7. 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook- Water Safety Guidance

Julie Geldmacher reviewed the mandatory addition of the Water Safety Guidance in the parent/student handbook. Explains safety and risks around water in the area.

Member Ellen Argyres motioned to approve the water safety guidance in the handbook. Member Crystal Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Name	Title	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Victor Marthe	Council Chair		N/A	
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		
Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Head Administrator Report

Julie Geldmacher reports a successful open house night with Sandia Labs who hosted a Math Night. After school clubs and tutoring programs are off to a strong start. Two Fridays per month

students have chosen a club. All clubs are tied into the Health and Wellness Mission.

Fire Department will dedicate new flag in October and retire the old flag. Palms will visit in October for an active shooter training. Tammy and Julie will attend Safe Schools conference in November.

Sam, Tammy, and Julie have been working on renewal applications - it is close to submission on the October 1. Site visit for renewal is scheduled for October 6.

Tammy reports on student data tracking and growth. Staff determined 50% proficient in reading, goal is to move to 60%. By EOY 2026 NVA expects 80% of students to reach their growth goals. 48% of students are proficient in math, teachers would like to get 60% of students to be proficient.

This is the first year NVA received the Community Schools Grant. Tammy reports that the community school coordinator is working to increase attendance and deal with chronic absenteeism as well as homelessness among students. Clothing and food drives are being used to assist students and families in need.

The NM State Schools summit is scheduled for November 17-20.

2. Data & Community Schools Report

Tammy reports on student data tracking and growth. Staff determined 50% proficient in reading, goal is to move to 60%. By EOY 2026 NVA expects 80% of students to reach their growth goals. 48% of students are proficient in math, teachers would like to get 60% of students to be proficient.

This is the first year NVA received the Community Schools Grant. Tammy reports that the community school coordinator is working to increase attendance and deal with chronic absenteeism as well as homelessness among students. Clothing and food drives are being used to assist students and families in need.

D. CLOSING BUSINESS

1. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Policy on anonymous reporting.

2. Next Meeting - October 23, 2025 at 4:30 pm

3. Adjourn:

Member Ellen Argyres made a motion to adjourn the meeting since all business had been discussed. Member Jackie Kinnunen seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously.

The Council may take any agenda item out of order to facilitate business-at-hand.

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If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact jgeldmacher@nvanm.org or (505) 998-0501 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact Mrs. Geldmacher at the phone number or email address above if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.