North Valley Academy
Governing Council Agenda – Regular Meeting
7939 4th Street NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM 87114
March 19, 2026, 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:

Council Chair Victor Marthe calls the meeting to order at 4:30 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

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Chair Victor Marthe leads the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Vote to Approve 3/19/26 Agenda:

Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. motioned to approve the 3/19/2026 agenda as presented. Member Ellen Argyres seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

5. Vote to Approve Minutes from 1/22/26:
Vice-Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. motioned to approve the minutes from the 1/22/26 meeting. Council Chair Victor Marthe seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Monthly Finance Report
Gowan Hays presented bank reconciliations from January 2026 and February 2026. Hays reports on outstanding payments, some of which will be researched due to the old dates. Hayes presented journal entries for January and February, including payroll, grant entries, and vendor payments, to the board.
Member Ellen Argyres made a motion to approve the financial reports for January and February,

including the bank statements and payroll. The motion was seconded by Council Chair Victor Marthe.

Roll call vote:

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

2. Budget Adjustment Requests

Gowan Hayes presented several BARs to the board. BAR 504-000-2526-0006D represents a decrease in operational due to payroll discrepancies from projections. BAR 504-000-2526-0007-I represents an increase in food services. BAR 504-000-2526-0008-D in capital funds. BAR 504-000-2526-0009-I, representing an increase in SB9. BAR 504-000-2526-0010-I represents an increase in food services from the state. BAR 504-000-2526-0011-I, representing an increase in capital funds. BAR 504-000-2526-0012-IB represents an award from PEC to help pay for renewal labor. BAR 504-000-2526-0013-I for an SB9 state match. BAR 504-000-2526-0014-D represents a decrease in Title I award amounts. BAR 504-000-2526-0015-IB is an increase in activity funds.

Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. made a motion to approve BARs 504-000-2526-0006D, 0007-I, 0008-D, 0009-I, 0010-I, 0011-I, 0012-IB, 0013-I, 0014-D, 0015-IB. Council Chair Victor Marthe seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Name	Title	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Victor Marthe	Council Chair	x		
Crystal Sanchez	Member	x		
Ellen Argyres	Member	x		

Jackie Kinnunen	Secretary	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

3. APTA Quote

Julie Geldmacher explained the school's transition back to using APTA software for payroll, including the maximum possible transition fee and the annual fee.

Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. a motion to approve the APTA payroll software services contract. Council Chair Victor Marthe seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

4. Roof Quotes

Julie Geldmacher introduced the operations manager, Chandler. Chandler presented quotes for roof maintenance needed at NVA. Three vendor quotes were presented along with their warranties. The board discussed options with Chandler and agreed that RoofCare offered the most competitive price for the quality of roofing desired.

Council Chair Victor Marthe made a motion to approve the contract with RoofCare with an additional 10% authorization for Julie Geldmacher to spend on any overages. Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

5. Restraint and Seclusion Policy
Julie Geldmacher presented the Restraint and Seclusion Policy, which is now required along with the school's Safety Plan. This is a last resort when a student needs to be restrained or secluded. Trained staff are required to use the policy. 2 staff members are currently trained. Geldmacher worked with Dan Hill (DMH Law) on the policy.

Council Chair Victor Marthe made a motion to approve the Restraint and Seclusion Policy. Vice Chair Thomas Walsmsley Jr. seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

6. NVA Leave Policy
Julie Geldmacher reviewed the NVA Leave Policy. Geldmacher requested to update the policy to define specific blackout periods—such as testing windows, parent-teacher conferences, and the start/end of the school year.

Vice Chair Thomas Walsmsley Jr. made a motion to approve the updates on the NVA Leave Policy as presented. Member Crystal Sanchez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

7. Unused Leave Payout Policy

Julie Geldmacher reviewed and discussed the Unused Leave Payout Policy with the board. Geldmacher requested that unused leave be paid out to teachers at $150 per day and to Educational Assistants at $75 per day, capped at $500 per employee. A substitute teacher is paid $22/hour, and the payout needs to be less than the cost of a substitute teacher.

Vice Chair Thomas Walsmsley Jr. made a motion to approve the updated unpaid leave policy, as presented, at $150 per day for teachers and $75 per day for EAs. Council Chair Victor Marthe seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

8. NVA Lottery Policy

Julie Geldmacher requested a change to the Lotery Policy to replace specific COVID-19 terminology with general-pandemic related wording.

Council Chair Victor Marthe made a motion to update the NVA Policy to remove COVID-19 specific wording. Vice Chair Thomas Walsmsley Jr. seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Head Administrator Report

School administrator Julie Geldmacher shared a successful community resources event which increased interest/enrollment at NVA as well as providing the community with information regarding various resources available. The NVA lottery will close Mar 25, 2026. 79 students are currently in the lottery. Contract negotiations went well with commissioners, refinement of contracts was established and will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

2. Legislative Updates

Dan Hill (DMH Law) briefed the board on important legislative updates from the 30 day session. The 80-20 requirement will be enforced for the next fiscal year, starting in June. This means schools will need to pay 80% of benefits for employees. The legislature did approve additional funds for schools. The math bill will require a math screener which will need to be administered in SY 27/28. Changes will be made regarding the requirements for lisenced math teachers. There is a mandatory 1% raise for staff, effective for next year. This was the last session for our current governor and administration.

3. Governing Council Training – March 21st at 9:30 AM at Cottonwood Classical
Dan Hill and Sam Gonzales are hosting a 5 hour Governing Board training session - free for DMH Law clients. This will fulfill the training requirements for board members, and can be used for next year. The hope is this will be an annual training session. Limit is 35 participants.

Board training is due by June 1.

D. CLOSED SESSION

Council Chair Victor Marthe made a motion to enter into closed session as Authorized by the Open Meetings Act Section §10-15-1(H)(7), to discuss matters subject to attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the school is or may become a participant. Vice Chair Thomas Walsmsley Jr. seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

E. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

F. STATEMENT OF CLOSURE
Council Chair Victor Marthe stated that only matters pertaining to attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the school is or may become a participant and no action was taken during the meeting.

G. CLOSING BUSINESS

1. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
Send items for the agenda to Julie.

2. Next Meeting - April 23, 2026, at 4:30 pm in person

3. Adjourn:
Council Chair Victor Marthe adjourned the meeting.