North Valley Academy
Governing Council Agenda – Regular Meeting
7939 4th Street NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM 87114
May 28, 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 5/28/26 Agenda:

Vice-chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. made a motion to approve the 5/28/26 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	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

5. Vote to Approve Minutes from 4/23/26:
Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. motioned to approve the minutes from the 4/23/26 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	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Monthly Finance Report
Member Ellen Argyres and Board Chair Victor Marthe reported that they reviewed the monthly finance report.

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		

2. Budget Adjustment Requests

Gowan Hayes shared BARs 504-000-2526-0018-I, 504-000-2526-0019-I, 504-000-2526-0020-I, 504-000-2526-0021-I, 504-000-2526-0022-D, 504-000-2526-0023-I, 504-000-2526-0024-T, which were reviewed in the finance committee. Most BARs represent final awards, 00024-T represents a transfer and 0022-D is a federal decrease.

Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. made a motion to approve BARs 504-000-2526-0018-I, 504-000-2526-0019-I, 504-000-2526-0020-I, 504-000-2526-0021-I, 504-000-2526-0022-D, 504-000-2526-0023-I, 504-000-2526-0024-T. Board 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. Budget 2026-2027

Gowan Hayes presented the 2026-27 budget. Enrollment has decreased, but the school is now on an upward trajectory with enrollment. The budget reflects an enrollment-driven shortfall that is expected to balance as enrollment increases. 59% of the budget is spent on instruction. Gowan

shared operating budget revenue and expenditure details for SY 26/27. Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. made a motion to approve the 26-27 budget as presented. 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		

4. Salary Schedule 2026-2027

Gowan Hayes shared the salary schedule for 20206-2027, which includes a 1% increase to remain competitive. Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr made a motion to approve the salary schedule for 2026-2027. Member Ellen Argryes. 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		

5. Calendar 2026-2027

Julie Geldmacher shared the 2026-2027 school calendar. The calendar closely aligns with APS' calendar. PD for teachers begins August 3-5 and the first day of school for students is August 6th.

Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. made a motion to approve the 26-27 school calendar. 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	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

6. Playground Quote

Julie Geldmacher shared a quote for approximately $30,000 to make the school playground ADA compliant. Installation is targeted for the summer break. Vice-chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. made a motion to approve the playground quote. 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		

7. RMA Advisory Group Contract

Julie Geldmacher introduced Robert Apodaca from an RMA Advisory Group for legislative and consulting services. This firm will assist the school with infrastructure capital improvement planning, legislative advocacy, and pursuing funding for facility projects, such as a new kitchen. Engagement with the group will be year-round, not just during the legislative session. The board reviewed the contract with the RMA Advisory Group for $22,500. Made a motion to approve the

RMA Advisory Group Contract. Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley Jr. made a motion to approve the RMA Advisory Group 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	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

8. Medication in School Policy

Julie Geldmacher presented the Medication in Schools Policy with suggestions for updating. The nurses on campus reviewed NVA's current policy, and suggested updating the policy to comply with New Mexico law and professional nursing standards. Council Chair Victor Marthe made a motion to approve the Medication in School Policy updates. Vice Chair Thomas Walmsley 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	x		
Thomas Walmsley Jr.	Vice Chair	x		

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Head Administrator Report

School administrator Julie Geldmacher The school head shared student proficiency data from the "Amira" platform for the end of the school year, noting a need to refine the implementation of the reading curriculum to better support student growth. Amira is used to gauge reading proficiency. The transition from I-station to Amira was not a smooth transition. Base data from August was not recovered, so NVA could only compare mid-year data to end-of-year data. Approximately 25% of the kindergarten and 1st grade are below proficient. 32% of 4th grade students were below proficient, and 20% of 5th grade is below proficient. The data led to discussion about instructional curriculum and instructional methods. 39% of 1st grade students were below proficient in math. 25% of students in 8th grade were below proficient. Julie Geldmacher plans to add information from state proficiency assessments to the presentation and share this comparison with the board.

2. Governing Council Member Recruitment
The council discussed interested candidates for future board membership and aims to formalize these additions in the next meeting.

3. Governing Council Training
Training needs to be completed by the end of June.

The board was notified of a grievance filed by a teacher and plans to work with counsel and Dan Hill to navigate the appropriate policy and procedure.

D. CLOSING BUSINESS

1. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
None

2. Next Meeting - June 25, 2026, at 4:30 pm in person

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