

APPROVED MINUTES August 18, 2026

As recorded by Board Secretary, Corinne Teller Barraza

RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING August 18, 2026

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Kathy McClendon, President
Dr. Susan McConnell, Vice President
Oren Ran, Treasurer
Corinne Teller Barraza, Secretary
Amer Child, Member
Dana Flores, Member

RioGAFA Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 18 · 6:30 – 8:00pm

Time zone: America/Denver

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/evv-tzxg-ost>

Or dial: (US) +1 470-735-3659 PIN: 780 634 624#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/evv-tzxg-ost?pin=8792205014414>

***Denotes potential action items for the Board**

NOTE: Agenda items can be added to the agenda for discussion, but they are not actionable. The Governance Board attempts to follow the order of items as listed, however, the order of specific items may vary from the printed agenda.

Public Comment:

- a. Members of the public who wish to speak at the Governing Board meeting, must sign-up prior to the meeting on the Public Comment sign-up sheet. The Governance Board President will set the time limit per presenter at the beginning of the meeting based on the number of persons signed up to address the Board. Persons from the same group and having similar viewpoints are asked to select a spokesperson to speak on their behalf. Multiple and repetitious presentations of the same view will be discouraged and may be ruled out of order.
- b. If the meeting is held virtually, public comment will be allowed during the meeting via Zoom. To speak during public comment, please email your request to speak with your name to up to twenty-four hours prior to the meeting to kathy.mcclendon@riograndeacademyoffinearts.com - Speakers will be unmuted in order to address the Governance Board. Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes or based on the number of speakers. The public may also email comments to Kathy McClendon at kathy.mcclendon@riograndeacademyoffinearts.com - Emailed comments will be kept with the records of the meeting.

The following format is not indicative that each thing is up for discussion, but a framework in which to fit the Board's business for meeting purposes.

MINUTES

A. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER (turn ON recording) [Amer] Vice-President

B. ROLL CALL of Board Members Secretary

- a. Kathy McClendon, President
- b. Susan McConnell, Vice President
- c. Oren Ran, Treasurer
- d. Corinne Teller Barraza, Secretary
- e. Amer Child, Member
- f. Dana Flores, Member- at 6:58pm

C. *Review of and Action regarding August 18, 2026 AGENDA Governing Board

- a. 1st- Kathy McClendon
- b. 2nd- Amer Child
- c. All in favor

D. *Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES June 22, 2026 Governing Board

- a. 1st- Susan McConnell
- b. 2nd- Oren Ran
- c. All in favor

E. FINANCIALS REPORT Ran/Marquez/Governing Board

a. *Review of and Action regarding June 2026 Financial Report incl. BAR's

Sammi Marquez

Presented [year end finance reports, including journal entries, BARs, bank reconciliation](#)

completed under year-end Blanket BAR. Strong liquidity/cash.

- i. 1st- Oren Ran
- ii. 2nd- Amer Child
- iii. All in favor

b. *Review of and Action regarding July 2026 Financial Report incl. BAR's

Sammi Marquez

Presented [BARs, and finance reports, bank reconciliation, journal entry](#). Still strong liquidity, especially since getting RFR payments in.

- i. 1st- Kathy McClendon
- ii. 2nd- Corinne Teller Barraza
- iii. All in favor

c. **Discussion of 5 Year Projections (EARLY on agenda in case it has any bearing on action items to come) IF NEEDED**

Marquez/Directors/ Facilities

- i. Covered at July meeting

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. *Review of and Action regarding Annual Assurance Sam Gonzales/Governing Board

- i. Ensuring the board making sure school is complying with various trainings and reporting requirements, per State Law and Charter Contract.
 1. 1st- Kathy McClendon
 2. 2nd- Dana Flores
 3. All in favor

b. *Review of and Action regarding Acceptance and Acknowledgement of Compliance Requirements Sam Gonzales/Governing Board

- i. 1st- Kathy McClendon
- ii. 2nd- Dana Flores
- iii. All in favor

c. *Review of and Action regarding A Sanchez Transportation Fleet Service Contract Sammi Marquez- Governing Board

Presented contract, which aligns with the amount of transportation we receive.

- i. 1st- Oren Ran
- ii. 2nd- Amer Child
- iii. All in favor

d. *Review of and Action regarding Leave Policy Governing Board

Tabled to future Board meeting

- i. 1st- Amer Child
- ii. 2nd- Susan McConnel
- iii. All in favor

G. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS

RioGAFA Directors

a. Jordan Franco

- i. Enrollment declined, due to school that opened nearby. Considering staffing updates related to this. In communication with business manager regarding budget.
- ii. 41% of teachers returned this year. Non-returns due to personal reasons- relocations, family changes, etc and higher teaching standards encouraged by school administration. New position- Part time custodian/maintenance. A lot of new candidates, excited about the RioGAFA curriculum.
- iii. Working on mentoring and training staff to take on additional responsibilities

b. Michell Platis

- i. Summer Institute for teachers. Teachers very engaged and positive!
- ii. Received a math grant!
- iii. 2025-26 Data
 1. Reading and Math for Elem and Middle school- significant increased proficiency and growth as year progressed

H. GOVERNANCE - GOVERNING BOARD ITEMS

a. Governing Board

- i. Kathy shared board training options, including the following, for board to think about as our chosen training and support option for this year.
 1. Training on Canvas
 2. IOS information and Survey and Grant (Dates and Plan) September 1 and December 1, 2026

b. Facilities Update- none

Director/Facilities

c. Documents Notice Added to Folder – Statement of Work - Audit Services - US GAAS or US

GAAS & YB Matt Bone matthew.bone@claconnect.com CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

I. Comments from Board or Directors

J. NEXT Scheduled Meeting September 15, 2026

K. ADJOURNMENT (turn OFF the recording (Amer)

If you are an individual with a disability 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 Jordan Franco at jordan.franco@riograndeacademyoffinearts.com at least one week 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 Jordan Franco at the phone number or email address above if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.