

Approved MINUTES **October 21, 2025**
As drafted by Board Secretary, Corinne Teller Barraza

**RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
AGENDA
October 21, 2025**

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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

GOOGLE MEET virtual meeting

Topic: RioGAFA Governing Board

RioGAFA Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:30 – 8:00pm

Time zone: America/Denver

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/btz-iihn-hms>

Or dial: (US) +1 318-414-0157 PIN: 410 268 284#

***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.

AGENDA MINUTES

A. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER (turn ON recording) (Amer) President

B. ROLL CALL of Board Members & Welcome Staff and Guests Secretary

a. Board Members

- i. Kathy McClendon, President
- ii. Dr. Susan McConnell, Vice President
- iii. Oren Ran, Treasurer
- iv. Corinne Teller Barraza, Secretary

b. Guests

- i. Sammi Marquez- Business Manager
- ii. Eliza Quintero- Asst Business Manager
- iii. Todd Knouse- Legal Consultant
- iv. Teresa Archuleta- PCSNM

C. *Review of and Action regarding October 21, 2025 AGENDA Governing Board

a. Motion to approve

- i. 1st- Susan McConnell
- ii. 2nd- Corinne Teller Barraza
- iii. Discussion
 1. Switch items E and F
- iv. All in favor

D. *Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES of September 16, 2025 Governing Board

a. Motion to approve

- i. 1st- Kathy McClendon
- ii. 2nd- Oren Ran
- iii. All in favor

E. *Review of and ACTION on Contract w/Theresa Archuleta Governing Body Coaching/Mentoring Consultancy Model Governing Board

a. Motion to approve

- i. 1st- Susan McConnell
- ii. 2nd- Oren Ran
- iii. Review of contract/MOU
 1. Same format as prior contract with Kelly Calahan
 2. Teresa Archuleta
 - a. For in-meeting consultancy. Since so many charters that need to be served, proposing to do a retreat, to be prepared for by board members. Topics and schedules can be customized to meet our needs. In person retreat. Hybrid not an option. Includes on-call consultant hours.

3. Kathy Mc Clendon- can she come to meetings?
 - a. Teresa- maybe one, with so many schools are not able to more.
 - b. If board members cannot make it can get training in at other events.
 - c. There are also still online trainings.
 4. Corinne- should we consider as a board topics we would like to cover and if this would be beneficial to us, over the free trainings?
 5. Kathy- she is interested in the consultant part for the board.
 6. Teresa- a lot of experience with facilities, lenders, etc.
 7. Susan- although there are funds going out, this level of support would be very important. Kathy in agreement. Oren also in agreement. Not a large amount of money for this.
- iv. All in favor

F. Theresa Archuleta Regarding Governing Body Coaching/Mentoring Consultancy Model

- a. See notes above

G. Governing Board Retreat November 9 Details

Susan McConnell and Theresa Archuleta

- a. Susan- booked a space for the retreat
- b. Theresa- a pre-meeting will be held to talk about topics to be covered

H. FINANCIALS REPORT

Ran/Runyan/Marquez

a. *Review of and **Action regarding September 2025 Financial Report incl. BAR's**

- i. Motion to approve
 1. 1st- Kathy McClendon
 2. 2nd- Oren Ran
- ii. BARs- Sammi
 1. 0008-T- Title I
 2. 0009- CLSD
 3. 0010-IB NM Arts
- iii. Reports- Sammi
 1. Highlighted a few large purchases, to be applied to CLSD grant.
 2. All funds within budget, except transportation, awaiting a BAR approval.
 3. Liquidity/cash is good
 4. Expenditures increasing as we grow, as well as revenue
 5. We are at 56% of instructional expenses now.
 6. Bank account reconciled
 7. 3 journal entries to clear stale dated checks and forward funds to State for unclaimed property
- iv. All in favor

I. GOVERNANCE - GOVERNING BOARD ITEMS

a. *Review of and **ACTION on Contract w/Theresa Archuleta Governing Body**

Coaching/Mentoring Consultancy Model

Governing Board

- i. n/a- duplicate agenda item

b. *Review and **Action Regarding Bellwether Contract**

Governing Board

- i. Motion to approve
 1. 1st- Corinne Teller Barraza

2. 2nd- Susan McConnel
3. Jordan Franco- used last year, for Charter School Growth fund. Assisted with a strategic plan for expansion. Want to continue contract, using CSP grant. Encourages stakeholder input. \$42-47k for entire year. To also assist in considering future planning, instructionally and otherwise. Admin will have a plan going forward, to get students to graduation.
4. Michele- plan/program built around charter goals.
5. Jordan- includes expansion- not limited to instruction.
6. Corinne- a little pricey but seems in lieu of a part time employed contractor/administrator.
7. All others in favor

c. *Review and Action Regarding Topminnow Contract Governing Board

- i. Jordan- No approval needed, just fyi.
- ii. Jordan- for Data Dashboard for student achievement in lieu of dashboard being built by Michele, which is very time consuming. Tracks achievement, demographics, etc.
- iii. Kathy and Corinne- a good use of funds. Work smarter not harder.

d. *Review and Action Regarding Playground Contract Governing Board

- i. Jordan- No approval needed, just fyi
- ii. Grant to pay for playground equipment. Very well considered to ensure safety for students. Parents said they did not choose RioGAFA because no play equipment. So this should help with that. No ground fillers are needed because activities low to the ground. Showed renderings of equipment.
- iii. Corinne & Kathy- like it!

e. *Review and Action (if required) regarding Water Safety Guidelines and have to be added to school handbook by Directors Governing Board

- i. Motion to approve
 1. 1st- Kathy McClendon
 2. 2nd- Susan McConnell
- ii. Jordan- Required per law, regarding safety around bodies of water
 1. All others in favor

f. Survey Updates Kathy McClendon

- i. Responses may need to be discussed as a board

g. Facilities Update (if needed) Governing Board

- i. Jordan: A meeting was held with 22 Beacon re: contract error. Had a meeting with CEO with their proposal of 3 options. Still awaiting final numbers. Amounts include \$500k developer fee, which would not increase. A parcel of land is trying to be sold with expected revenue of \$2million. If it did not sell, they would decrease the cost of these by the value of the property. Another option- keep land and build a/some modulars for some of the spaces.
 1. Increase budget \$17.3m
 2. Decrease size \$14.3m (approx same square footage of current building)
 3. Smaller size \$13.6m
- ii. Kathy- how large is current building? Jordan- as much as option 2
- iii. Cost was supposed to be \$10m for 25,700 sq ft (option 1). Error caused cost to be \$17.5m.

- iv. Corinne- do we have any recourse? Does the contract require the builder have an Error and Omissions requirement? Did we check with POMS on if our coverage covers us in this situation?
- v. Susan- we could walk away or have legal grounds but that is not a good direction for the school..
- vi. Jordan- no recourse since no square footage was disclosed in the LPA. We should move forward, due to location, benefit to school.
- vii. Todd Knouse (legal)- this is common with buildouts.
- viii. Corinne- asked about checking with POMS to see if we have any sort of coverage we have related to this?

h. Documents Notice (if needed)

J. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS

RioGAFA Directors

a. Topics to Consider Comments from Board or Directors

- i. Michele-
 - 1. Showed Making Learning Visible displays and other art displays (up, up and away). Shows how art and literacy tie in everywhere.
 - 2. Kathy- expressed appreciation in the integration of arts with learning and how it enhances learning.
 - 3. PD- CLSD Grant onboarding and Escalation
 - 4. Data
 - a. Elementary
 - i. Reading test- Amira, still beginning of year. Level I is still high, but there has been some growth to Level 4 and 5.
 - ii. Math- Istation- Level 4 and 5 growing, moving from Level I also.
 - b. Middle School
 - i. Amira- 15% are proficient in 5th grade. These are all new students to the school so looking for progress.
 - c. State Proficiency
 - i. Elementary
 - 1. ELA- a little lower than State, other schools, and charters
 - 2. Math- low, so focusing on interventions
 - 3. Science- our 1st year with Science, so although a little lower than State, other schools and charters, good for first year of science instruction.

4. Comparison to a nearby K-8 school. We outperformed in ELA and Science
- ii. Middle school- comparison to nearby schools
 1. ELA- we are outperforming APS schools and charters
 2. Math- a little higher than APS schools and a few charters
 3. Science- out performing APS and about average with charters
- iii. Kathy- commended the work and results
- iv. Corinne- appreciates Elem results and MS is even better.

Is there anything that can be applied to Elem that was done with MS that could help Elem?

 1. Michele- 1st grade not seen in State testing. 7th grade did really well- so to take what was done well and apply to lower grade levels.

ii. Jordan

1. Enrollment - at 218
2. Attendance- 89.2%
3. 2 new EA's- to be used for intervention and operations work.
4. Science night and Boba splash event, collaboration with NM School of Arts

K. NEXT Scheduled Meeting November 18 , 2025

L. 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.

Approved November 18