

Approved Minutes September 16, 2025

(as drafted by Corinne Teller Barraza, Board Secretary)

RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AGENDA

September 16, 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, September 16, 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

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
 - v. Amer Child, Member
- b. Guests
 - i. Veronica- Legal
 - ii. Eliza Quintero- Asst Business Manager
 - iii. Teri Gough- Rio GAFA Instructional Coach
 - iv. Sammy Marquez- Business Manager

C. *Review of and Action regarding September 16, 2025 AGENDA Governing Board

- a. Motion to approve
 - i. 1st- [Kathy McClendon](#)
 - ii. 2nd- [Susan McConnell](#)
 - iii. All others in favor

D. *Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES of August 19, 2025 Governing Board

- a. Motion to approve
 - i. 1st- Amer Child
 - ii. 2nd- [Susan McConnell](#)
 - iii. All others in favor

E. FINANCIALS REPORT Ran/Runyan/Marquez

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

- i. Motion to approve
 - 1. 1st- [Kathy McClendon](#)
 - 2. 2nd- Corinne Teller
 - 3. All others in favor
- ii. Sammy Marquez
 - 1. BARs
 - a. Capital outlay increase
 - b. Reading grant- have plans to spend down
 - 2. Reports
 - a. Projected expenses are higher than budgeted in some funds since awaiting BARs
 - b. Cash balance increase due mostly to receiving FY25 final RFRs
 - c. SB9 deposits will start coming in soon

- d. Corinne
 - i. What is PCard process? Sammy- Jordan is generally the only ones who use it, enter PO before purchase and submit receipts after purchase.
 - ii. Does Food Services run at a profit or deficit? Sammy- generally at at slight profit.

F. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS

RioGAFA Directors

- a. Jordan
 - i. Enrollment- starting with 220, most of them in 3rd and 4th grade, who started with us. 70-80 new students this year.
 - ii. Attendance- kept each day. Average is about 90%. Because of this doing a crazy hair day as a celebration! Recognized by State for high attendance.
 - iii. Staffing - Dean of Students and Instructional coach added this year.
 - iv. Events- Aug, did Open House. Sept- Science Night scheduled
- b. Michelle
 - i. PD- Daily, weekly, bi-weekly for more seasoned staff. Friday trainings, weekly meetings. Aug focused on curriculum and Art integration
 - ii. Assessment Data
 - 1. Elementary
 - a. Reading
 - i. Level 4 (61st to 80th %ile) and 5 (80th %ile and above) a little low.
 - ii. New testing method is all voice, instead of 'clicking'
 - iii. 'On Target' low as well
 - b. Math
 - i. Level 4 and 5 is low here as well
 - ii. 'On Target' low as well. Most students are at Needs Support
 - c. Language
 - i. On Target a little lower here than Needs Support and Near Target
 - d. [Kathy McClendon](#): Are the lower performers due to new students? Michelle- partly
 - e. Corinne- is this how the indicators look, this time of year and then reverses as the year goes on? Yes, since some of these are

indicators of where they are as far as grade-level performance.

2. Middle School

- a. On Target low here as well for Reading, Language and Math. 6th Graders are all new and zero were On Target- excited to see how they will progress as the year continues
- b. Teri Gough- data is comparable with the State because these are grade level indicators.
- c. [Susan McConnell](#)- Appreciates that the Admin recognizes there is work to do.
- d. [Kathy McClendon](#)- also excited acknowledged the challenges but looking forward to seeing the progress

3. Jordan

- a. RioGAFA has consistently scored higher in areas than other schools in the State.
- b. Excellence Schools NM going to mentor/support and financially support RioGAFA to help grow the instructional model and add high school! Funding coming later.

G. Governance - Governing Board Item

- a. ***Review of and Action** regarding contracting Coach Kelly Callahan- Removed, since Ms. Callahan will not be available to continue doing this. A new person may be available.
- b. **Facilities Update (if needed)** **Facilities Teams**
 - i. Jordan- Recent meeting went well. Updates are coming on 9/30 re: correction of contract amount.
- c. **Documents Notice (if needed)**
 - i. none

H. Comments from Board or Directors

- a. Veronica- there will be training on November 5 from 12-5 for Board members. Can also train through PCSNM
- b. [Susan McConnell](#)- Michele Platis' article is featured in the balloon fiesta program!

I. NEXT Scheduled Meeting October 21, 2025

J. 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 Oct 21, 2025