

**Approved**  
**RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS**  
**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**  
**AGENDA**  
**April 15, 2025**

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**

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

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**GOOGLE MEET virtual meeting**

**Topic: RioGAFA Governing Board**

**RioGAFA Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 15, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Corinne Teller Barraza, Secretary
  - iv. Dana Flores, Member
- b. Visitors
  - i. Michele Platis, Admin
  - ii. Jordan Franco, Admin
  - iii. Kelly Calahan, Consultant
  - iv. Victoria Torres, Attorney
  - v. Sammi Marquez, Business Manager
  - vi. Eliza Quintero, Asst Business Manager

**C. \*Review of and Action regarding April 15, 2025 AGENDA** **Governing Board**

- a. Motion to approve
  - i. 1st- Susan McConnel
  - ii. 2nd- Dana Flores
  - iii. All others in favor

**D. \*Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES of March 18, 2025** **Governing Board**

- a. Motion to approve
  - i. 1st- Kathy Mclendon
  - ii. 2nd- Susan McConnell
  - iii. All others in favor

**E. FINANCIALS REPORT** **Ran/Runyan/Marquez**

**a. \*Review of and Action regarding March Financial Report incl. BAR's**

- i. No Finance Committee Meeting held this month.
- ii. Sammi:
  - 1. BARs
    - a. 0046-I- cash carryover
    - b. 0047-I Increase in Title IV
    - c. 0048-IB Charter School Grant. 3 year award, total \$1.5 million. This BAR is for this fiscal year. Furniture, curriculum, PD, playground, contractor to work on opening high school.
  - 2. Reviewed budget balances, bank rec and JE's
  - 3. Jordan- working on spending down grant funds by end of year.
- iii. Motion to approve
  - 1. 1st- Corinne Teller Barraza
  - 2. 2nd- Dana Flores
  - 3. All others in favor

**b. \*Review of and Action regarding “conditionally approve the budget pending final approval by the PED with possible budget changes”** **Governing Board**

- i. Sammi- Did budget presentation, based on revenue estimates based on current year SEG calculation and 2025 legislative updates.
  1. Healthy cash balance expected.
    - a. Covered key changes compared to this school year (benefits costs, salary mandates, unit value change, increase in SEG due to growth, changes in costs related to growing school, etc).
    - b. Conversation happened, questions asked by Jordan Franco, Corinne Teller Barraza and Susan McConnell about a potential cash sweep and actions that may/may not need to be taken. No actions suggested or action taken.
    - c. Administrative vs instruction costs are at good ratios and improving.
    - d. Discussed positions to be added due to expansion. Comments and questions from Corinne Teller Barraza, Jordan Franco, Michele Platis and Kathy McClendon regarding the licensure level of staff, fit with program and TCI.
- ii. Motion to approve
  1. 1st- Susan McConnell
  2. 2nd- Corinne Teller Barraza
  3. All others in favor

**F. KELLY CALLAHAN'S Reporting or Comments**

**Kelly Callahan**

- a. Will be doing Policy Assessment by June 1 with Jordan and Michele

**G. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS**

**RioGAFA Directors**

- a. CSD Site Visit on March 26, 2025, report out/comments

**b. Topics to Consider**

**i. Dir Rpt-**

**1. Jordan.**

- a. Lottery- very successful
- b. Two new teachers
- c. Attendance at 86%- awesome!
- d. Sign put up near location on Unser about Charter School Coming
- e. CSD visit went really well, had a lot of good things to say, loved the program

**2. Michelle**

**a. Elementary**

- i. 100% of 1st graders have met math goal!
- ii. 70% met reading
- iii. 75% of elementary students met math goal

**b. MS- a lot of growth**

- i. 41% met reading
- ii. Language- 46
- iii. Math 43%
- c. Events-
  - i. Around the World Celebration a lot of fun!
  - ii. Spring Gala on May 23
  - iii. Art show on May 9 with Silent Auction

## H. Governance - Governing Board Items

### a. \*Review of and **Action** regarding the Master Schedule/2025-2026 Calendar

**Michele Platis**

- i. Start Date Aug 1
- ii. PD on Fridays
- iii. 2 Saturdays
- iv. Aligned as close as possible to APS
- v. Went to trimesters to align better with interim assessments
- vi. Motion to approve
  - 1. 1st- Kathy McClendon
  - 2. 2nd- Dana Flores
  - 3. All others in favor

### b. \*Review of and **Action** regarding the revisions to the RioGAFA by-laws upon recommendation of the Governance Committee **Kathy McClendon**

- i. Presented Changes
  - 1. 5-9 board members (was 3-11)
  - 2. Members serve for 3 years and may be extended
  - 3. Board members are elected (not appointed)
  - 4. Vacancies not to be filled when occur, but at the beginning of year to give time for training
  - 5. Clarified that Audit Committee and Finance Committee cannot be the same
  - 6. Corrections on trainings for members
  - 7. Added due to Legislative requirement- if board falls below five members or less section
- ii. Motion to approve
  - 1. 1st- Susan McConnell
  - 2. 2nd- Dana Flores
  - 3. All others in favor

### c. Report on Charter School Division (CSD) Site Visit March 26, 2025 **Governing Board**

- i. Went well. RioGAFA is doing a great job!

### d. Facilities Update

**Facilities Teams**

**e. Documents Notice (if needed)**

**i. Kelly Callahan's GB TERMS Chart**

**I. Comments from Board or Directors**

**J. NEXT Scheduled Meeting May 20, 2025**

**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](mailto: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.*

Compiled by Corinne Teller

Approved May 20, 2025