

Approved Minutes January 20, 2026

As drafted by Corinne Teller Barraza, Board Secretary

RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Minutes

January 20, 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

GOOGLE MEET virtual meeting

Topic: RioGAFA Governing Board

RioGAFA Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 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.

Minutes

- A. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER** (turn ON recording) (Amer) **President**
- B. ROLL CALL of Board Members** **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
 - vi. Dana Flores, Member
 - 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 January 20, 2026 AGENDA** **Governing Board**
- a. 1st- [Susan McConnell](#)
 - b. 2nd- Dana Flores
 - c. All in favor
- D. *Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES of December 16, 2025** **Governing Board**
- a. 1st- [Kathy McClendon](#)
 - b. 2nd- Amer Child
 - c. All in favor
- E. FINANCIALS REPORT** **Ran/Runyan/Marquez**
- a. *Review of and Action regarding December 2025 Financial Report incl. BAR's
 - i. 1st- Susan McClendon
 - ii. 2nd- Corinne Teller Barraza
 - iii. Discussion- Marquez
 - 1. BARs
 - a. 0012-T
 - b. 0013-I
 - c. 0014-I
 - d. 0015-IB
 - e. 0016-T
 - f. 0017-I
 - 2. Summarized finance reports
 - iv. Kathy- are we waiting for any additional funds? Sammy- nothing major.
 - v. All in favor
- F. GOVERNANCE - GOVERNING BOARD ITEMS** **Governing Board**
- a. Review of and Action regarding a Maternity Leave Policy

- i. 1st- Corinne Teller Barraza
- ii. 2nd- Dana Flores
- iii. Discussion- Jordan
 - 1. Jordan- Can use Leave Bank if all of their personal leave has been used.
 - 2. Kathy- Do we need a separate policy for maternity leave? Is there a peer committee that reviews leave bank requests?
 - 3. Susan- Policy read and some updates made per recommendations of board members.
- iv. All in favor

b. Facilities Update (if needed)

c. Documents Notice (if needed)

G. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS

RioGAFA Directors

- a. Jordan Franco
 - i. Facilities Update- updates were made to 22 Beacon LOI:
 - 1. Cost not to exceed \$14,500,000
 - 2. Rate dropped from 8 to 7.5%
 - 3. Excess land is on market, with interested buyer. School to receive credit for the amt received, to go toward lease payments in any way they choose.
 - 4. Developers fee capped at \$500k
 - 5. Triple net lease
 - ii. Still at 208 students
 - iii. Consistent rate of attendance
 - iv. Staffing- no changes
 - v. Comm Events- Winter Wonderland Showcase, Food drive (a lot of donations!)
- b. Michele Platis
 - i. On track to exceed mission specific goals
 - ii. K-2- Reading and math growth slow. Working to get them to proficiency
 - iii. 3-4- Math went up, as well as Reading
 - iv. 5- doing well also
 - v. 6-8
 - 1. Biggest growth is language
 - 2. 8th gr biggest growth in Math
 - 3. 14% near and on-target and going up higher.
 - vi. Mid year data shows encouraging growth. Math is slow, consistent.
 - vii. Making sure teachers are doing grade level instruction with additional work meeting the students where they are.
 - viii. Using coaching with new teacher

H. Comments from Board or Directors

I. NEXT Scheduled Meeting February 17, 2026

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 2/17/2026