

Approved Minutes August 19, 2025

Drafted by Corinne Teller Barraza

RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Minutes

August 19, 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, August 19, 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. Kathy McClendon, President
 - b. Dr. Susan McConnell, Vice President
 - c. Oren Ran, Treasurer
 - d. Corinne Teller Barraza, Secretary
 - e. Amer Child, Member
 - f. Dana Flores, Member
 - g. Guests
 - i. Sammy Marquez (business manager)
 - ii. Veronica Torres (legal)
 - iii. Teri (RioGAFA instructional coach)
- C. *Review of and Action regarding August 19, 2025 AGENDA** **Governing Board**
- a. Motion to approve
 - i. 1st- [Susan McConnell](#)
 - ii. 2nd- Oren Ran
 - iii. All others in favor
- D. *Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES of July 15, 2025** **Governing Board**
- a. Motion to approve
 - i. 1st- Oren Ran
 - ii. 2nd- Dana Flores
 - iii. All others in favor
- E. FINANCIALS REPORT** **Ran/Runyan/Marquez**
- a. *Review of and Action regarding July 2025 Financial Report incl. BAR's
 - i. Motion to approve
 - 1st- [Kathy McClendon](#)
 - 2nd- Oren Ran
 - All others in favor
 - Presentation by [Sammi Marquez](#)
 - BARs
 - 0003-I to align to awards
 - 0004-I to align to awards
 - 0005-IB to align to awards
 - 0006-I FY25 carryover
 - Financial Reports, as emailed to the board. Expenses and revenue lower than normal due to it being the start of the year.
 - [Susan McConnell](#) asked about status of Section 218 amendment.
 - Sammi- been working on getting a hold of someone at PERA.
 - Veronica- will work on writing a legal letter help get assistance from PERA
 - b. *Review of and Action regarding Blanket Bar if needed **Governing Board**
 - i. n/a
- F. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS** **RioGAFA Directors**
- a. Topics to Consider
 - i. Directors' Report- Jordan Franco
 - 70-80 new students! Will need to start a wait list for 6th grade if more want to attend.

- Attendance is good, at 90% or above
 - Continuing to work on recruitment and community outreach so that recruitment is worked on year round starting this year.
 - [Kathy McClendon](#) commended on enrollment numbers
 - Art teacher is now acting as Fine Arts director. A lot of new arts are being offered to students this year.
- ii. Directors' Report- Michele Platis
- Hired 4 new people
 - Just started early release Fridays, which has been essential for working on new curriculum. Reading program is new, due to new publisher,
 - Students are dismissed at 1:30. Meetings starts at 2pm, working with teachers, Ed Fellows, etc. Focusing on curriculum and data and communications with new people. Grade bands meet together to discuss curriculum, lesson planning, etc. Working on full scope plan for the year. Professional learning time is now able to be focused on instruction.
- iii. Building update- budget the developer was going off of was not from the budget agreed upon so revisions of building are taking place to match current budget.
- Susan feels strongly that the developer doing the building should stick with the terms of the agreement.
 - Corinne suggested that aspects of the building that are necessary should not be given up and stay within budget
 - Neither Jordan nor Susan feel it was a true mistake, not fraud.

G. Governance - Governing Board

Items a.

- b. *Review of and **Action** regarding Coach Kelly Callahan Governing Board
- Motion to approve- Kelly not here so no action needed this meeting.
 - Discussion- [Kathy McClendon](#)- this is so valuable to us.

H. Comments from Board or Directors

- a. [Susan McConnell](#)- Education Connection- a theme to teach around the balloon fiesta. This year it is the Arts. An article came out that featured our very own Michele Platis!

I. NEXT Scheduled Meeting September 16, 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 9/16/2025