

Minutes April 21, 2026

As recorded by board secretary, Corinne Teller Barraza

RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

April 21, 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, April 21, 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.

AGENDA

- A. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER (turn ON recording) [Amer] President**
- B. ROLL CALL of Board Members Secretary**
- a. Kathy McClendon, President
 - b. Susan McConnell, Vice President
 - c. Oren Ran, Treasurer
 - d. Corinne Teller Barraza, Secretary
 - e. Amer Child, Member
 - f. Dana Flores, Member
- C. *Review of and Action regarding April, 21, 2026 AGENDA Governing Board**
- a. 1st- Corinne Teller Barraza
 - b. 2nd- Susan McConnell
 - c. All in favor
- D. *Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES of February 17, 2026 Governing Board**
- a. 1st- Kathy McClendon
 - b. 2nd- Corinne Teller Barraza
 - c. All in favor
- E. Note to add to minutes regarding the March 17 2026 meeting with no action taken**
- F. FINANCIALS REPORT Ran/Runyan/Marquez**
- a. February 2026 Financial Report incl. BAR's
 - i. 1st- Kathy McClendon
 - ii. 2nd- Oren Ran
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. Corinne- plans for Kitchen Infrastructure grant?
 1. Jordan- walk-in fridge or freezer
 - a. March 2026 Financial Report incl. BAR's
 - a. 1st- Kathy McClendon
 - b. 2nd- Oren Ran
 - c. All in favor
 - i. 1st- Kathy McClendon
 - ii. 2nd- Oren Ran
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. Corinne- will 40th day decrease BAR affect our cash carryover?

Sammi- no, if any cash from last year is to be used it will be minimal. This will not negatively affect building or moving expenses.

Sammi- any BARs as a result of Blanket BAR approval will be presented at next board meeting. This may be used for any type of BAR.

Cash is at 8mo reserve, which is good
 - d. FY27 Grant Application for
 - i. IDEA-B- approx \$52k, an increase from this year. To pay for teacher salaries, benefits

- ii. Title I- \$125k, an increase from this year. To pay for instructional coaches.
- iii. Title IV- \$10k, approx the same as other years. To pay for instructional coaches and EA's.
 - 1. 1st- Susan McConnell
 - 2. 2nd- Oren Ran
 - 3. All in favor

Governing Board

e. Update on the Indicators of Success Award finalization

Marquez/Director

Action removed, in Agenda Item C

- Susan- do we have to determine how these funds will be spent?
 - Has to be spent by Jun 5, 2026 . Will be discussed and acted on at May meeting.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS

RioGAFA Directors

i. Directors' Report

- Jordan Franco
- Attendance at 86%, lower than normal but expected at end of year
- Attended PCSNM Legislative Update- good info
- Not going to open up high school next year so had event for students to interact with potential high school leadership
- Lottery
 - Goal: 154 applications
 - Had 157 applications
 - Will have waitlists in grades 1-5, adding cohorts to a few grades
 - Built relationships with surrounding daycares
- Michele
 - Jordan Franco award fellowship Pahara Fellowship
 - Art Application goals are set around arts, music, theater standards. Also set goal of connection between students to discuss their art.
 - Had Expressions Art Show. Had a local artist come to judge. Artwork that placed will go to the NM State Fair. Sold a lot of artwork! Had a silent auction. Local Commissioner and PED representative attended.
 - Literacy Report- impressed with progress we have made in a short period of time. Coach and Coordinator are doing a great job
 - Progress Data-
 - Grade 6- test prep on Friday. Went up one point over a month.
 - 4th Grade ELA- went from 32% master to 60% mastery
 - MS Math- growth in 7th and 8th grade
 - 2nd Grade ELA increased by 4%
 - ELA- 10 point increase = 23% increase
 - Kathy McClendon - any factors you think have contributed to growth?
 - Layer 1 instruction
 - Emphasized intellectual prep of lesson. Understanding the lesson well that they have prepared.
 - Interventions
 - Sharing progress data with teachers

G. GOVERNANCE - GOVERNING BOARD ITEMS

a. Facilities Update

Director/Facilities

- i. Meeting with team every week, refining blueprint, looking at traffic. May be a buyer for sellable part of land for \$1.2million to supplant cost for a full first year or half of two years.

b. *Review of and Action regarding Amendment to the Original Signed Letter of Intent

Governing Board

- i. 1st- Kathy McClendon
- ii. 2nd- Susan McConnell
- iii. Vote Roll Call
 1. Kathy McClendon, President- yes
 2. Susan McConnell- yes
 3. Oren Ran, Treasurer yes
 4. Corinne Teller Barraza, Secretary yes
 5. Amer Child, Member yes
 6. Dana Flores, Member- yes
- iv. **Orig was \$10million so amendment is to increase to \$14.5million as ‘not to exceed project costs’.**
- v. Extensive discussion took place between board members, Directors and business manager.
 1. Move 2027-2028 school year. Interest rate is expected to be 7% so looking at getting our own funding after charter renewal. \$107,149 will be monthly payments, four times what it is now. Over \$1million in contingency planning included in project cost, if needed. Phase 1 = parking lot and one building and play area. This building can hold 400 students.
 2. Financial projections have been done by 22 Beacon. Discussed need to have detailed 5 year projections done internally to ensure 400 students or amount building can hold will cover expenses, including staff, facility and other increased costs. Business manager can have these done in May or future meeting.
 3. Signing this LOI does not affect the amount we would have to pay if we decide to back out of this for any reason.

c. Review of but NO ACTION regarding a Revised Leave Policy Governing Board

**Removed from Agenda during Item C

d. Documents Notice

- i. **Training Tracker- not shared**
- ii. **Booklet for each Board Member that we got at the dinner**

H. Comments from Board or Directors

I. NEXT Scheduled Meeting May 19, 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 May 19 2026