APPROVED MINUTES September 15, 2026

As recorded by board secretary, Corinne Teller Barraza

RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
September 15, 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

RioGAFA Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 15 · 6:30 – 8:00pm
Time zone: America/Denver
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/evv-tzxg-ost
Or dial: (US) +1 470-735-3659 PIN: 780 634 624#
More phone numbers: https://tel.meet/evv-tzxg-ost?pin=8792205014414

***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] **Vice-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.** Dana Flores, Member
- **f.** Amer Child, Member (at 6:50pm)

C. *Review of and Action regarding September 15, 2026 AGENDA **Governing Board**

- **a.** Updates made, as presented below
- **b.** 1st- Corinne Teller
- **c.** 2nd- Susan McConnell
- **d.** All in favor

D. *Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES August 18, 2026 **Governing Board**

- **a.** 1st- Kathy McConnell
- **b.** 2nd- Oren Ran
- **c.** All in favor

E. FINANCIALS REPORT **Sammi Marquez**

- **a. *Review of and Action regarding August 2026 Financial Report and BARs**
  - **i.** Four BARs
  - **ii.** Expenses increased, due to increase in enrollment. Nothing else out of the ordinary.
  - **iii.** Andres Sandoval will be helping us more, taking over Sammi's
  - **iv.** 1st- Kathy McClendon
  - **v.** 2nd- Oren Ran
  - **vi.** All in favor

F. OTHER BUSINESS: **Governing Board**

- **a. *Review of and Action of recommendation by the Governance Committee regarding the Revised Leave Policy**
  - **i.** Policy as presented was drafted by Committee and reviewed by Directors
    1. All policies as voted on by Board previously, just put together in one policy to be better accessible by school staff.
  - **ii.** 1st- Amer Child
  - **iii.** 2nd- Dana Flores
  - **iv.** All in favor
- **b. *Review of and Action regarding the Children's Internet Policy Act (CIPA)- TABLED**
- **c. Review of and Action regarding the election of Governing Board officers**
  - **i.** 1st- Kathy McClendon
  - **ii.** 2nd- Susan McConnel

iii. Kathy recommended officers continue serving as is.
iv. Corinne Teller- Secretary- all in favor
v. Oren Ran- Treasurer- all in favor
vi. Susan McConnell- all in favor
vii. Kathy McClendon- all in favor

d. **Review of and Action regarding Contract with PCSNM GB training via Kelly Callahan/Theresa Archuleta**
   i. All in favor of adopting $4,000 package for more support
   ii. 1st- Kathy McClendon
   iii. 2nd- Corinne Teller
   iv. All in favor

e. **Decision on Indicators of Success Retreat Or 2 work sessions, and awareness of November 1 deadline to turn in the IOS consensus and December 1 deadline for the grant application**
   i. Questions will be emailed to board to get input on Indicators
   ii. Proposed date for retreat- Oct 18. Backup date- Oct 25. All training hours will be received and assistance with grant due Dec 1 will also be given at this time. To be held at RioGAFA.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS **RioGAFA Directors**

a. Michele Platis
   i. Math Grant- for instructional materials
   ii. High Impact grant- for student tutors to accelerate learning in math and reading
   iii. ELA- getting new curriculum up and running
   iv. Testing Scores Released
      1. Language Arts went up by 58%, outperforming the State. Rio GAFA was highlighted. Other demographics also performed exceptionally well.
      2. Math- 17% proficiency, 4% growth. 8th grade increased 17%. All increases out performed last year.
      3. Science- 3% over 2025

b. Jordan Franco
   i. Enrollment- 240 students currently. Expecting to get to 250,
      1. Doing movie, radio and social media ads. Will do an interview on KOB, upcoming, to prepare for getting more students enrolled, especially with upcoming building. May hire more support staff at 40th day, depending on enrollment.
   ii. Attendance- 89%. Doing more activities in Oct to promote higher attendance.
   iii. Facility update- Received approval from DFT. Groundbreaking expected in October!
      1. Updated budget- slightly over budget as it is right now. To get tighter numbers, expected to have lower expenses.
      2. $1M in contingency funds- hard and soft costs
      3. Shared building plans and site plan
   iv. Corinne- which ads are most successful? Most successful are Spanish radio ads. Also from Social Media, with most funding in this area.

H. GOVERNANCE - GOVERNING BOARD ITEMS

a. **Documents Notice Added to Folder - Fleet Contract**

I. Comments from Board or Directors

J. NEXT Scheduled Meeting October 20, 2026

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 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.