

APPROVED
RIO GRANDE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
March 18, 2025

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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

GOOGLE MEET virtual meeting

Topic: RioGAFA Governing Board

RioGAFA Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 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, Secretary
- e. Dana Flores, Member
- f. Amer Child, Member
- g. Guests/Presenters
 - i. Anna Cress- Business Mgr
 - ii. Veronica Torrez- legal
 - iii. Dan Hill- legal
 - iv. Kelly Calahan- Board trainer
 - v. Eliza- Asst Business Mgr

C. *Review of and Action regarding March AGENDA Governing Board

- a. Motion to approve, including correcting 'March Financial Report' to 'January'
 - i. 1st- Amer Child
 - ii. 2nd- [Susan McConnell](#)
 - iii. All others in favor

D. *Review of and Action regarding the MINUTES of January 21, 2025 Governing Board

- a. Note: No minutes for February, because no meeting held
- b. Motion to approve
 - i. 1st- Kathy McClendon
 - ii. 2nd- Susan McConnell
 - iii. All others in favor

E. FINANCIALS REPORT Ran/Runyan/Marquez/Anna Cress

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

Governing Board

- i. Anna Cress- BARs to maintain by function and Fund and cash carryover
 - 1. 0035-M
 - 2. 0036-M
 - 3. 0037-T
 - 4. 0038-M
 - 5. 0039-M
 - 6. 0040-M
 - 7. 0041-M
 - 8. 0042-M
 - 9. 0043-I
 - 10. 0045-D
- ii. Motion to approve
 - 1. 1st- Amer Child
 - 2. 2nd- Dana Flores
 - 3. All others in favor

b. *Review of and Action regarding February Financial Report incl. BAR's

Governing Board

- i. Anna Cress- No BARs
- ii. Corinne- JE for fee on p.45- how to avoid this in the future? Anna- to get back to us on this.
- iii. Corinne- status of FY26 budget- Anna- working on it. Budget due late April 23.
- iv. Corinne- what will the changes to At Risk Index affect the school? Michelle- will have a positive effect for the school.
- v. Motion to approve
 1. 1st- [Kathy McClendon](#)
 2. 2nd- Oren Ran
 3. All others in favor

F. KELLY CALLAHAN'S Reporting or Comments

Kelly Callahan

- a. Need to reaffirm Kathy, Susan, Amer for second term, per by-laws at next meeting.
- b. Need to have seven members, per bylaws, to be changed.
- c. Kathy and Kelly to discuss this
- d. Kathy to meet with Michele and Jordan for some policy review

G. INSTRUCTIONAL and OPERATIONS

Michele Platis

- a. Michele and Jordan decided not to do high school next year. They called families to let them know. Had a recruitment fair for 8th grade students to go to- five schools came. Went well. Cynthia, front office manager will call to make sure each family has found a place. They want to make sure they spend a full year planning. Meeting with a facilities team each week. Also working on facilities to ensure have a good space for 9th grade.
 - i. Corinne- does this make us out of compliance? No, been in communication with PEC about this though.
 - ii. Dana- how many students will be affected by this? 30 students
- b. There may be a good candidate to be something like a fellow, who has HS principal experience and with Special Ed. Also been meeting with Excellence Schools NM.
 - i. Corinne and Kathy- asked clarifying questions about what this person might do- Michele- to help with Middle School culture and continue building out program. Kathy cautioned to make sure whoever comes in to do this understands the culture, to foster that, which is already good.
- c. Been meeting with Bellweather- for 5 year strategic plan with priorities. Also talking to them about continuing relationship and assistance with Charter School Growth Fund
- d. CSD visit on Mar 26, 2025
- e. End of Feb -195 students
- f. Did community celebration in February- Celebration of Fine Arts
- g. PD- one teacher working on extra TESOL training. In March, teachers have started to share their experience with others.
- h. ES
 - i. Reading- 65% of students have met/exceeded goals. Goal is 80%
 - ii. Math- 62%
 - iii. iMSSA test- they are starting to practice this.
- i. MS- continuing to improve in all areas

H. Governance - Governing Board Items

a. *Review of and Action regarding the LPA

Susan McConnell

- i. Facilities Committee has been meeting about this with consultant. Reviewed LPA once. Reduced cap to be \$15million to \$10million. Legal says nothing concerning, pretty boiler plate. New cap of \$10million is ok with developer. Need to execute LPA and get to developer by March 31.
 - 1. Corinne- has this also been tested in with financial projections with the business manager? Susan- yes, with Directors.
- ii. Motion to approve
 - 1. 1st- Dana Flores
 - 2. 2nd- Amer Child
 - 3. All others in favor

b. Notice of the letter from Public Education Commission (PEC) regarding the new requirements to be included in the by-laws **Kathy McClendon**

- i. To send by email to board members
- ii. Kelly- is this a PEC contract amendment or this going to be in statute?
 - 1. Dan- not in statute. PEC is not telling us we have to do this but better to do than not. There was a school in Gallup where an entire board resigned so the PEC said they want all schools to have Bylaws in place about what would happen if this took place or dropped below three members and so would not be able to have a quorum. He has worked with Sue Fox also, on language and presented options to PEC. Dan sent proposed language to Kathy.
 - 2. Kathy- to discuss with Kelly and then board will discuss at next meeting.

c. *Review of and Action regarding ByLaws **Governing Board**

- i. Motion to table
 - 1. 1st- Kathy
 - 2. 2nd- Susan
 - 3. All others in favor

d. Charter School Division (CSD) Site Visit March 26, 2025 **Governing Board**

e. Facilities Update **Facilities Teams**

- i. Kathy- update on portables?
 - 1. Michele- Working on connections and then CofO, So no students in them yet.

f. Documents Notice (if needed)

- i. **Revised Annual Report-** not discussed

I. Comments from Board or Directors

- a. Kathy asked about students excelling in Art
- b. Kathy highlighted CSP grant
- c. Susan- it is evaluation season! Ready to look at this after done with legislative session

J. NEXT Scheduled Meeting April 15, 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 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 APRIL 15, 2025