

August 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM | 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/4183238475>

Meeting ID: 418 323 8475

Join by Phone: (669) 900-6833

Monarch River Mission Statement

The mission of Monarch River Academy is to develop the individual gifts of students in Tulare County and adjacent counties to become proficient in Common Core State Standards and become critical thinkers, responsible citizens and innovative leaders prepared for academic and real-life achievement in the 21st Century. The mission will be accomplished in a personalized environment that fosters successful achievement through quality, personalized, standards-based education, which could include online coursework, offline textbook work, and unique hands-on and experiential learning experiences facilitated in partnership with students, parents, staff, and community.

Directors Present

Dr. Sam Nofziger (In Person), Elizabeth Wagner (In Person), & Dr. Craig Wheaton (remote)

Directors Absent

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter & Sarah Sanchez

Guests Present

Dr. Laurie Goodman, Brandon Chiapas, & (in person)

Brandon Chiapas, Joanna Fung, Steph Johnson, Jim Surmeian, Maria Thoeni, Jenny Plumb, Dr. Damien Phillips, Denise Voth, Anna Wilkinson, Dr. Steven James, Rhonda Duerksen, Kimmi Buzzard (remote)

Minutes

1. Opening Items
1.A. Record Attendance

1.B. Call the Meeting to Order
Dr. Sam Nofziger called the meeting of the board of directors of Monarch River Academy to order on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 6:10 PM.
1.C. Flag Salute
Dr. Sam Nofziger led the Flag Salute.
1.D. Approval of the Agenda
Item moved to after Public Comment.
1.E. Public Comment
No public comments were made.
The Board elected to move to Agenda Item III.A. 2022-2023 School Launch Report.
3.A. 2022-2023 School Launch Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steph Johnson and Anna Wilkinson provided a report on the start of the school year. • The new program for New Family Onboarding was launched for families this year. • Anna Wilkinson shared that the project started last May and ran throughout the summer, up until school started. • 12 Family Orientations were conducted in July and August. 380 families attended.
Dr. Craig Wheaton joined the meeting at 6:19 PM.
1.D. Approval of the Agenda
<p>Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the agenda.</p> <p>Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.</p> <p>The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.</p>
1.E. Public Comment

Item moved to after the Flag salute.

1.F. Review & Approval of Minutes July 26, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2. Finance

2.A. July Financials

- Jim Surmeian from Charter Impact provided a presentation on the school's July Financials.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the July Financials.
Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2.B. Unaudited Actuals Report (UAR)

- Jim Surmeian presented the school's Unaudited Actuals.
- Dr. Sam Nofziger asked for more information about the school's reserve. Jim Surmeian provided a narrative about the school's healthy reserve.
- Dr. Sam Nofziger requested that Dr. Craig Wheaton add to the discussion about the importance and approach to the school's reserve. He believes the school's healthy reserve will afford a pathway to ensure the school can weather potential instances where due to outside factors, the school can still operate with a budget deficit.
- Dr. Sam Nofziger inquired if it is necessary to establish a Board Policy targeted on establishing a specific reserve. Dr. Craig Wheaton shared that it does not seem, based on current laws, to be a need for a specific policy, though this could change depending on any changes to the landscape of the state budget and school regulations.
- The Board discussed the strategy of spending the current year's funds on the current student body.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the UAR.
Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2.C. Executive Director & Deputy Director Divvy Expenses

- There were no ED or DD Divvy Expenses during the month of July.

2.D. Revised Title 1 Expenses in the Local Control & Accountability Plan (LCAP)

- Dr. Laurie Goodman shared that the school evaluated the school's Title 1 spending and felt the expenses should be revised to better align with the school programs to go towards personnel salary and parent outreach.
- Elizabeth Wagner asked for the exact personnel costs and how they compared to what was included previously. Dr. Goodman shared that the cost, shared between both Monarch and Yosemite, was \$71,000 to \$120,000.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the revised Title 1 Expenses in the LCAP.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2.E. Updated Fiscal Manual

- Dr. Laurie Goodman shared that the school leadership has been working with a financial team to ensure all of the accountability checks and balances are outlined.
- Highlighted additions include Divvy card usage and the increased bid limits.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the updated Fiscal Manual.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2.F. Updated Compensation Policy

- Steph Johnson presented the updated Compensation Policy noting that the school leadership has conferred extensively with staff to help shape decision making regarding staff compensation.
- Highlighted changes include:
 - Updated job titles
 - Updated Part-Time Teacher increase
 - Extra student stipend added to Mild/Moderate and Mod/Severe Case Managers
- Dr. Nofziger commented that the stipend chart is a useful resource to staff.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the updated Compensation Policy.
Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2G. All Staff Salary Increase & One Time Stipend Bonus

- Dr. Laurie Goodman reminded the Board that most certificated staff, depending on where they were on the salary table, received up to a 7.1% raise effective January 1, 2022.
- Steph Johnson, presented three options for consideration:

1. 2%
2. 3%
3. Distributive Increase (\$226,810)

- School Admin wishes to honor staff's good work as well as to correct the Teacher Salary Table to better align with other districts in our area.
- Elizabeth Wagner inquired if this also includes the STRS increase. Steph Johnson affirmed that it is.
- Dr. Wheaton shared that the opportunity to correct the salary table through the distributive increase makes sense given the schools fiscal health.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the all staff distributive salary increase and one time stipend bonus for Certificated Staff.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

3. Academic Excellence

3.A. 2022-2023 School Launch Report

This agenda item was presented earlier in the meeting.

3.B. Grade Level Promotion & Acceleration Policy & Retention Criteria

- Steph Johnson shared that the school is bringing back the policy that includes a parent/guardian's right to appeal
- Other changes included updating titles and school terminology.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the Grade Level Promotion & Acceleration Policy & Retention Criteria.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

4. Operations

4.A. Enrollment Report

- Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the Enrollment Report.
- Steph Johnson shared that the school is considering closing enrollment on September 15, 2022.

4.B. Shared Staff MOU Between Monarch River Academy & Yosemite Valley Charter School

- Dr. Laurie Goodman re-presented the Shared Staff MOU which now has Attachment B.
- Dr. Laurie Goodman thanked Rhonda Duerksen for her work on this MOU.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the Shared Staff MOU Between Monarch River Academy & Yosemite Valley Charter School.

Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

4.C. Comprehensive Safety Plan

- Dr. Damien Phillips presented the school's Comprehensive Safety Plan.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Safety Plan for Monarch River.

Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

4.D. Revised Vendor Agreement and Enrichment Certificate

- Steph Johnson presented the proposed changes to the vendor agreement and enrichment certificate.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the Revised Vendor Agreement and Enrichment Certificate.

Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

5. Governance

5.A. Board Metrics Chart

- Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the detailed monthly Board Metrics items to ensure that reportable items from the LCAP are shared as well as additional, requested items the Board asked for.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the Board Metrics Chart.

Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

5.B. Board/Governance Platform

- Steph Johnson and Kimmi Buzzard shared the two options for a Board Platform.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the purchase of either of the two platforms based on the school staff's recommendation.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

5.C. Meeting Format

Elizabeth made a motion to hold the next board meeting in a hybrid format.
Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

6. Closing Items

6.A. Board of Director Comments & Requests

- No Board comments or requests were made at this time.

6.B. Announcement of the Next Scheduled Board Meetings

Regular: September 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM

6.C. Adjourn Meeting

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:38 PM.
Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Sam Nofziger

Prepared by:
Rhonda Duerksen

Noted by:

Board Secretary

Public Comment Rules: Members of the public may address the Board on agenda or non-agenda items through the teleconference platform, Zoom. Zoom does not require the members of the public to have an account or login. Please either utilize the chat option to communicate to the administrative team of your desire to address the Board or simply communicate orally your desire to address the Board when the Board asks for public comments. Speakers may be called in the order requests are received. Comments are limited to 2 minutes each, with no more than 15 minutes per single topic. If a member of the public utilizes a translator to address the Board, those individuals are allotted 4 minutes each. If the Board utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the Board to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously, those individuals are allotted 2 minutes each. By law, the Board is allowed to take action only on items on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, refer a matter to school staff or calendar the issue for future discussion.

Note: The Governing Board encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Governing Board Office at (562) 758-0511 at least 48 hours before the scheduled board meeting so every reasonable effort can be made to accommodate you. (Government Code § 54954.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 202 (**42 U.S.C. § 1213**))

Note: Times listed on the agenda are estimates only and do not represent the actual time each agenda item will take place during the Board meeting. Similarly, the length of time noted for each of the agenda items also represents estimated duration, and not the actual length of time allocated for each.