

# Monarch River Academy

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes



September 28, 2021 at 4:30 PM | 3610 E. Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, CA 93926

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 (remote), Monique Ouwinga (remote), & Dr. Craig Wheaton (remote)

### Directors Absent

Sarah Sanchez

### Guests Present

Dr. Rob Hudson (remote), Dr. Laurie Goodman (remote), Steph Johnson (remote), Dr. Steven James (remote), Darlington Ahaiwe (remote), Lorraine Sewell (remote), Mariah Jordan (remote), Jenny Plumb (remote), Denise Voth (remote), & Kmmi 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, September 28, 2021 at 4:32 PM.

**1.C. Flag Salute**

Dr. Sam Nofziger led the Flag Salute.

**1.D. Approval of the Agenda**

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the agenda.  
Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

**1.E. Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

**1.F. Review & Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting on August 24, 2021 and the Special Board Meeting on September 7, 2021.  
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

**1.G. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Laurie Goodman shared:

- Enrollment Report: Current Enrollment is 1,090. Enrollment Goal is 1,250. Last day for families to submit an intent to enroll is this Friday, October 1, 2021. Enrollment will close shortly thereafter.
- All of the student clubs, virtual academies, intervention programs, and initial fall benchmark assessments have launched.
- Title I, ESSER Funds, and School Site Council meetings are upcoming.

## **2. Finance**

### **2.A. August Financials**

- Darlington Ahaiwe presented the August Financial Reports including comparing July and August projections noting no major activity or variance.
- Darlington highlighted the importance of monitoring the 40-80 Expense Ratio and ideally, it is best to stay above.
- The budget has been adjusted to the new Enrollment, Staffing Projections, and reduction of student allotments. All of this has reduced the amount of factoring needed.
- Darlington highlighted that the Fund Balance is another important monitoring piece with at least a 5% surplus for a healthy budget. Currently the school is holding at a 10% reserve.
- Darlington highlighted Cash Balance as a third important item for the board to monitor carefully.
- Dr. Sam Nofziger asked the board when it would be best to plan a deeper financial discussion. The board and Darlington agreed that it would be best to hold this discussion in the Spring.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the August Financial Reports.

Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.

The board VOTED to approve the motion.

## **3. Academic Excellence**

### **3.A. Virtual Academy Coordinator Job Description & Stipend**

Steph Johnson described the Virtual Academy Coordinator position and the need for a dedicated staff member to focus on the program and participants as well as the amount of the corresponding stipend.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the Virtual Academy Coordinator Job Description and stipend.

Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.

The board VOTED to approve the motion.

### **3.B. Special Education Student Related Services Absence Policy**

Dr. Steven James presented the new proposed Special Education Student Related Services Absence Policy, first explaining why the policy is needed. Dr. James outlined the process and exceptions to ensure the students are receiving FAPE and the appropriate services they may need.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the Special Education Student Related Services Absence Policy.

Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.

The board VOTED to approve the motion.

## **4. Operations**

### **4.A. School Organizational Chart, Directory & Regional Teaching Teams**

Dr. Laurie Goodman shared the school's chart that shows staffing and programs.

### **4.B. Part-Time Teacher Hourly Table 2021-2022**

The school needed to balance roster sizes and teaching synchronous instruction that impacted three part-time teachers.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the Part-Time Teacher Hourly Table 2021-2022.

Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.

The board VOTED to approve the motion.

## **5. Governance**

### **5.A. Annual Brown Act Training**

Dr. Goodman shared that the Brown Act Training is important to complete annually.

## **6. Closing Items**

#### **6.A. Board of Director Comments & Requests**

1. Reminder request for a deep financial, budget, and spending plan discussion in the Spring.

#### **6.B. Announcement of the Next Scheduled Board Meetings**

Regular: October 26, 2021 at 4:30 PM via Zoom

#### **6.C. Adjourn Meeting**

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 5:19 PM.  
Dr. Sam Nofziger seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED 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 5:19 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Sam Nofziger

---

**Prepared by:**  
**Mariah Jordan**

**Noted by:**

*Craig Wheaton*  
Craig Wheaton (Nov 17, 2021 14:05 PST)

Craig Wheaton  
**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**))

# 9-28-21 - Approved Board Meeting Minutes - MR

Final Audit Report

2021-11-17

Created:	2021-11-17
By:	Kimmi Buzzard (kimmi.buzzard@theaxiagroup.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA2OqP-ee1qWZQfc6Unpk5Awoq15AUD95h

## "9-28-21 - Approved Board Meeting Minutes - MR" History

-  Document created by Kimmi Buzzard (kimmi.buzzard@theaxiagroup.com)  
2021-11-17 - 7:23:47 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Craig Wheaton (craigwheaton.edd@gmail.com) for signature  
2021-11-17 - 7:27:22 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Craig Wheaton (craigwheaton.edd@gmail.com)  
2021-11-17 - 10:04:47 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Craig Wheaton (craigwheaton.edd@gmail.com)  
Signature Date: 2021-11-17 - 10:05:20 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2021-11-17 - 10:05:20 PM GMT