

# Monarch River Academy

## Special Board Meeting Minutes



October 22, 2021 at 3:30 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

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## 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.

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### Directors Present

Dr. Sam Nofziger (remote), Monique Ouwinga (remote), Dr. Craig Wheaton (remote), & Sarah Sanchez (remote)

### Directors Absent

None

### Guests Present

Dr. Laurie Goodman (remote), Steph Johnson (remote), Dr. Steven James (remote), Jim Surmeian (remote), Yolanda Vazquez (remote), Mariah Jordan (remote), Anahi Garrett (remote), & Kmmi Buzzard (remote)

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## 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 Friday, October 22, 2021 at 3:31 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 September 28, 2021.  
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

**2. Finance****2.A. September 2021 Financials**

Jim Surmeian presented the school's financial reports that included:

- Enrollment numbers are impacting the budget numbers.
- Revenues are high as ESSER II and CARE funds are starting to be incorporated.
- The school anticipates additional, unbudgeted funds from the Educator Effectiveness Grant.
- Interest from factoring of receivables is tracking much lower than anticipated.

- Reminder that First Interims are due in December.

Monique Ouwinga asked for clarification about the discrepancy between the rate of decrease/increase between revenue and expenses due to lower enrollment numbers. Jim Surmeian shared that because the student expenses in the original budget were higher than actuals, the rates are not equal.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the September Financial Reports.

Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.

The board VOTED to approve the motion.

## **2.B. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Plan**

Dr. Goodman provided an overview of the ESSER III Plan including:

- This Plan is related to ESSER III and must correlate to the school's LCAP and ELO Plan.
- Focuses on the same extended learning opportunities to support students and staff in response to the pandemic.
- New items: Staff COVID Testing plan and costs ^^ made a motion to approve the ESSER Plan.

Sarah Sanchez asked about the testing options that are available for staff. Dr. Goodman shared that there are a variety of options to allow staff to do what works best for them.

Dr. Craig Wheaton asked for additional details about how much the tests cost, for how many staff members, and for how long. Dr. Goodman shared that the test range between \$11-89/test and that there are approximately 32 out of 148 staff members that would need these tests for the remainder of the year. Steph Johnson shared that the leadership team has met with affected staff.

Dr. Sam Nofziger asked about how the school plans to secure the tests. Steph Johnson shared that the staff will be purchasing the tests and the school will provide reimbursement.

Sarah Sanchez asked for the total number of staff to establish the percentage of staff that are impacted by COVID Testing. Dr. Goodman shared that there are 148 staff members, so 30 members is a significant number.

Sarah Sanchez asked if the school actually needs the funds given that the budget is showing a surplus.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the ESSER Plan.

Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.

The board VOTED to approve the motion.

### **3. Academic Excellence**

#### **3.A. Revised Independent Study Policy**

Dr. Laurie Goodman shared the revisions to the Independent Study Policy to align the policy with AB 167.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the revised Independent Study Policy.  
Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED to approve the motion.

#### **3.B. Contract for Outside Counseling Services**

Dr. Goodman shared that students that need Social Emotional supports has increased significantly. As such this contract would provide additional services and support. Yolanda Vazquez described how intern counselors through Fresno Pacific University will be available Monday through Friday during school hours should a student need immediate support. Future plans include parent and staff supports, resources, and trainings.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Contract for Outside Counseling Services.  
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED to approve the motion.

### **4. Operations**

#### **4.A. Personal Necessity Leave (PNL) & Time Off Balances**

The board elected to table this agenda item.

#### **4.B. Iron Mountain Statement of Work (SOW)**

Yolanda Vazquez shared that Dr. Steven James brought this need to copy and store digital records for Special Education. She shared that Iron Mountain has a great reputation. Dr. James shared that electronic versions of records facilitates ease of document sharing with legal counsel or if needed.

Dr. Nofziger asked about the school's use of CALPADS. Dr. Steven James shared that the school does use CALPADS. Yolanda Vazquez shared that CALPADS does show a student's potential SPED history, but not the actual files/documents.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the Iron Mountain SOW.  
Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED to approve the motion.

## **5. Governance**

### **5.A. Meeting Format**

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to meet virtually for the next board meeting and discuss this item again in November for December.  
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED to approve the motion. - Sarah Opposed.

### **5.B. Board Meeting Calendar**

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to cancel the Regular October Board Meeting.  
Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.  
The board VOTED to approve the motion.

### **5.C. Board Member Vacancy**

Dr. Goodman and Steph Johnson shared that there is a prospective board member candidate that would help represent a homeschooling/co-op parent's perspective as well as that of an experienced, professional educator.

The board has asked Kimmi Buzzard to invite the prospective board member to the November meeting and provide a background report/resume.

## **6. Closing Items**

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

There were no board comments or requests made at this time.

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

Regular: November 126, 2021 at 4:30 PM via Zoom

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

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 4:31 PM.

Monique Ouwinga 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 4:31 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Sam Nofziger

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

**Noted by:**

  
Craig Wheaton (Nov 17, 2021 14:06 PST)

Craig Wheaton

**Board Secretary**

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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.

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# 10-22-21 - Approved Board Meeting Minutes - MR

Final Audit Report

2021-11-17

Created:	2021-11-17
By:	Kimmi Buzzard (kimmi.buzzard@theaxiagroup.com)
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## "10-22-21 - Approved Board Meeting Minutes - MR" History

-  Document created by Kimmi Buzzard (kimmi.buzzard@theaxiagroup.com)  
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-  Document emailed to Craig Wheaton (craigwheaton.edd@gmail.com) for signature  
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