

December 7, 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), & Sarah Sanchez (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

Dr. Rob Hudson (remote), Dr. Laurie Goodman (remote), Stephanie Johnson (remote), Yolanda Vazquez (remote), Mariah Jordan (in person), Denise Voth (remote), Maria Thoeni (remote), Jenny Plumb (remote), Amy Friesen (remote), Dr. Steven James (in person)

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, December 7, 2021 at 4:30 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.
Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

1.E. Public Comment

Josh Long, (Parent). He shared he is speaking as a representative of the parents regarding vaccine mandates. Appreciated Dr. Goodman's email correspondence. He shared his vaccine beliefs and that they echo sentiments of other families.

Rachelle Williams (Parent). Would like everyone to consider that some children have medical conditions that need to be taken into consideration and that this impacts their ability to get the vaccine.

Joseph Hayes (Parent). None of his children will not be taking the vaccine. Encouraged school staff and the Board to focus on freedom.

1.F. Review & Approval of Minutes

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on November 16, 2021.
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2. Finance

2.A.Moderate-Severe Teacher Financial Support Policy

- Steph Johnson presented the policy on Dr. Laurie Goodman's behalf, sharing there is a need to fill mod-severe positions.
- Monique Ouwinga asked if there is an expectation that a participant who benefited from the financial support commits to a certain number of years of employment. Yolanda Vazquez, shared that both highly qualified candidates are dedicated to the

Central Schools, are already serving students, and plan to stay employed with the schools for some time.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Moderate-Severe Teacher Financial Support Policy.

Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

3. Academic Excellence

3.A. Educator Effectiveness Block Grant - Plan Presentation & Stakeholder Input

- Steph Johnson presented the stakeholder input and grant plan on behalf of Dr. Laurie Goodman.
- Sarah Sanchez asked about the family survey and if that survey was connected to this plan.
- Sarah Sanchez inquired about the teacher support component and if they are going to be required as added work tasks. Steph shared the teacher training would be specific to positions and not required of all staff.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Plan.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

3.B. Pupil Engagement

- Steph Johnson shared what the school has done thus far this year for students, including Tiered Reengagement plan.
- Dr. Sam Nofziger asked if this is a new process/strategy. Steph Johnson shared that it is an extension of the Non-Compliance Process that was already in place.
- Sarah Sanchez shared that many families have shared with her that they are meeting compliance requirements, however, families and staff may be feeling overwhelmed. She is suggesting that the school approach any inquiries or reminders in a different manner instead of one that feels like they are doing something wrong. Sarah shared that her HST explained it so well that she understood, but some HSTs may need help with better ways to communicate this information.

3.C. Transition & Counseling Program Updates

- Yolanda Vazquez shared the program updates for Transition and SEL Supports.

3.D. School's Enrollment Report

- Steph Johnson shared the current enrollment report that includes withdrawals.

3.E. School's Current Attendance & Chronic Absenteeism Rates

- Steph Johnson shared that attendance rates are very high in line with historical patterns.
- There has been a slight increase in absences due to closer student learning monitoring.

3.F. School's Suspension & Expulsion Rates

- The school has no suspensions/expulsions to report.

4. Operations

4.A. COVID-19 School Report - December

- Steph Johnson shared the current COVID-19 report.
- Sarah Sanchez shared that staff numbers were not accurate last month, however, they look accurate now. Steph Johnson assured the board they will examine what happened last month.
- Dr. Wheaton commended the school for doing the work to track these items.

4.B. Updated Employee Handbook

- Steph Johnson shared that the Employee Handbook was updated with new PSL, PNL, and donation bank information.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the updated Employee Handbook.
Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

4.C. Administrator Evaluations Training for the Board

- Steph Johnson shared what the initial and next steps are for the Administrator Evaluations for Dr. Laurie Goodman and Steph Johnson.
- Sarah Sanchez and Monique Ouwinga shared that the current plan works for the Board.

5. Governance

5.A. Meeting Format

- Sarah Sanchez shared her desire to explore a hybrid meeting format.

- Steph Johnson shared a meeting facility has been a challenge.
- Mariah Jordan shared that Brandman University requested the school reach back out in January to see if a facility is available. She also shared that the building must be ADA compliant.
- Dr. Sam Nofziger suggested that the school staff could explore other locations.
- Dr. Rob Hudson shared that the authorizer facility is open and that he will look into possible options, such as the county office of education.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to meet in a virtual format for the next board meeting and discuss this item again in January.

Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.

The board VOTED to approve the motion.

Monique Ouwinga - Aye

Dr. Craig Wheaton - Aye

Sarah Sanchez - Naye

Dr. Sam Nofziger - Aye

5.B. Brown Act Training

Reminder for Board Members to complete the annual Brown Act Training if it has not been done already.

6. Closing Items

6.A. Board of Director Comments & Requests

- Potential new Board Member will be brought to the Board in January.

6.B. Announcement of the Next Scheduled Board Meetings

Regular: January 25, 2022 at 4:30 PM

6.C. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Sam Nofziger made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 5:40 PM.

Monique Ouwinga 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 6:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Sam Nofziger

Prepared by:
Mariah Jordan

Noted by:

Craig Wheaton
Craig Wheaton (Mar 23, 2022 16:43 PDT)

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.

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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.

12-07-21 - Board Meeting Minutes - MR

Final Audit Report

2022-03-23

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