

Monarch River Academy

Board Meeting Minutes



February 28, 2022 at 6:00 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, Dr. Craig Wheaton, Monique Ouwinga, & Elizabeth Wagner (all remote)

Directors Absent

Sarah Sanchez

Guests Present

Dr. Laurie Goodman, Stephanie Johnson, Yolanda Vazquez, Denise Voth, Amy Friesen, Dr. Steven James, Lorraine Sewell, Student Ava S., James Surmeian, Kimmi Buzzard (all 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 Monday, February 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

1.C. Flag Salute

Dr. Sam Nofziger led the Flag Salute.

1.D. Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment to move item 4.A. & VIIC. to Section II. Academic Excellence - Part 1.

Monique Ouwinga 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

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on January 25, 2022.

Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2. Academic Excellence - Part 1

2.A. SEL & Transition Program Student Presentation

- Student recording

4.A. Virtual Academy Program Update/Presentation

- Steph Johanson introduced Ava S., a third grade Virtual Academy student. A. shared her essay on tsunamis.
- Ava shared about the writing process including her research, rough draft, editing, and final draft.

VII. C. Board Member Vacancy

- Steph Johnson introduced Elizabeth Wagner as a potential new Board Member.
- Elizabeth is a homeschooling parent of three students in the school.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to nominate and appoint Elizabeth Wagner to the Board.
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion and appointment.

3. Finance

3.A. January 2022 Financials

- Jim Surmeian from Charter Impact shared the school's financial report.
- Dr. Sam Nofziger asked to confirm that the amount of the reserves was "healthy."
- Dr. Craig Wheaton shared about budgets/reserve amounts/practices he has had experience with previous schools.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the January 2022 Financials.
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

3.B. Second Interim Report

- Jim Surmeian presented the school's Second Interim Report which included future year projections.
- Elizabeth Wagner asked for confirmation that this report was a mid-year, progress report. Jim Surmeian confirmed that yes, this is correct.
- Elizabeth Wagner asked for clarification on what ADA stands for. Jim Surmeian clarified that the acronym stands for Average Daily Attendance.

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

3.C. 2020-2021 Annual Audit Report

- Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the school's 2020-2021 Annual Audit Report.

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Annual Audit Report.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2.D. 2022-2023 Budget Considerations

- Dr. Laurie Goodman shared the school's projected staffing plan in preparation for the number of students anticipated for 2022-2023.
- Dr. Laurie Goodman emphasized that hiring will align with actual student enrollment.

2.E. Revised Compensation Policy

- Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the Revised Compensation Policy noting the primary change of teacher title from Homeschool Teacher (HST) to Teacher.
- Elizabeth Wagner asked for clarification if this is a change on paper only or a change in culture. Dr. Laurie Goodman shared that over time, Teachers will focus on students and families and less on clerical duties.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the revised Compensation Policy.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

4. Academic Excellence - Part 2

4.A. Virtual Academy Program Update/Presentation

- Moved to earlier in the agenda

Dr. Craig Wheaton left the meeting at 6:54 PM.

4.B. High School Program Update/Presentation

- Denise Voth shared High School Program highlights including:
 - HS course pass rates
 - Concurrent enrollment at Community Colleges
 - Virtual Academy.

4.C. High School Virtual Academy for 2022-2023

- Denise Voth and Amy Friesen presented the HSVA program for the 2022-2023
- Elizabeth Wagner asked if middle school students that are ready for Pre-Algebra are able to participate in HSVA courses? Denise Voth shared that yes, they can.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the plan for High School Virtual Academy for 2022-2023.

Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

4.D. Supplemental Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

- Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the Supplemental LCAP.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the Supplemental LCAP.

Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

4.E. A-G Grant Plan

- Denise Voth and Dr. Goodman sent the intention letter, however, there has not been much movement or progress. The school is waiting to hear what the grant amount would be. The funds would be used to supplement and expand current programs.

5. Operations

5.A. COVID-19 School Report - February

- Dr. Laurie Goodman discussed the COVID-19 School Report.
- The school continues to pivot accordingly to ongoing changes to COVID and mask regulations.

5.B. Enrollment Report

- Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the school's current enrollment numbers and withdrawal figures.

5.C. Updated Comprehensive Safety Plan

- Dr. Laurie Goodman shared the updated Comprehensive Safety Plan.
- Elizabeth Wagner inquired about the section about restraining students and if it applies to the virtual setting. Discussion occurred about possibly needing such safety guidelines at in person events such as field trips.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the updated Comprehensive Safety Plan.
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

5.D. 2022-2023 School Calendar

- Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the draft of the 2022-2023 School Calendar highlighting the changes:
 - Increased number of Learning Periods
 - Creating Learning Periods with about 20 school days

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

5.E. Independent Study Teacher Job Description

- Dr. Laurie presented the revised job description particularly the change in job title from Homeschool Teacher to Independent Study Teacher.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the Independent Study Teacher Job Description.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

5.F. Virtual Independent Study Teacher Job Description

- Dr. Lauree Goodman shared the new Virtual Independent Study Teacher Job Description.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the Virtual Independent Study Teacher Job Description.
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.
The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

5.G. Salaried Virtual Only Employee Contract

- Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the Salaried Virtual Only Employee Contract which aligns with the Virtual Independent Study Teacher Job Description.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to approve the Salaried Virtual Only Employee Contract.

Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

5.H. Summer School Teacher Job Description

- Dr. Laurie Goodman shared the Summer School Teacher Job Description for Summer School Teachers.
- Monique Ouwinga inquired how Summer School is different from Extended School Year (ESY). Dr. Laurie Goodman shared that ESY is for students with an IEP who qualify.
- Elizabeth noted that the contract does include Homeschool Teacher and would the school be changing this.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the Summer School Teacher Job Description with the correction of changing Homeschool Teacher to “Teacher.”

Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

6. Administrator Evaluations

6.A. Administrator Report - Part 2 of the Evaluation Process

- Dr. Laurie Goodman and Steph Johnson shared their Administrator Report.

6.B. Next Steps in the Administrator Evaluation Process

- Dr. Sam Nofziger reviewed the Evaluation Process thus far and what the next steps are.
- Monique Ouwinga applauded both Dr. Laurie Goodman and Steph Johnson for their hard work and many accomplishments as well as their synergy in working so well together.

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to move forward with the Administrator Evaluation Process in March.

Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.

The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

7. Governance

7.A. Form 700

- Dr. Laurie Goodman reminded the Board that this is an annual filing.
- Kimmi Buzzard described the process planned for completion of this filing including a mailed Form 700 to be filled out by each Board Member.

7.B. March Meeting Format

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to meet in a virtual format for the next board meeting and discuss this item again in March.
Monique Ouwinga seconded the motion.
The board VOTED to approve the motion.

7.c. Board Member Vacancy

- Moved up to earlier in the agenda.

7.D. Brown Act Training

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

8. Closing Items

8.A. Board of Director Comments & Requests

- Kimmi Buzzard to meet with Elizabeth Wagner to review the Administrator Evaluation Process.

6.B. Announcement of the Next Scheduled Board Meetings

Regular: March 22, 2022 at 4:30 PM

6.C. Adjourn Meeting

Monique Ouwinga made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:01 PM.

Elizabeth Wagner 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 8:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Sam Nofziger

Prepared by:
Mariah Jordan

Noted by:

Craig Wheaton
Craig Wheaton (Mar 23, 2022 16:42 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.

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.

2-28-2022 - Board Meeting Minutes - MR

Final Audit Report

2022-03-23

Created:	2022-03-23
By:	Kimmi Buzzard (kimmi.buzzard@theaxiagroup.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAU_qJ4L89GQ9qmlfdeQrvWhUFD2Bib5C

"2-28-2022 - 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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