



THE ACCELERATED SCHOOLS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 (Unapproved Minutes)

Location

4000 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90037 (MPR)

Teleconference location: TAS 2 – 119 E. 37th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90011

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Members Present: Leonard Rabinowitz, Binti Yost, Lindsay Berz, Brittany Brooks

Board Members Absent: Larry Picus, Peter Morrison

Guest Speakers: N/A

AGENDA

Meeting Called to Order: 10:02am

Pledge of Allegiance: Leonard Rabinowitz

Approval of Board Meeting Agenda 4.23.25

- 1st Motion: LR
- 2nd Motion: LB
- Approved

Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes: 2.26.25

- 1st Motion: LR
- 2nd Motion: BY
- Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS on Non-Agenda Items:

No Public Comments

Next Regular Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 10:00am

BOARD PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Good news: What can we do to support our students in Math? CEO Proposal - class size reduction in Math classes to double the number of Math minutes per student each week. Wallis Annenberg visited our schools, and she was very impressed with them. A big thank you to all involved in the great preparation and participation including our staff, students and CEO Jesse. We received a \$3 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation payable over 3 years to support our students in Math. We are looking into a new building for a Math Center. We also had a meeting with the Gates Foundation.

CEO’S PRESENTATION AND REPORT - April CEO Report

- Math Pilot - We received a \$3 million grant from Wallis Annenberg to reduce class size and provide double the Math minutes for students each week. We are working to determine space and resources. We hope to expand this to our other schools.
- Attendance Data- We are meeting or exceeding our ADA goal of 92% attendance at all sites.
- Metal Detectors - We do not want our students or staff to feel like they are entering a “prison”. That is NOT the culture of our schools, and we are also aware of the times we live in. The safety committee provided a recommendation based on stakeholder survey input, with a recommendation of no metal detectors. However, 83% of families who completed the survey asked for metal detectors. They stated that this must be a place of joy and care, and can not look like a prison, but it must also remain safe. Technology can support us with this without our schools looking like a prison. Therefore, no final decision has been made. We will have a final decision in Fall 2025.
- Reading Screener - We will be adopting a reading screener for TK-2nd students and will be bringing forth a recommendation at a later Board meeting.
- Curriculum Adoption - High school current ELA curriculum is Odell; TAS MS, there are no changes, adopted EL Education during the 2024-25 school year; TAS ES and ACES are currently exploring options for adoption.
- Academic Calendar - Shared educational partners engagement from January, March, and April 2025; reviewed the shifts that will be made from 24-25 to 25-26 school year.
- Strategic Plan Update - Reviewed mission, purpose, priorities, goals, and measures for progress monitoring; reviewed timeline for completion; reviewed key messages from the Educational Partners survey.
- Budget Development Update (BEST) - Reviewed BEST process (Budget, Enrollment, Strategy, and Talent); reviewed expenses, our assumptions, our starting point, bottom line, reducing the deficit, and next steps. Finance Committee meeting in May 2025.

Public Comment:

- No comments

STAFF PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Action Item: Approve TAS Consolidated and Site Financial Reports January 2025 (ACES, TAS, and WAHS)
 - CBO presentation: Review of Income Statement (consolidated) by site; Review of Balance Sheet (consolidated) by site; Review of Cash Flow Statement (consolidated) by site.
 - 1st Motion: LR
 - 2nd Motion: BB
 - Approved
2. Action Item: Approve Second Interim Financial Reports TAS/ACES/WAHS
 - 1st Motion: LR
 - 2nd Motion: BB
 - Approved
3. Action Item: Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for ACES
 - 1st Motion: LR
 - 2nd Motion: BY
 - Approved
 - Annual document required by LEA to hire teachers on permits. No fiscal impact. We always aim to hire fully credentialed teachers, but this will allow us to remain compliant if the need arises.
4. Action Item: Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for TAS
 - 1st Motion: BY
 - 2nd Motion: BB
 - Approved
 - Annual document required by LEA to hire teachers on permits. No fiscal impact. We always aim to hire fully credentialed teachers, but this will allow us to remain compliant if the need arises.
5. Action Item: Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for WAHS
 - 1st Motion: BY
 - 2nd Motion: BB
 - Approved
 - Annual document required by LEA to hire teachers on permits. No fiscal impact. We always aim to hire fully credentialed teachers, but this will allow us to remain compliant if the need arises.
6. Information Only: Nutritional Services Director Andrew Robles presented information related to the Nutrition Services Department, addressing public comments and concerns from the 2/26/25 Board meeting. The following was presented:
 - Mission statement for the Food Services Department
 - Reviewed concerns raised at 2/26/25 Board meeting
 - Reviewed follow-up with families on concerned students ⇒ met with parents, answered all questions, explained state rules and regulations; additionally, presented at ACES PAC meeting to address concerns

- Reviewed guidelines for breakfast and lunch requirements, menu planning process, shared the list of fresh fruits and vegetables, student civil rights, addressed parent concerns about rats in cafeteria (zero rodents for last 3 years), currently has a monthly extermination process; provided an open invitation to visit the cafeteria to parents.
- Recommendations and bring back items -
 - Creation of a public-facing video (2 minutes) that highlights nutritional services to be shared on the website and social media platforms.
 - Outside consultant costs - determine who falls under this
 - Title IX Policy to be presented in June Board meeting

CONSENT ITEMS

1. ~~Reinstatement of 2020 Title IX Policy dated September 2024 for ACES, TAS, and WAHS-~~ moved to June Board meeting
2. 2025-2026 Academic Calendar
3. 2025-2026 School Board Meeting Dates

Approval of items 2 and 3:

- 1st Motion: LR
- 2nd Motion: LB
- Approved

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION: 10:53 AM

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: 11:27 AM

Action taken on closed session items:

Presented by Legal Counsel, Janelle Ruley - By unanimous vote, the Board approved termination and a severance package for a classified administrator in the amount equal to 6 months' pay, plus an additional payment in the amount of \$23,750. If the package is not timely signed, the termination remains in place.

No action taken on any other closed session items.

ADJOURN: 11:49 AM