

LinkEd Public Schools (LPS) Board Meeting

Minutes LPS Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Time:

July 29, 2025

1:00 PM

Physical Location:

1701 18th Street

Bakersfield, CA 93301 (Virtual via Zoom)

Agenda**I. Opening Items**

1.1 Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 1:10 PM.

1.2 Flag Salute: Conducted by attendees.

1.3 Record Attendance:

Board Members Present:

- Leslie Walters
- Lilia Ray
- Kiri Cohu
- David James
- Ernie Unruh

Also in attendance, Joanna Kendrick, Superintendent, Greg West, CEO, and Keith Morrison, Morrison Benefits.

The Board President welcomed Greg West to his first meeting as Chief Executive Officer of LinkEd Public Schools. Mr. West began his role in early July and was recognized for his leadership and commitment to advancing the mission of Central Academy of Arts and Technology.

1.4 Changes to Agenda: None.

1.5 Public Comments: No public comments were received on non-agenda items.

II. Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes from the June 24, 2025 meeting.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

IV. Open Session

4.1 Regular Agenda Items

1. 2025–26 Technology Services Contract with KCSOS –

Mr. West presented the contract for the renewal of the annual contract for technology and IT support services for the 2025–26 school year from KCSOS.

Motion: Ernie Unruh

Second: Lila Ray

Carried: 5–0

2. 2025–26 Meal Vending Agreement with KCSOS – Mr. West presented the continuation of meal services ensuring compliance with state and federal nutrition standards. The contract included additional assurances that should reduce the costs of the program with the goal of breaking even notwithstanding service fees.

Motion: David James

Second: Kiri Cohu

Carried: 5–0

3. Updated 2025–26 Fiscal Policies – The Board was presented with adopted revisions aligning fiscal operations with new positions on the LinkEd team, including the addition of a Chief Operating Officer.

Motion: Leslie Walters

Second: LilaRay

Carried: 5–0

4. Facility Lease with First Presbyterian Church – The Board Approved updates to the lease agreement outlining site use and costs for CAAT operations including classroom space, gym, and cafeteria/kitchen facilities for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion: David James

Second: Ernie Unruh

Carried: 5–0

5. Employee Handbook Update – The team presented a new Employee Classification to be added to the handbook - outlining the distinction between Executive, year round

employees and other school administration. This class of employee due to the nature of their work will work year round and be offered a distinctive benefits package.

Motion: Ernie Unruh

Second: Lia Ray

Carried: 5–0

Mr. Unruh noted that a compensation study should be completed within the recommended timeframe to ensure the organization's compliance with fair hiring practices and to benchmark executive salary ranges. He also requested that school leadership provide an update on the organizational and reporting structure, and that the Board revisit the Superintendent's salary within the first quarter of the year.

6. Health Insurance Contribution Structure – Approved the 2025–26 employer contribution levels for staff health benefits.

Mr. West, together with the school's health benefits broker, Keith Morrison, presented the benefits structure and package, noting a planned increase in the employer contribution this year to remain market-competitive.

Mr. Unruh also recommended that leadership continue to evaluate benefits options as the school grows to ensure employees are offered the most competitive packages.

Motion: David James

Second: Kiri Cohu

Carried: 5–0

7. 2025–26 LCAP Updates – Approved updates reflecting school growth, expanded student services, and stakeholder feedback. Presentation provided by administration.

Ms. Kendrick presented updates to the LCAP that reflected the growth of the student population and expanded services in alignment with LCAP spending.

Motion: Ernie Unruh

Second: David James

Carried: 5–0

8. Finance Committee Updates – The committee reported on current fiscal health and upcoming budget adjustments.

Mr. West shared that the school is on track with its funding plan in collaboration with Grow Schools as presented last spring. Ms. Kendrick shared that if enrollment holds the school will have an even more positive balance at the end of the year and the leadership will bring revisions to the LCAP budget that reflected the increased funds and their use.

Motion: Lila Ray
Second: Ernie Unruh
Carried: 5–0

4.2 Communications

Superintendent's Report: Provided updates on enrollment, school growth, and staffing. Noted that the school is fully staffed, however continues to keep an eye on Special Education and the growing needs of the student population. It was noted that enrollment remains strong and waitlists continue to build in all grade levels.

CEO Report: Shared operational highlights and operational priorities for the coming months and opening of the new school year.

4.3 Board Comments:

Board members expressed their enthusiasm for the start of the new school year and excitement about welcoming over 200 new students to the school.

V. Closing Items

Adjournment: At 2:24 PM

Motion: Ernie Unruh
Second: Kiri Cohu
Carried: 5–0

Action: Motion carried unanimously.