

# LinkEd Public Schools (LPS) Board Meeting

## Minutes LPS Board of Directors Meeting

### **Date and Time:**

October 28, 2025

1:00 PM

### **Physical Location:**

1701 18th Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Opening Items**

##### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

*David James, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.*

##### **B. Flag Salute**

*Flag salute led by David James*

##### **C. Record Attendance**

David James, Board President took roll call for the meeting:

Attendance roll call:

Board Members: David James, Lilia Ray, Leslie Walters, Ernie Unruh, Tara Bratcher

Also in attendance: Joanna Kendrick, Superintendent, Greg West, CEO, and David Olsen

##### **D. Changes to Agenda**

There was no change to the agenda.

## E. Public Comments

*There were no public comments.*

## 2. Consent Agenda

2.1- Approval of September board meeting minutes

2.2- Approval of September check register

**Motion: Lila Ray**

**Second: David James**

**Carried 5-0**

## 3. Closed Session

*There were no closed session items.*

## 4. Open Session

4.1 Review and Approve Contract with School Food Solutions

The board reviewed a proposed agreement with School Food Solutions to support the school's development of the nutrition program and establishment of the school as an SFA. The contract was presented for approval to continue meeting state and federal food service requirements.

**Motion: Ernie Unruh**

**Second: David James**

**Carried 5-0**

4.2 Review and Approve Contract with Balanced Speech Therapy

The board reviewed a contract with Balanced Speech Therapy to provide speech and language services for students with identified needs. This agreement supports the school's special education program and ensures students receive required services in a timely manner.

**Motion: David James**

**Second: Leslie Walters**

**Carried 5-0**

4.3 Review and Approve Contract for Psychology Services with INSIGHTS ASSESSMENT AND COUNSELING, INC.

The board reviewed a contract with INSIGHTS Assessment and Counseling for school psychology services, including assessments, evaluations, and support for special education compliance. The contract was brought forward to ensure the school can meet mandated timelines and provide high-quality evaluations. Ms. Kendrick explained the growing number of assessments that the school needed completed as well as continuing assessment as the school's special education program has grown significantly this year.

**Motion: Ernie Unruh**

**Second: David James**

**Carried 5-0**

4.4 Review and Approve Contract with Radical Language Speech Therapy

The board reviewed a contract with Radical Language Speech Therapy to expand the school's capacity for speech and language services. Ms. Kendrick explained that due to the increased number of students requiring speech services the school is seeking to have a contract with an alternative provider so that the needs of all students can be met as the caseload continues to grow.

**Motion: David James**

**Second: Leslie Walters**

**Carried 5-0**

## **5. Communication**

### **5.1 Superintendent report**

The Superintendent and CEO presented, at the request of the Board, an update on the roles and responsibilities of executive leadership, including examples of dual-leadership structures used in other charter school organizations. They highlighted how academic leadership and operational leadership function as two distinct sides of the house, each with its own focus and accountability, while also working closely together to support the school's overall success. The

presentation reinforced that when these roles operate with clarity, communication, and collaboration, the school benefits from stronger decision-making, improved systems, and a more seamless experience for students, staff, and families.

During the discussion, Lila Ray noted that the current structure is serving CAAT's needs well and expressed confidence that the Board will continue to evaluate this model as the organization grows. Ms. Unruh shared that he still feels additional clarification may be needed regarding certain aspects of the structure. Mr. James commented that he would like to see the evaluation timeline for executive roles moved earlier in the year so that contracts can be presented before teacher contracts are issued. Ms. Kendrick noted that they can move the timeline per the Board's request.

## 5.2 CEO report

The CEO and David Olsen from Charter Impact presented the financial update, highlighting the school's continued growth in enrollment and the positive effect that growth is having on the budget outlook for the year. They also reported that the school has secured a \$3.5 million line of credit from East West Bank to stabilize cash flow throughout the year. Mr. West noted the extensive due diligence process required by the bank and emphasized the hard work of the entire team in securing this level of financing at such an early stage in the school's development. He shared that this accomplishment reflects the organization's strong leadership and a clear plan for long-term sustainability.

## 6. Board Comments

The Board members expressed interest in being invited to school events that are coming up this winter.

## 7. Closing Items

### A. Meeting Adjournment

**Motion: David James**

**Second: Tara Bratcher**

**Carried 5-0**

*Meeting Adjourned: 1:57 PM*