

LinkEd Public Schools (LPS) Board Meeting

Minutes LPS Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Time:

May 6, 2025

1:00 PM

Physical Location:

1701 18th Street

Bakersfield, CA 93301 (Virtual via Zoom)

Agenda

I. Opening Items

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 AM by David James.

2. Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David James.

3. Record Attendance

Board Members Present:

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

Also in attendance, Joanna Kendrick

4. Changes to Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments submitted or made during the meeting.

II. Consent Agenda

Board President Mr. David James read the items on the consent agenda for approval.

Consent Agenda Items

- Approval of Check Registers for March
- Approval of Classified Staff Salary Schedule
- Approval of 2025–2026 Speech Services Agreement
- Final Approval of 2025–2026 School Calendar
- Approval of Dyslexia Screener for CAAT Students
- Approval of Core Curriculum for CAAT Students Grades TK–9
- Approval of 2025–2026 March Consulting Agreement

Mr. Ernie Unruh requested that items E (Dyslexia Screener), H (Core Curriculum), I (March Consulting Agreement), and J (School Calendar) be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion due to fiscal implications.

Motion to remove items E, H, I, and J from the consent agenda

Motion: Ernie Unruh

Second: Lila Ray

Carried: 5–0

Discussion of Removed Items

Item E: Approval of Dyslexia Screener for CAAT Students

The Board discussed the importance of early identification and intervention for students with reading challenges. Ms. Kendrick explained how the screener would support compliance with state requirements and improve instructional supports. Board members emphasized the value of investing in this tool to strengthen literacy outcomes.

Item H: Approval of Core Curriculum for CAAT Students Grades TK–9

Ms. Kendrick reviewed the recommended core curriculum for grades TK–9, explaining alignment with CAAT’s mission and LCAP goals. Board members discussed the academic rigor, cost, and professional development needed to ensure strong implementation. The consensus was that the curriculum investment was necessary to provide consistent, high-quality instruction across grade levels.

Item I: Approval of 2025–2026 March Consulting Agreement

The Board engaged in a detailed dialogue regarding the proposed March Consulting Agreement. Ms. Lila Ray, Ms. Leslie Walters, and Mr. Unruh raised questions about the amount of the contract and considered the fiscal impact in the school’s early years. In the discussion, members also emphasized the strong reputation of March Consulting and the unique value the firm brings in supporting college and career readiness for high school students. The Board

agreed that contracting with March Consulting was a better option than hiring a full-time counselor in year one, given both cost savings and access to a broad range of expertise.

Item J: Final Approval of 2025–2026 School Calendar

The Board reviewed the final draft of the school calendar. Discussion focused on alignment with instructional minutes requirements, ensuring adequate breaks for students and staff, and balancing family needs. Minor clarifications were requested, and the Board expressed appreciation for the collaborative process in developing the calendar.

Motions on Removed Items

Approval of Dyslexia Screener for CAAT Students

Motion: [Insert Member]

Second: [Insert Member]

Carried: 5–0

Approval of Core Curriculum for CAAT Students Grades TK–9

Motion: [Insert Member]

Second: [Insert Member]

Carried: 5–0

Approval of 2025–2026 March Consulting Agreement

Motion: [Insert Member]

Second: [Insert Member]

Carried: 5–0

Final Approval of 2025–2026 School Calendar

Motion: [Insert Member]

Second: [Insert Member]

Carried: 5–0

Would you like me to **fill in the motions and seconds for each item** with placeholders (like “Mr. James” or “Ms. Ray”), so it looks ready to adopt, or leave them open for you to enter the actual board actions?

Board Minutes

Board President Mr. David James read the items on the consent agenda for approval.

Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Check Registers for March
- B. Approval of Classified Staff Salary Schedule

- C. Approval of 2025–2026 Speech Services Agreement
- D. Final Approval of 2025–2026 School Calendar
- E. Approval of Dyslexia Screener for CAAT Students
- F. Approval of Core Curriculum for CAAT Students Grades TK–9
- G. Approval of 2025–2026 March Consulting Agreement

Mr. Ernie Unruh requested that items E (Dyslexia Screener), H (Core Curriculum), I (March Consulting Agreement), and J (School Calendar) be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion due to fiscal implications.

Motion to remove items E, H, I, and J from the consent agenda

Motion: Ernie Unruh

Second: Lila Ray

Carried: 5–0

Discussion of Removed Items

Item E: Approval of Dyslexia Screener for CAAT Students

The Board discussed the importance of early identification and intervention for students with reading challenges. Ms. Kendrick explained how the screener would support compliance with state requirements and improve instructional supports. Board members emphasized the value of investing in this tool to strengthen literacy outcomes.

Motion to approve Item E

Motion: Lila Ray

Second: Ernie Unruh

Carried: 5–0

Item H: Approval of Core Curriculum for CAAT Students Grades TK–9

Ms. Kendrick reviewed the recommended core curriculum for grades TK–9, explaining alignment with CAAT’s mission and LCAP goals. She added most of the purchases for the school’s expansion to 9th grade as well as adding additional class to each grade. Board members discussed the academic rigor, cost, and professional development needed to ensure strong implementation. The consensus was that the curriculum investment was necessary to provide consistent, high-quality instruction across grade levels.

Motion to approve Item H

Motion: Leslie Walters

Second: Lila Ray
Carried: 5–0

Item I: Approval of 2025–2026 March Consulting Agreement

The Board engaged in a detailed dialogue regarding the proposed March Consulting Agreement. Ms. Lila Ray, Ms. Leslie Walters, and Mr. Unruh raised questions about the amount of the contract and considered the fiscal impact in the school's early years. In the discussion, members also emphasized the strong reputation of March Consulting and the unique value the firm brings in supporting college and career readiness for high school students. The Board agreed that contracting with March Consulting was a better option than hiring a full-time counselor in year one, given both cost savings and access to a broad range of expertise.

Motion to approve Item I

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

Item J: Final Approval of 2025–2026 School Calendar

The Board reviewed the final draft of the school calendar. Discussion focused on alignment with instructional minutes requirements, ensuring adequate breaks for students and staff, and balancing family needs. Minor clarifications were requested, and the Board expressed appreciation for the collaborative process in developing the calendar.

Motion to approve Item J

Motion: Ernie Unruh
Second: Leslie Walters
Carried: 5–0

Approval of Remaining Consent Agenda Items

Approval of Check Registers for March

Motion: Lila Ray
Second: Leslie Walters
Carried: 5–0

Approval of Classified Staff Salary Schedule

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

Approval of 2025–2026 Speech Services Agreement

Motion: Leslie Walters
Second: Lila Ray

Carried: 5–0

III. Closed Session

1. *There were no closed session items.*

IV. Open Session

4.1 Regular Agenda Items

- a. 2025-2026 LCAP Presentation

Mr. James introduced Ms. Kendrick to provide an update on the 2025-2026 LCAP.

Ms. Kendrick reviewed the progress being made toward completion of the 2025–26 LCAP and shared how stakeholder input and data are guiding the school's work. She highlighted that the LCAP survey, spring student survey, and parent LCAP meeting were used to identify trends in school performance and family experience. While overall feedback was positive, she noted a few clear areas of focus. Parents want more timely access to student grades and updates on academic progress, and they are also interested in expanding elective options that include more technology. Students said that electives and clubs are a highlight of their experience at CAAT, which reinforced the importance of continuing to grow these opportunities. Ms. Kendrick explained that the leadership team is responding by bringing in new curriculum such as Project STEM and Arts in Action and including these expansions in the LCAP.

She also reviewed the established LCAP goals and showed how they align with CAAT's mission to provide an innovative and inclusive education in arts and technology. She reminded the Board that in the school's first year, the charter petition served as the LCAP, and that this year's plan will provide the true baseline for measuring growth in the years ahead.

As part of her update, Ms. Kendrick presented attendance data. Current attendance is averaging about 93 percent, which is below the budgeted target. She explained both the financial and instructional impact of this gap and noted that it is a priority area for improvement. She emphasized that by combining family and student voice with outcome data, CAAT is ensuring that the LCAP remains a living document that reflects the mission of the school and the needs of its community.

4.2. Communications

- a. Principal's Report

Ms. Kendrick shared updates on the end-of-year field trips and expressed gratitude for the incredible support from parents who made these experiences possible. Families have been actively chaperoning and ensuring that students end the year with exciting and memorable

opportunities. She also noted the strong family involvement in planning upcoming celebrations, including Family Day, the eighth-grade graduation, and kindergarten promotion.

Ms. Kendrick reported that students are currently completing CAASPP testing and wrapping up end-of-year assessments. She noted that these measures provide valuable information about student growth and schoolwide progress, which will help guide instructional planning for the year ahead. She also highlighted the hard work of both students and staff during this busy season as they bring the school year to a close

b. Caat Parent Club Report

The Parent Club President, Ms. Kohu shared that they are actively supporting end-of-year activities, including chaperoning field trips and helping to plan Family Day, eighth grade graduation, and kindergarten promotion. They expressed excitement about these celebrations and the opportunity to wrap up the school year in a meaningful and joyful way for students and families.

4.3. Board Comments

- a. Board members have the opportunity to make comments.

Mr. James called for Board Member Comments. None were made.

IX. Communications

1. No Communications.

X. Board Comments

1. Board members have the opportunity to make comments.

No board comments were made.

XI. Closing Items

1. **Motion to Adjourn**
Motion: Leslie Walters
Second: Kiri Kohu

2. **Roll Call:**

Carried 5-0

3. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05PM