

LinkEd Public Schools (LPS) Board Meeting

Minutes LPS Board of Directors Meeting

Central Academy of Arts and Technology

Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: 1723 18th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Virtual: Zoom Meeting ID 838 6808 6112

I. Opening Items

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by Board President David James.

1.2 Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David James and recited by all in attendance.

1.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- David James
- Lila Ray
- Leslie Walters
- Ernie Unruh

Staff Present: Joanna Kendrick, LinkEd Superintendent; Greg West, LinkEd CEO

Guests Present: David Olsen, Charter Impact; Tara Bratcher, Caat Parent Club President

1.4 Changes to Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

1.5 Public Comment

No public comments were received on non-agenda items.

II. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Minutes from the July 29, 2025 Board Meeting

2.2 Approval of CA-SDI Updated Application

David James asked if any Board members had questions regarding the consent agenda. Greg West noted that the updated SDI application had to be brought to the board due to Edtec's errors.

See no questions, David Jame asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

- Motion: Ernie Unruh
- Second: Leslie Walters
- Vote: 4 –0 Motion carried.

III. Closed Session

There was no closed session.

IV. Open Session

4.1 Regular Agenda Items

1. Nomination and Vote of Parent Representative

David James introduced Tara Bratcher as the newly appointed Parent Club President and asked for her nomination to the Board. Her nomination replaces the former parent representative on the Board, who completed her one year term of service at the end of July. The Board nominated and approved Tara Bratcher as the Partner Representative in accordance with the bylaws.

- Motion to nominate Tara Bratcher to the Linked PS Board: Ernie Unruh
- Second: Leslie Walters
- Vote: 4 –0 Motion carried.

David James called for a second motion to approve Tara Bratcher as a LinkEd PS Board Member and announced that Ms. Bratcher is now an acting Board Member for LinkEd Public Schools.

- Motion to approve Tara Bratcher to the Caat Board: Leslie Walters
- Second: David James
- Vote: 4 –0 Motion carried.

David James welcomed Tara Bratcher as the new parent representative to the LinkEd PS Board.

2. Contract with Document Tracking Services (DTS)

The Board approved the contract with DTS to support the management of compliance documents, including the LCAP, Federal Addendum, and SARC, and to provide legally required translations. Greg West explained that this service provides the school with a more efficient system to create, track, and translate required compliance documents, such as the LCAP.

- Motion: Ernie Unruh
- Second: David James
- Vote: 5-0 - Motion carried.

3. Special Education Transportation Agreement with KCSOS

The Board approved the transportation services agreement to ensure compliance should any student require special transportation under their IEP.

- Motion: David James
- Second: Leslie Walters
- Vote: 5-0 – Motion carried.

4. Engagement Contract with Baker Tilly LLP for Annual Audit Services

The Board approved the engagement contract with Baker Tilly LLP to provide annual audit services as required. Greg West shared that the school had been engaged with Baker Tilly since last spring and the contract with the firm needed to be ratified. He was

working closely with Charter Impact and the school's auditor after EdTec refused to collaborate with the auditor. He noted that Charter Impact has stepped in to provide this support, that all financial information has now been transferred into the Charter Impact system, and that EdTec's refusal to work with the auditor, despite being the contracted firm managing the school's finances last year, represented an additional material breach of their contract. Greg West stated that despite the on-going challenges with Edtec he, Ms. Kendrick, and the Team at Charter Impact were on schedule to complete the annual audit on time.

- Motion: David James
- Second: Ernie Unruh
- Vote: 5-0 – Motion carried.

5. Board Resolution for Education Protection Account (EPA)

The Board adopted the required resolution for the use of EPA funds in accordance with law. Ms. Kendrick shared that she had completed the necessary preparatory work with EdTec in June, and David Olsen from Charter Impact reviewed the work. Mr. Olsen confirmed that he saw no issues with the work that had been completed. This approval ensures the school remains eligible to access and use EPA funds for the 2025–26 school year.

- Motion: Ernie Unruh
- Second: Tara Bratcher
- Vote: 5-0 – Motion carried.

6. Approval of EPA Expenditures through June 2025

The Board reviewed and approved CAAT's planned use of EPA funds for the 2025–26 fiscal year. Ms. Kendrick shared that she had completed the necessary preparatory work with EdTec in June, and David Olsen from Charter Impact reviewed the plan. Mr. Unruh asked David Olsen if he saw any issues with the work that had been done. Mr. Olsen confirmed that he saw no issues with the work that had been completed. This approval ensures the school remains compliant with state requirements and eligible to use EPA funds in the 2025–26 fiscal year

- Motion: David James
- Second: Ernie Unruh
- Vote: 5-0 – Motion carried.

7. Approval of EPA Spending Plan for 2025–26

The Board approved the planned use of EPA funds for the 2025–26 fiscal year. Ms. Kendrick shared that she had completed the necessary preparatory work with EdTec in June, and David Olsen from Charter Impact reviewed the plan. Mr. Olsen confirmed that he saw no issues with the work that had been completed.

This approval ensures the school remains compliant with state requirements and eligible to use EPA funds in the 2025–26 fiscal year. Greg West noted that as the school considers revisions to the 2025–26 budget due to increases in revenue from higher-than-projected enrollment, the EPA spending plan may need to be revised and, if so, will be brought back to the Board for approval.

- Motion: Ernie Unruh
- Second: Leslie Walters
- Vote: 5-0 – Motion carried.

8. Approval of the 2025–26 Consolidated Application for CAAT

The Board approved the Consolidated Application to secure federal and state categorical funding for the 2025–26 school year. Ms. Kendrick presented this item and shared that she had completed the preparatory work with EdTec. She emphasized that approval of the application is critical to ensure CAAT continues to receive federal and state categorical funds that directly support student programs and services. Moving forward, Charter Impact has assumed responsibility for managing these filings to ensure accuracy, compliance, and timely submission.

- Motion: Ernie Unruh
- Second: Leslie Walters
- Vote: 5-0 – Motion carried.

9. Approval of 2025–26 Board Meeting Dates

The Board approved the regular meeting schedule for the 2025–26 school year. Ms. Kendrick shared the proposed meeting dates for the remainder of the year and noted they will be posted publicly in accordance with Brown Act requirements.

- Motion: David James
- Second: Tara Bratcher
- Vote: 5-0 – Motion carried.

4.2 Communications

- Superintendent Report

Superintendent Dr. Joanna Kendrick provided an update on the successful launch of the school year. She reported that CAAT is now fully staffed and celebrated a strong week of professional development leading up to the opening of school. She highlighted the positive work being done by the two new administrators, the schoolwide focus on completing baseline assessments, and the excitement of welcoming over 300 new students into the CAAT culture.

- CEO Report

CEO Greg West presented updates, including the introduction of David Olsen from Charter Impact, who will support financial management and reporting for the Charter School.. Greg emphasized how supportive Charter Impact has been, especially in light of the ongoing challenges with EdTec and the uncovering of additional issues that EdTec had either not addressed or had mishandled.

4.3 Board Comments

Board members shared comments and appreciation for the ongoing work to strengthen compliance and financial stability.

V. Closing Items

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

- Motion: David James
- Second: Tara Bratcher
- Vote: 4-0– Motion carried.