

LinkEd Public Schools (LPS) Board Meeting

Minutes LPS Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Time:

June 24, 2025

1:00 PM

Physical Location:

1701 18th Street

Bakersfield, CA 93301 (Virtual via Zoom)

I. Opening Items

1.1. Call the Meeting to Order

David James, Board President called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

1.2. Flag Salute

The Board President led the flag salute.

1.3. Record Attendance

Roll Call:

Board Members Present:

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

Not in attendance: Lila Ray

Also in attendance was Joanna Kendrick, Caat's Superintendent and Greg West.

Mr. James welcomed Mr. West to his first Board meeting and introduced him as the incoming CEO of the Central Academy of Arts and Technology. He noted that Mr. West will begin working alongside Dr. Kendrick in July as part of the school's evolving leadership structure. Mr. James

expressed enthusiasm for the partnership between Mr. West and Dr. Kendrick, sharing that their combined strengths will position the school for continued growth and long-term success.

1.4. Changes to Agenda

Dr. Kendrick requested that the minutes from the June 3rd be pulled from the consent agenda.

Mr. Unruh motioned to remove the June 3rd minutes from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Walters.

Motion: Ernie Unruh

Second: Leslie Walters

Roll Call:

- Leslie Walters - Aye
- David James - Aye
- Kiri Kohu - Aye
- Ernie Unruh - Aye

1.5. Public Comments

Board President Mr. James called for any public comments. There were no public comments.

2. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of minutes from the May 6, 2025 Board Meeting
- B. Approval of minutes of the June 3, 2025 Board Meeting

A motion to approve the consent agenda, with the exclusion of the June 3rd Board Meeting Minutes was called by Mr. James. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walters

Motion: Leslie Walters

Second: Kiri Cohu

Roll Call:

- Leslie Walters - Aye
- David James - Aye
- Kiri Cohu - Aye
- Ernie Unruh - Aye

3. Closed Session

There was no closed session.

4. Open Session

There were no reports from the Closed Session.

4.1 Regular Agenda Items

- a. Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Public Hearing: *The Board will hold a public hearing to receive input on the draft Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the 2025–26 fiscal year, as required by Education Code § 47606.5.*

Motion to open the LCAP Public hearing was made by Mr. Unruh and seconded by Mr. James.

Roll Call:

- Leslie Walters - Aye
- David James - Aye
- Kiri Cohu - Aye
- Ernie Unruh - Aye

Carried 5-0

Mr. Unruh formally opened the public hearing for the 2025–26 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), inviting comments and feedback from the public. He noted that the hearing is an opportunity for community members, staff, and families to engage with the school's goals, actions, and budget priorities, and to ensure the plan reflects the needs of all students.

Dr. Kendrick reviewed the goals, actions, and budget items previously presented to the board as part of the 2025–26 LCAP and budget planning process. She noted that no changes have been made to the goals, actions, or budget since the board's prior review. Dr. Kendrick also shared that, given the substantial growth the school is experiencing, nearly doubling in size, the LCAP and budget will likely undergo a few revisions as the team gets to know the new students and their needs.

She highlighted how the LCAP is designed to address the needs of all student groups, with targeted support for English learners, students with disabilities, foster youth, and low-income students through academic interventions, social-emotional learning, access to enrichment, and expanded counseling and family engagement efforts.

- b. Approval of the 2025-2026 LCAP and Budget for the Central Academy of Arts and Technology: *The Board will consider approval of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the 2025–26 fiscal year, following the public hearing.*

Dr. Kendrick requested formal approval of the 2025–26 LCAP and budget as submitted.

Motion: Ernie Unruh

Second: Leslie Walters

Roll Call:

- Leslie Walters - Aye
- David James - Aye
- Kiri Cohu - Aye
- Ernie Unruh - Aye

Carried 5-0

c. Review and Approval of Family Handbook

Dr. Kendrick presented the updated 2025–26 Student and Family Handbook, outlining revisions made to align with current policies, state requirements, and school practices. She confirmed that the handbook includes all required elements in accordance with Education Code, including nondiscrimination policies, attendance expectations, discipline procedures, and parent rights. She noted that the Board was provided with a summary of changes prior to the meeting and welcomed questions.

Dr. Kendrick requested the board's approval of the updated handbook for distribution and

Motion: David James

Second: Kiri Cohu

Roll Call:

- Leslie Walters - Aye
- David James - Aye
- Kiri Cohu - Aye
- Ernie Unruh - Aye

Carried 5-0

d. Review and Approval of Student Handbook

Dr. Kendrick presented the updated 2025–26 Staff Handbook, highlighting revisions that reflect current employment policies, organizational updates, and compliance with applicable state and

federal regulations. She noted that the handbook includes required elements such as employee responsibilities, code of conduct, complaint procedures, and workplace policies. Dr. Kendrick requested the board's approval of the updated Staff Handbook for implementation in the 2025–26 school year.

Motion: David James

Second: Leslie Walters

Roll Call:

- Leslie Walters - Aye
- David James - Aye
- Kiri Cohu - Aye
- Ernie Unruh - Aye

Carried 5-0

4.2. Communications

a. Principal's Report

Dr. Kendrick reported that enrollment is strong, with 520 students currently enrolled. The school is fully staffed across all positions except for one open special education teacher role, which the leadership team is actively working to fill. Additional hiring for support staff will take place later in

4.3. Board Comments

a. Board members have the opportunity to make comments.

Mr. Unruh shared that, as with any leadership transition, he initially had some reservations about bringing in a CEO. However, knowing Mr. West's background, Mr. Unruh expressed more confidence in the match. Mr. Unruh stated that he is encouraged by Mr. West as the choice for CEO and looking forward to learning more about the new leadership roles and how they will work together.

Ms. Ray also welcomed Mr. West and expressed her excitement about his arrival, noting her enthusiasm for the experience he brings to the role. Ms. Walters shared her hope for a strong and collaborative future for the school under this leadership team and offered her support to Mr. West in any way she can provide it.

The Board President, Mr. James reiterated that Dr. Kendrick and Mr. West will bring forward a revised leadership structure and updated organizational chart to the board once they are both fully settled into their roles. This will ensure continued transparency and alignment as the school grows.

5. Closing Items

1. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Ernie Unruh

Second: Leslie Walters

Roll Call:

- Leslie Walters - Aye
- David James - Aye
- Kiri Cohu - Aye
- Ernie Unruh - Aye

Carried 5-0