

# EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2023

*9:00 a.m.*

27740 Jefferson Ave. Temecula, CA

Rancho Cucamonga Student Center

8969 Archibald Ave.

Rancho Cucamonga, CA

*Our mission is to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engaging their parents, and promoting optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.*

### Present:

Dianne Mendez, Board Chair Stephanie Vargas, Vice Chair Jason Rodriguez, Board Director Craig Schneider, Board Director	Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent Tanya Rogers, Asst. Supt. of Business Vivian Price, Asst. Supt. of Education Amy Podratz, Asst. Supt. of Human Resources Virginia Smith, Asst. Supt. of HR Michelle Sapanara, Asst. Supt. of Student Services Natali South, Senior Director of Charter Relations Trevor Johnson, Senior Director of Business Jared McLeod, Sr. Dir. of Achievement & Assessment
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### 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- Ms. Mendez called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. and Craig Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

- Mr. Schneider moved to approve the agenda.
- Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

### 3. Action: Election of Officers and Appointment of Subcommittees

- Mr. Schneider moved to elect Dianne Mendez as Board Chair.
- Ms. Vargas seconded.

- Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  - Ms. Mendez moved to elect Stephanie Vargas as Vice Chair.
  - Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
  - Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  - Ms. Mendez moved to elect Michelle Nagelvoort as Board Secretary.
  - Mr. Schneider seconded.
  - Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  - Ms. Mendez moved to elect Craig Schneider as Board Treasurer.
  - Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
  - Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  - Mr. Rodriguez moved to appoint Dianne Mendez and Ms. Vargas to the Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee.
  - Mr. Schneider seconded.
  - Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  - Ms. Mendez moved to appoint Jason Rodriguez as Empire Springs' representative on the Succession Plan Subcommittee.
  - Ms. Vargas seconded.
  - Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 4. Action: Approval of Board Minutes from June 8, 2023**
- Ms. Vargas moved to approve the Minutes from June 8, 2023.
  - Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
  - Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 5. Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**
- Mr. Schneider moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Warrants, Personnel Action Report, Reappointment of Board Member, and Contract Ratifications: Vertex Builders LLC 8968 Archibald Avenue/Rancho Cucamonga,

Richie's Termite & Pest Service 8968 Archibald Avenue/Rancho Cucamonga, JC Pro Painting 8968 Archibald Avenue/Rancho Cucamonga, Sanalife, and GoGuardian.

- Ms. Vargas seconded.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**6. Public Comments**

- None

**7. Information: Superintendent's Report**

- Dr. Hermsmeyer reviewed the Superintendent's report and provided an update on our Inland Empire Springs Charter petition that was recently submitted to the San Bernardino County Board of Education in consideration of a Countywide Benefit Charter.

**8. Information: Board Conference Options 2023-24**

- Natali South explained that board members have the opportunity to attend a conference on a bi-annual basis. The available conferences are listed on the board item, along with a form to sign up.

**9. Action: Approval of Unaudited Actuals**

- Mr. Schneider moved to approve the Unaudited Actuals.
- Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers reviewed the unaudited actuals and explained that this report reflects our pre-audited financial reporting for last year. The auditors will be onsite for the audit in October and will provide their feedback, which will be brought to the Board for final review.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**10. Action: Approval of Board Policy 5034.1 - Education of English Learners**

- Mr. Rodriguez moved to approve the Board Policy 5034.1 - Education of English Learners.
- Mr. Schneider seconded.
- Discussion: Jared McLeod indicated that everything contained in the English Learner policy is already being implemented in our practice. The policy just formalizes the process in writing.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**11. Action: Approval of Superintendent's Goals 2023-24**

- Ms. Vargas moved to approve the Superintendent's Goals 2023-24.
- Mr. Schneider seconded.

- Discussion: Dr. Hermsyer reviewed the proposed goals and explained the reason why each of the individual goals were selected for this year's focus.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**12. Board Comments**

- Ms. Mendez: Ignite! was great. Thank you for the special event and speakers. The reports in the packet were very informational and understandable. My daughter was involved with the CTE program several years ago which introduced her to EMT services, and she's now working in that field.
- Ms. Vargas: I agree; I appreciate the detailed information. My kids have transitioned out of homeschool and are now at Rancho. I so appreciate the extra effort that Springs takes.
- Mr. Rodriguez asked a question about the distinction between which charter students would attend if the Inland Empire Springs Charter is approved, and they are presently an Empire Springs student.
  - Dr. Hermsmeyer explained that staff would take care of that for the family on the back-end of the enrollment process, and it would be based upon the program or site that the child attends.
- Mr. Schneider: My only comment is to keep up the good work.

**13. Closed Session - In Accordance with Gov Code Section 54957.1/54957.9 Entered into at a.m.**

- Update on Existing Litigation: Reyes vs State

**14. Open Session**

- Report of Action Taken in Closed Session
  - No Action Taken

**15. Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

- Mr. Schneider moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m.
- Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
- Vote: 4 Ayes: Mendez, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vargas; 3 Absent: Caouette, Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

  
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Michelle Nagelvoort, Secretary

December 7, 2023  
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Date