

# EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2025

**9:00 a.m.**

**27740 Jefferson Ave. Temecula, CA**

**and**

**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:

Stephanie Vargas, Chair Marlene Darrow, Vice Chair Jennifer Araiza, Secretary Chuck Vela, Treasurer Ivo Caouette, Director Dianne Mendez, Director	Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent Dr. Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent, Education Amy Podratz, Asst. Superintendent, Admin. Ops Virginia Smith, Asst. Superintendent, Human Resources Tanya Rogers, Asst. Superintendent, Business Michelle Sapanara, Asst. Superintendent, Student Services Natali South, Senior Director of Charter Relations Trevor Johnson, Senior Director of Business Beverly Voechting, Director of High School Programs Erin Chafin, Credential Analyst Monica Lopez, Principal Renee Albright, Charter Relations Coordinator
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### 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- Ms. Vargas called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

- Mr. Vela moved to approve the agenda.
- Ms. Araiza seconded.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Caouette, Darrow, Mendez, Vargas, Vela;  
1 Absent: Schneider, 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

3. **Action: Approval of Board Minutes from February 6, 2025**
  - Mr. Caoutte moved to approve the Board Minutes from February 6, 2025.
  - Ms. Darrow seconded.
  - Vote: 5 Ayes: Araiza, Caouette, Darrow, Vargas, Vela;  
1 Absent: Schneider, 1 Abstention: Mendez; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
4. **Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**
  - Ms. Mendez moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Warrants, Personnel Action Report, and Contract Ratifications As Posted: Liminex, Inc. dba GoGuardian Contract and Instructure LearnPlatform Contract.
  - Mr. Vela seconded.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Caouette, Darrow, Mendez, Vargas, Vela;  
1 Absent: Schneider, 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
5. **Public Comments**
  - The following individuals addressed the board related to concerns at the Rancho Cucamonga Student Center:
    - Rica Baum
    - Nathaniel Baum
    - Ana Salvatierra
    - Alexander Salvatierra
6. **Information: Student Spotlight - 25th Year Springs Silver Jubilee**
  - The Board enjoyed a video presentation of our 25th Year Birthday Celebration events hosted at our many student centers across Southern California.
7. **Information: Superintendent's Report**
  - Kathleen Hermismeyer reviewed the Superintendent's Report and provided network-wide updates, including staff development events, our 25th Birthday Bash celebrations and marketing efforts.
8. **Information: First Reading of Revised Board Policy 8006.1 - Certification**
  - Virginia Smith and Erin Chafin discussed the changes being made to BP 8006.1 - Certification. These changes reflect modifications to our current practice including the fact that we no longer conduct payroll through the County, and the removal of some obsolete language. With no changes requested, this policy will be brought back at a future meeting for second reading and approval.

**9. Action: Waive the First Reading and Approve Revised Board Policy 5022.1 - High School Math Placement**

- Ms. Mendez moved to waive the first reading and approve revised Board Policy 5022.1 - High School Math Placement.
- Ms. Araiza seconded.
- Discussion: Beverly Voechting explained that this policy is being updated to reflect our current practice. Board members' questions were answered by staff.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Caouette, Darrow, Mendez, Vargas, Vela;  
1 Absent: Schneider, 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**10. Action: Approval of 2024-2025 Second Interim Budget**

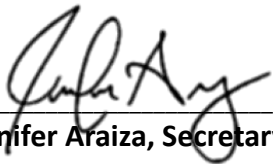
- Mr. Caouette moved to approve the 2024-2025 Second Interim Budget.
- Mr. Vela seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers reviewed the Second Interim for Empire Springs Charter Schools and indicated a drop in ADA impacting revenues and expenditures. The school still expects to end the year with a positive net revenue and a strong ending fund balance.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Caouette, Darrow, Mendez, Vargas, Vela;  
1 Absent: Schneider, 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**11. Board Comments**

- Mr. Caouette: March 29 is the third annual March Like MADD in honor of my son, Garrett who was killed by a drunk driver. You're all welcome to participate. Raising Cane's restaurant is hosting a sponsorship drive on March 13.
- Ms. Vargas: I noticed the Go Guardian contract on the consent agenda, and I wanted to express my gratitude that Springs invests in student safety related to their online experience. I met with my children's teachers recently at the Rancho Cucamonga site and was so pleased to learn of the "Share Box" where unwanted or unused food items can be shared; that is such a blessing to our students in need. I heard Dr. Hermsmeyer mention that the next student center for Inland Empire Springs will be located in Fontana, and I'm wondering if staff would like some information from any of us who live in the community in terms of properties to explore. And last, I want to thank the families who spoke today. Be assured that your comments were heard.
- Ms. Mendez: Thank you to all who expressed condolences on the recent passing of my father. This has been a difficult time and I appreciate the support.

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

- Mr. Caouette moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m.
- Ms. Vela seconded.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Caouette, Darrow, Mendez, Vargas, Vela;  
1 Absent: Schneider, 0 Noes; Motion Adopted



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Jennifer Araiza, Secretary

May 8, 2025

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Date