



**B.E.S.T. ACADEMY MINUTES:
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS June 10, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of Brookfield Engineering Science and Technology Academy Charter School (“**B.E.S.T.**” or the “**School**”) was held on June 4, 2025



VIDEO LINK:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/iK0oJRoBGh7PQVfnRIGsN709IMYQpzG5J5fkI4_9OSOJYrCiVh6OIVOFmg1XxHly.G3wlBDO0zNXMRlzY

Directors Present in Person: Joseph Cipres, Marcella Nino, Debra Webb, Gary McCloskey, Cassandra Bolden

LOCATION:

Barker Blue Dog Office
6360 El Cajon Blvd #101
San Diego, CA 92115

Directors Present Via Video Conference: None

Directors Absent: NONE

Also Present: Alex Soriano, James Mays, Joel Manwarren, Cory Cavanaugh, Mariano Lozano, Daniel Crook, Celeste Danner, Andrew Corder, Daniel Crook

1. CALL TO ORDER: Board President Gary McCloskey called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM. A quorum of the directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Present: Marcella Nino, Debra Webb, Joseph Cipres, Gary McCloskey, Cassandra Bolden

Absent: None

2. Approval of Agenda: *Motion to approve the June 4, 2025, Regular Board Meeting agenda.*

Approval Motion: Debra Webb

Second: Marcella Nino

Ayes: all

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey - *aye*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Leads Pledge: *Marcella Nino*

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS / RECOGNITION / REPORTS

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PROPOSALS/REPORTS/INFORMATION

1. Budget / School Update: *Cory Cavanaugh presents the 25-26 budget narrative to be approved at the next board meeting.*

2. LCAP Public Hearing Presentation:

a. 2025-26 Local Performance Indicator Self-Reflection [LINK Presentation](#)

[Mariano Lozano-Soto](#) presents the LCAP reflection on the current status of the LCAP and lessons learned. Also presents adjustments the organization is making to address the lessons.

b. 2025-2026 Local Control and Accountability Plan [LINK](#)

Presentation

Mariano Lozano-Soto presents the LCAP for the upcoming school year based on data analysis, the self-reflection tool, and stakeholder survey.

3. School Safety Plan 2025-2026 [LINK](#)

Alex Soriano presents the draft of the safety plan. It will be updated with new personnel.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED MOTION FOR CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board considers all matters under the consent agenda to be routine and will be approved, ratified, and enacted in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no more discussion on these items prior to the Board vote. Comments by the Board may be made at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Approval Motion: Joseph Cipres

Second: Cassandra Bolden **Ayes:** all

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye

Joseph Cipres - aye

Debra Webb - aye

Cassandra Bolden - aye

Gary McCloskey - aye

- a. Minutes [LINK](#)**
- b. Expense Reports**
- c. Check Register**

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. 2024-25 EPA Expenditure Resolution [LINK](#)

- i. Approval accepts the final allocation of EPA funds to support classroom-centered expenditures for this school year.**

Cory Cavanah presents the EPA resolution and provides background

information. The resolution is to be posted on the website.

Motion: 1st *Marcella Nino*

2nd: *Debra Webb* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

b. 2025-26 EPA Expenditure Resolution [LINK](#)

- i. Approval accepts the proposed allocation of EPA funds to support classroom-centered expenditures for the upcoming school year.**

.[Cory Cavanah](#) presents the EPA resolution and provides background to the resolution. The resolution is to be posted on the website.

Motion: 1st ___ *Cassandra Bolden* ___ 2nd: ___ *Joseph Cipres* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

c. Prop 28 Annual Certification & Annual Report [LINK Requirements](#)

- i. Approval certifies that all Arts and Music in Schools funds received in the fiscal year were used to provide arts education programs, and that Arts and Music in Schools funds expended in the prior fiscal year were used for those purposes.**

Cory Cavanaugh presents the Prop 28 budget and allocation.

Motion: 1st ___ *Debra Webb*

2nd: ___ *Joseph Cipres* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

d. Update of Conflict of Interest Policy [LINK](#)

- i. Approval adds the Director of Curriculum and Data Strategy to our COI Policy and will file Form 700.**

Alex Soriano presents the rationale for the COI amendment. Explains that personnel that influence financial decisions in the organization are subject to form 700.

Motion: 1st Joseph Cipres 2nd: Cassandra Bolden Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

e. Julian USD MOU [LINK](#)

- i. Approval continues oversight from the Julian Union school district**

Alex Soriano explains the purpose of the MOU and that the next year's MOU will be presented in August or October.

Motion: 1st Debra Webb 2nd: Cassandra Bolden Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

f. Vendor Contract Renewals [LINK](#)

- i. Approval continues partnership with vendors for the 2025-2026 school year.**

Alex Soriano explains that all vendors have the same contract with the same expectations and funding. James Mays explains a bit about each vendor.

Motion: 1st __*Marcella Nino* 2nd: __*Cassandra Bolden* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

g. BYU Independent Study Contract [LINK](#)

- i. Approval provides Advanced Placement course options as well as foreign language offerings.**

James Mays presents the subscription model offered by BYU. The purpose is to offer Advanced Placement courses to students.

Motion: 1st __*Debra Webb* 2nd: __*Joseph Cipres* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

h. Brightthinker Digital Curriculum Renewal: 1 year [LINK](#)

- i. Approval continues the digital curriculum platform for**

grades 3-8 for one school year.

James Mays explains that we have 2 contract options. Leadership will make a decision based on need and enrollment in the digital portion of the school. Option 1 offers 350 licenses. Option 2 offers a discounted rate for unlimited licences.

Motion: 1st__Marcella Nino 2nd: Cassandra Bolden _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

i. Brightthinker Digital Curriculum Renewal: 2 year [LINK](#)

i. Approval continues the digital curriculum platform for grades 3-8 for two school years.

James Mays explains that we have 2 contract options. Leadership will make a decision based on need and enrollment in the digital portion of the school. Option 1 offers 350 licenses. Option 2 offers a discounted rate for unlimited licenses.

Motion: 1st__Joseph Cipres 2nd: Debra Webb _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

j. Infinity Kids Contract [LINK](#)

i. Approval establishes a partnership for Special Education services for the 25-26 school year.

Celeste Danner explains that all the next 5 action items are to approve

the continued use of vendors to support special education support services needed by qualifying students. Some support in person, and some may not have the personnel ready to support, so we pivot to a different vendor.

Marcella Nino asks for clarification on Speech Services.

Motion: 1st__*Marcella Nino* 2nd: *Cassandra Bolden* _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

k. Oxford Consulting Services [LINK](#)

i. Approval establishes a partnership for Special Education services for the 25-26 school year.

Celeste Danner explains that all the next 5 action items are to approve the continued use of vendors to support special education support services needed by qualifying students. Some support in person, and some may not have the personnel ready to support, so we pivot to a different vendor. It is explained that we find a shortage of Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists, so partnering with a variety of vendors is key.

Marcella Nino asks for clarification on Speech Services and the type of counseling students receive.

Cassandra Bolden inquires as to parents requesting counseling or behavioral health services, but may not be a family receiving special education.

Celeste explains that when a general education student requires counseling, we partner with Julian Pathways that provides that service.

Motion: 1st__*Cassandra Bolden* 2nd: *Joseph Cipres* _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*
Joseph Cipres - *aye*
Cassandra Bolden - *aye*
Gary McCloskey- *aye*

l. Professional Tutors of America [LINK](#)

- i. Approval establishes a partnership for Special Education services for the 25-26 school year.**

Motion: 1st__*Marcella Nino* 2nd: *Debra Webb* _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*
Debra Webb - *aye*
Joseph Cipres - *aye*
Cassandra Bolden - *aye*
Gary McCloskey- *aye*

m. Orange County Speech Services [LINK](#)

- i. Approval establishes a partnership for Special Education services for the 25-26 school year.**

Motion: 1st__*Cassandra Bolden* 2nd: *Joseph Cipres* _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*
Debra Webb - *aye*
Joseph Cipres - *aye*
Cassandra Bolden - *aye*
Gary McCloskey- *aye*

n. The Stepping Stones Group [LINK](#)

- i. Approval establishes a partnership for Special Education services for the 25-26 school year.**

Motion: 1st__*Marcella Nino* 2nd: *Joseph Cipres* _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*
Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*
Cassandra Bolden - *aye*
Gary McCloskey- *aye*

o. CLOSED SESSION

i. Employment Evaluation: Executive Directors [LINK Folder](#)

[Gary McCloskey](#) asks for a motion to go to closed session at 1:23 pm

Motion: 1st__*Joseph Cipres* 2nd: *Debra Webb* _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*
Debra Webb - *aye*
Joseph Cipres - *aye*
Cassandra Bolden - *aye*
Gary McCloskey- *aye*

[Gary McCloskey](#) reports that the evaluation and self reflection of the Executive Directors was discussed. No action was taken.

p. Approval of Employment Agreements for Executive Directors

i. Approval establishes compensation as fair and reasonable

Alex Soriano explains that this action item will be tabled until the next meeting.

Motion: 1st_____

2nd:_____

Roll Call

Marcella Nino
Debra Webb
Joseph Cipres
Cassandra Bolden
Gary McCloskey

8. BOARD COMMENTS:

The board thanks all the participants for provided quality reports and for all the effort put forth.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Alex Soriano appreciates the testing team and all the efforts put forth to getting students

tested.

James Mays appreciated the staff and the support. He communicates that comments and feedback from the board are appreciated and taken into consideration when preparing presentations.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Upcoming BEST Academy Board Meetings:

- August 21, 2024, Organizational Meeting

- October 2, 2024, Brown Act Training
- November 6, 2024
- December 4, 2024
- February 5, 2025
 - February 26, 2025, *added*
- March 5, 2025, *Canceled*
- April 2, 2025
- May 7, 2025
- June 4, 2025
- June 2025 Graduation

Gary McCloskey *asks for a motion.*

Approval Motion: *Joseph Cipres* **Second:** *Debra Webb* **Ayes:** all

Meeting Adjourned at 12:51 pm

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*