

MINUTES



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ARARAT CHARTER SCHOOL

May 15, 2025
6:30 pm

Regular Meeting Location:
Ararat Charter School – Campus 1
6555 Sylmar Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Teleconferencing is available at:
Ararat Charter School – Campus 2
13400 Erwin Street
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Instructions for Presentations to The Board by Parents and Citizens

The Ararat Charter School (“School”) welcomes your participation at the School’s Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Governing Board (“Board”) is to conduct the affairs of the School in public. We are pleased that you are in attendance and hope that you will visit these meetings often. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our School. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided.

1. Agendas are available to all audience members at the door to the meeting.
2. “Oral Communications” is set aside for members of the audience to raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond, or take action. Members of the public who wish to comment during the Board meeting may use the "Request to Address the Governing Board" form" available on the School’s website. Individual comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Governing Board may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time.
3. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and address from the podium and adhere to the time limits set forth.
4. Citizens may request that a topic related to school business be placed on a future agenda. Once such an item is properly agendized and publicly noticed, the Board can respond, interact, and act upon the item.
5. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupts the Board meeting.
6. Access to Board Materials: A copy of the written materials which will be submitted to the School's Governing Board may be reviewed by any interested persons on Ararat Charter School's website along with this agenda following the posting of the agenda at least 72 hours in advance of this meeting.
7. Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting by calling (818) 994-2904 or cmenjivar@araratcharterschool.com. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I. OPEN SESSION

a. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson, Ms. Avakian at 6:36 pm.

b. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Ms. Avakian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Shamieh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Velarde	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Horvat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Merzian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Shirvanian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Izakowitz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Asatryan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING(S)

a. March 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Recommend approval

Motion by: Ms. Horvat
Seconded by: Mr. Shirvanian
Vote: Approved Unanimously

III. APPROVAL OF CHECK AND CREDIT CARD REGISTERS

a. February 2025

Recommend approval

Motion by: Mr. Shirvanian
Seconded by: Ms. Izakowitz
Vote: Approved Unanimously

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

a. PUBLIC HEARING/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Non-agenda items: no individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes, and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, Board members will not respond to presentations, and no action can be taken. However, the Board may give directions to staff following a presentation.

Twelve teachers and staff expressed their love for their jobs and commitment to the school community. Current salaries are less per year compared to LAUSD. While full-time benefits attracted many teachers to the school, proposed changes with the current plan have made it difficult. Staff support each other, but the financial strain is impacting morale and may impact retention. Teachers are asking the Administration and Governing Board to find a more appropriate and affordable solution for full-time staff.

b. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

This is a presentation of information that has occurred since the previous Board meeting.

- **English Learner Instruction**
 - Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) complete for 144 students

 - **Special Education**
 - Behavior Intervention Implementationists (BIIs) will receive follow up behavior training during the Summer
 - Selected classified staff will be transitioned to (BIIs)

 - **General Education**
 - NWEA MAP internal spring testing to commence May 26 – June 4, 2025
 - 5th Grade Physical Fitness Test (PFT) – complete
 - 5th Grade California Science Test (CAST) – complete
 - 3rd – 5th Grades California Assessments of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) to commence May 13 – May 23, 2025
 - Continuity of instruction as part of the comprehensive school safety plan
 - SB114 Dyslexia Screener for grades K to 2 – DIBELS
 - \$7,000 incentive for the TK classroom
 - To access the funds LACOE must conduct a classroom walkthrough; collect the W9; collaborate with principal and our TK team to determine the most impactful use of the funds
 - Armenia Tree Project Fundraiser and Student Certificates
 - Our community raised \$2,473
 - Funds will be used for the creation of a video of the tree planting funded by Ararat Charter School to support the project “30 for 30”
 - We will also receive a thank you letter from the ATP Executive Director
 - Planting will take place in the fall
 - Shakey’s Pizza Fundraiser
 - 4th and 5th Grade Movie Night
 - Notice of 2025-2026 Williams Monitoring School Sites
 - On May 7, we received a Notice of 2025-2026 Williams Monitoring letter
 - On June 26, 2025, 9-11am Principal will attend a session on the Overview Requirements
 - On August 5, 2025, 9-10am Principal will attend the Instructional Materials Visitation Protocols
- History on Williams Legislation
- A landmark class-action lawsuit *Williams v. California*, filed in 2000. The lawsuit argued that the state failed to provide all public-school students- especially those in low-income and underperforming schools-with equal access to basic educational resources, including instructional materials, safe and decent school facilities, and qualified teachers.
- Key Focus Areas
- **Instructional Materials:** Every student must have access to standards-aligned textbooks and materials for use at school and at home.
 - **School Facilities:** Schools must be clean, safe, and functional, ensuring a healthy learning environment.
 - **Teacher Quality:** Students are entitled to be taught by appropriately credentialed and assigned teachers.

Settlement and Legislation

- The case was settled in 2004, resulting in significant new funding and legislative changes:
- Over \$138 million was allocated for instructional materials, plus additional funds for oversight and facility repairs in the lowest-performing schools (API deciles 1-3).

Accountability and Oversight

- The Williams legislation established new standards and accountability mechanisms:
- Schools must annually report on the sufficiency of instructional materials, facility conditions, and teacher assignments in the School Accountability Report Card (SARC).
- There is a formal complaint process for parents and students to report deficiencies in these areas.

- **School Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)**

- LCAP

- The LCAP plan is reviewed routinely during every SLC and ELAC meeting. The LCAP will be Board approved by June 30, 2025.

c. OPERATIONS AND/OR COMPLIANCE MANAGERS' REPORTS

This is a presentation of information since the previous Board meeting. (Per attached report)

1. Enrollment

- Latest student enrollment report by grade level

Grade	Current Cohort
TK	10
K	49
1st	56
2nd	56
3rd	56
4th	55
5th	55
Total	337

- Annual Public Lottery held on April 5, 2025

Grade	Expected Enrollment Count	Incoming Exempt	Available Seats for Lottery	Current Waitlist Count
TK	20	5	12	38
K	40	9	18	87
1	56	2	4	59
2	56	3	0	26
3	56	0	0	15
4	56	0	1	9
5	56	1	1	10
Total	340	20	34	244

APPROVED

2. Attendance

- Report on the percentage of the Monthly Attendance

	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage
Grade	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9
	08/12/2024 to 09/08/2024	09/09/2024 to 10/04/2024	10/07/2024 to 11/01/2024	11/04/2024 to 11/29/2024	12/02/2024 to 1/10/2025	1/13/2025 to 02/07/2025	2/10/2025 to 03/07/2025	03/10/2025 to 04/04/2025	04/07/2025 to 05/02/2025
TK	92.31%	96.49%	97.30%	97.50%	96.00%	90.53%	92.63%	96.47%	93.08%
K	92.88%	92.79%	93.69%	91.65%	92.11%	88.84%	91.01%	91.27%	94.03%
1st	97.39%	96.33%	95.54%	96.43%	93.69%	91.26%	95.30%	95.69%	94.92%
2nd	95.89%	96.52%	97.77%	93.45%	90.83%	94.64%	94.74%	94.96%	94.37%
3rd	96.50%	93.61%	94.59%	93.75%	89.17%	91.26%	93.89%	94.12%	93.22%
4th	96.31%	93.52%	93.84%	93.90%	90.83%	92.54%	91.87%	94.01%	93.71%
5th	95.53%	93.47%	94.35%	90.90%	89.14%	90.77%	91.87%	93.58%	92.45%
K-5th	95.76%	94.49%	95.07%	93.53%	91.10%	91.57%	93.08%	94.14%	93.76%

3. State and Local Mandated Reports

- No Update

4. Update on Legislation

- No Update

5. Facilities and all Related Matters

- Facilities updates

d. FINANCIAL REPORT

This is an update on what has transpired since the last board meeting.

1. March Financials

- Net income 58K, increase of 9K vs. previous forecast
- Increase of 9K mostly due to savings in Services and other operating expenses
- Projected ending cash 5.65M, 191 days cash on hand

2. FY26 Preliminary Budget

One time funds end in FY27, return to lower net income FY28 and after

V. DISCUSSION, INFORMATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

After the presentations, the Board will consider which items will be removed from the list of “consent” items which will be adopted with a single vote without discussion. This is followed by the Board discussing and voting on the items removed from the list by the Board or where individuals have signed up to address the Board on the item.

a. Facilities and all Related Matters

- Prop 39 Alternative Agreement Fully Executed – Kindergarten Learning Academy and Erwin Elementary
- Affordability analysis through GROW Schools
- Existing cell tower conversations with the District
- Califa St. and Van Nuys Blvd. properties – we will not proceed with pursuing location
- Woodman property – lease

b. Employee Retention Credit (ERC)

Ararat Charter provided CFOMW Tax, LLC responses to questions so they can put together the schools ERC analysis. Information about the organization during the period of January 2021 to July 2021 was obtained. CFOMW Tax, LLC will apply these facts to the relevant law to produce an employment retention credit analysis.

c. Legal and Extraordinary Cost Assistance Pool (LECAP) through Charter Operated Programs (COP)

Option 3 maintains pooled funds for the purpose of assisting charter schools with mitigating costs associated with due process litigation and/or extraordinary one-time costs associated with nonpublic school (NPS) placements. Ararat Charter School applied for the LECAP and was awarded \$25,000.

d. 990 Filing

The 990 Tax Form was reviewed and approved.

e. 2025-2026 PowerSchool Contract

The PowerSchool SIS renewal for the 2025-2026 school year with the amount of \$11,198.18 was approved by the board.

f. Compensation Committee findings and recommendations

- i. Salary Scale
- ii. Health and Welfare

This item will be tabled for the June board meeting.

g. 2025-2026 Sign-on Bonus

The sign-on bonus has been approved for up to \$20,000 and \$5,000 each employee.

h. 2025-2026 Revised Annual School Calendar

The 2025-2026 Annual School Calendar has been reviewed and approved.

i. 2025-2026 Ararat Programs for Extended Learning (APEX) Calendar

- i. Events/Fieldtrips
 - Ararat-Eskijian Museum - April 5, 2025
 - Aquarium of the Pacific - May 3, 2025
 - Museum of Latin American Art – June 27, 2025
- ii. Class Offerings
 - Daily Homework Club
 - Daily PE
 - Visual Arts (twice a week)
 - Academic Enrichment (twice a week)
 - Lego Robotics (twice a week)
 - Choir Club (twice a week)
 - Green Team (once a week)
- iii. Waitlist Numbers
 - Kinder: 6 students
 - 1st Grade: 10 students
 - 2nd Grade: 8 students
 - 3rd Grade: 3 students
 - 4th Grade: 6 students
 - 5th Grade: 2 students

j. Questions from last board meeting

- i. Cross Country Education and Quest
 - The rate sheets were reviewed and shared.
- ii. SHARP and Wilkinson
 - The contracts were reviewed and shared.

k. Updated Independent Study Policy and Forms

The updated independent study policy and forms have been reviewed and approved.

l. Implementation of Sign App

The Sign App is a new application implemented to track sign-ins for external service providers.

m. Charter School Development Center (CSDC) Conference

CSDC registration information was presented to the Board, and the item was approved.

n. Baltazar Resolution

The resolution was presented to the board. Funds collected:

- Community through the lead parents - \$2,970.00
- Teachers and Staff - \$1,030.00
- Total: \$4,000

VI. CLOSED SESSION

*Adjourned to Closed Session to consider and/or take action upon any of the following items:
Public Employee Employment (G.C. 54957)*

Title:

- **Pupil Discipline**
- **Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, and Discipline of Personnel**
- **Real Estate Negotiations**

VII. PUBLIC SESSION – REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board will report out any action taken in the Closed Session if any

VIII. ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

After the presentations, the Board considered which items to be removed from the list of "consent" items that will be adopted with a single vote without discussion. This is followed by the Board discussing and voting on the items removed from the list by the Board or where individuals have signed up to address the Board on the item.

a. Approval is Requested for Facilities and all Related Matters

This item has been removed from the consent list and will be tabled for a future meeting.

b. Approval is Requested for 990 Filing

c. Approval is Requested for 2025-2026 PowerSchool Contract

d. Approval is Requested for Salary Scale

e. Approval is Requested for Health and Welfare

This item has been removed from the consent list and will be tabled for the June board meeting

f. Approval is Requested for 2025-2026 Sign-on Bonus

This item has been approved with the maximum bonus being 20K.

g. Approval is Requested for 2025-2026 Revised Annual School Calendar

h. Approval is Requested for 2025-2026 Ararat Programs for Extended Learning (APEX) Calendar

i. Approval is Requested for updated Independent Study Policy and Forms

j. Approval is Requested for Charter School Development Center (CSDC) Conference

k. Approval is Requested for Baltazar Resolution

Recommend approval

Motion by: Ms. Izakowitz

Seconded by: Mr. Shirvanian

Vote: Approved Unanimously

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board will discuss items for future Board meeting agendas

X. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.

APPROVED