

MINUTES



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ARARAT CHARTER SCHOOL

December 12, 2024
5:30 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 5:45 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Horvat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Merzian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Shirvanian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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. October 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes
- b. November 21, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes

Recommend approval

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

III. APPROVAL OF CHECK AND CREDIT CARD REGISTERS

- a. October 2024
- b. November 2024

This item has been tabled and will be reviewed and approved at the next board meeting.

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.

b. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

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

- **Assessments**
 - 2024 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) and Resident Schools Data
 - NWEA MAPS Assessments commence December 10 through December 13, 2024
- **English Learner Instruction**
 - No update
- **Special Education**
 - Pro-Act Refresher Training for Tier 2 and 3 Behaviors
- **General Education**
 - Bernardi Senior Center Thanksgiving Food Drive
 - 5th grade girls visited Girls Athletic Leadership School (GALS)
 - Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion presentations in the upper grades
 - Chocolate Sales Fundraiser in progress
 - Alex’s Toy Drive in progress
 - Winter Performances
 - Ararat Programs for Extended learning (APEX) Winter Camp January 6-10, 2025
 - Charter School Division (CSD) visit scheduled on January 16, 2025
- **School Fiscal Plans**
 - LCAP – midyear update coming around January

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

2024-2025 ENROLLMENT

Grade	Current Cohort	Pending Application
TK	10	0
K	49	1
1st	56	0
2nd	56	0
3rd	56	0
4th	56	0
5th	54	0
Total	337	338

As of Thursday, December 12, 2024

2. Attendance

- Report on the percentage of the Monthly Attendance

	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage	Attendance Percentage
Grade	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
	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
TK	92.31%	96.49%	97.30%	97.50%
K	92.88%	92.79%	93.69%	91.65%
1 st	97.39%	96.33%	95.54%	96.43%
2 nd	95.89%	96.52%	97.77%	93.45%
3 rd	96.50%	93.61%	94.59%	93.75%
4 th	96.31%	93.52%	93.84%	93.90%
5 th	95.53%	93.47%	94.35%	90.90%
K-5th	95.76%	94.49%	95.07%	93.53%

3. State and Local Mandated Reports

- Immunization Report due to the state December 13, 2024
 - The immunization report was successfully submitted on December 6, 2024
- School Accountability Report Card (SARC) window opens mid-November and is due no later than February 1, 2025
- Continuation of Health and Welfare benefits
 - There is a about a 2% monthly increase in our benefits this includes health, vision and dental.
- Charter School Compliance Monitoring Board Certification
 - The 2024-2025 Compliance Monitoring Board Certification is due with our Board Chairperson’s signature to the district by Friday, January 10, 2025.

4. Update on Legislation

- No Update

d. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

1. First Interim Budget Report

Ms. Jean Yang reviewed FY25 Interim Financials and FY25 October Forecast that entailed the following:

- Net Income 4K, increase of 41K vs. previous forecast
- Increase of 41k mostly due to decrease spend on books and supplies and operating expenses
- Project ending cash 5.5M, 180 days cash on hand

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. Update on Facilities

- i. Presentation by Ryan Eldridge from Grow Schools**
- ii. Information gathering from Dr. Caprice Young**
- iii. Possible purchase of property in Mission Hills, CA**

The board received presentations from Ryan Eldridge, Dr. Caprice Young and Jean Yang from EdTec. Following their discussions several key questions emerged:

1. Can YMC provide a letter confirming the legality of the property purchase and potential resale, assuming good faith and no conflicts of interest by the Board?
2. What is the likelihood of the Charter Schools Division requesting a complete plan detailing the process from purchase to construction?
3. How can the timing gap between material revision approval and construction completion be addressed to maintain facilities and the Charter during this transition?
4. Is a request for proposals (RFP) necessary for selecting construction companies?
5. Is a reimbursement resolution required to qualify for future bond funding, given that the school will initially pay cash for the land?
6. By moving out of our 3 mile radius, what is the likelihood that our Unduplicated student count will remain stable and not decrease, considering that maintaining those percentages is essential for qualifying for SB740 funding?

The board sought answers to these critical questions before proceeding with any real estate transactions. Consequently, the decision to place an offer on the Mission Hills property as voted during the November 21, 2024, board meeting was rescinded.

b. California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) Conference Expenditures

The board approved a maximum of \$15,000 to cover hotel and airfare. Airfare rates fluctuate and 8 seats need to be secured.

c. 2025-2026 School Annual Calendar

The 2025-2026 School Annual Calendar was reviewed and approved.

d. Health Benefits (Medical, Dental, Vision) Continuation

The board approved the continuation of health benefits with a 2% monthly increase, covering health, vision, and dental plans.

e. 2024-2025 Compliance Monitoring Board Certification

The 2024-2025 Compliance Monitoring Board Certification is due to the district by Friday, January 10, 2025, with all the necessary signatures.

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 First Interim Budget Report**
- b. Approval is Requested for Charter School Compliance Monitoring Certification**
- c. Approval is Requested for the 2025-2026 School Annual Calendar**
- e. Approval is Requested for the Continuation of Health and Welfare Benefits**
- f. Approval is Requested for California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) Conference Expenditures**

Recommend approval

Motion by: Dr. Velarde
Seconded by: Mr. Shirvanian
Vote: Approved Unanimously

- d. Approval is Requested for the possible purchase of property in Mission Hills, CA**

Recommend approval

Motion by: Mr. Shirvanian
Seconded by: Mr. Asataryan
Vote: Not Approved Unanimously

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board will discuss items for future Board meeting agendas

X. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

January 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm – Brown Act/Governance Training
January 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm – Yearly Reorganization Meeting
January 23, 2025 at 6:30 pm – Regular Board Meeting

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 pm.