

New Mexico Academy for the Media Arts
4401 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108
Governing Council Hybrid and In Person Meeting via the Zoom Platform December 9, 2025 at 12 pm.

Governance Board Members in Attendance

Carolyn Carlson
Malinda Menke
Channing Concho
Eddie Tafoya

Governance Board Members Absent

Kendra Toth– excused absence

Others in Attendance at the Meeting

Chris Jones	Taihg McCabe	Yahniah Rodriguez
Ashley Wolfel	Anthony Conforti	
Bryn McCabe-Kelly	Donna Wickerd	

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2025

Time: Called to order at 12:00 pm

Location of Meeting: 4401 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM

Meeting via Zoom

October Agenda

Carlson asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Tafoya motioned to approve the agenda, Menke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

September Minutes

Carlson asked for a motion to approve the October minutes. Concho motioned to approve the September minutes, Tafoya seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Business manager's report

Wolfel started her report with the revenue report, explaining that we had some deposits in Title I, HB33 and SB9.

Wolfel presented the expenditure report and pointed out that operational expenses are currently negative \$174,000, explaining that we are still waiting on the 40th day adjustment. She said she

is also waiting on the draft audited financial statements. She explained that the negative amount should be balanced soon.

Wolfel went through the various bars and explained how much money is available in each.

Wolfel then presented the Bank Account Register Activity reports showing deposits and withdrawals made during the past month. She offered to answer questions.

Carlson asked whether the negative balance would get us into trouble with the PED. Wolfel answered that it would be a problem closer to the end of the school year but that it only needed to be explained at this point in the year.

Carlson asked about the lease assistance fund. Wolfe explained that the current lease assistance only applies to the older lease, the new lease will be added when the school applies for assistance next year. In the meantime the new lease will be paid out of HB33.

Wolfel presented the outstanding purchase orders and explained that we have paid about \$250,000 and we have about \$600,000 still left to be paid.

Wolfel presented the bank reconciliation statement, showing our ending balance as \$434,528.61, minus the outstanding checks, the general ledger balance will be \$390,475.

Wolfel presented the balance sheet, explaining the format, and told the board that she doesn't have any bars that need to be approved this month.

Carlson asked how much money was leftover, unspent, from the school's capital outlay. Wolfel said she would email Carlson an updated number.

New Business

Carlson explained she had been working with the county assessor on our tax-exempt status. She said they were unwilling to make it retroactive. She said Elias from the county assessor's office was coming to the school soon after Jan. 2, 2026 and they would work out a plan to get tax-exempt status for the new part of the building.

Executive Director's Action Items

Action Item 1

Jones explained that the PED has updated state graduation requirements for students. Part of those requirements are for each school district to have 2 credits worth of its own classes required for graduation, based on what they think is best.

Jones explained that what he thought would be best is for students to take .5 credit in media literacy, .5 credit in career readiness in 8th grade, and 1 credit in personal finance, a class currently called Financial Algebra, taken as seniors.

Jones described what the different classes would cover, then asked for questions.

Jones explained that students need 24 credits to graduate currently and that these "LEA Choice" classes would be part of that 24 credits.

Jones explained that he wanted to find a way to code the classes so students can earn that first credit as 8th graders rather than having to take it again in high school.

Jones explained that internships would also continue to be required for graduation.

Carlson asked for a motion to approve the district courses for graduation. Concho moved to approve them, Tofoya seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 2

Carlson explained that the Facility Master Plan Draft was ready to be approved. She said anyone from the public who hasn't seen it yet can find it on the website.

Carlson asked for a motion to approve the Facility Master Plan Draft. Tafoya motioned to approve the item, Concho seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Jones discussed issues related to the fencing project. He explained we were working with an architect and discovered some major zoning issues. He said we have 25 differently zoned pieces of property and all require a permit. He further explained that he is working with the fencing company and architect to resolve the issues and get the fence permitted and built. He explained we are looking at about \$12,000 in zoning fees but he would negotiate with the contractor to try to get them to cover it.

Jones next discussed the HVAC system. Jones explained that while he is getting it fixed so it will work, the board might want to consider replacing it with a modern system, as the old system is out of date and they do not make parts for it any more.

Jones discussed the use of mini-split systems and how they could act as an intermediary between the old system and any new system we might order. Minisplits can be used to replace the old system and can be removed and reinstalled elsewhere, and they don't require a lot of ductwork.

Board member Concho expressed that it is upsetting that the HVAC system needs major repairs already when it was just repaired last year.

Jones said he submitted the additional square footage amendment to Epicenter to reflect the lease-purchase agreement of the bank building.

Jones discussed middle of the year testing and the Know Your Number system that we are using to increase attendance on testing day. He explained that there will be a celebration on December 19th for students.

Jones shared that the school will have its first expo December 17, from 4:30 to 6 pm. He said we will have our second PAC meeting, December 16, at 12 pm. The school health advisory committee will be meeting on December 12, at 12 pm. He explained we will have a school equity council meeting in January.

Media Coordinator's Report

Conforti said he had attended a meeting with Representative Herndon along with student Ana Sophia Rodriguez and her mother Yahniah Rodriguez.

Conforti discussed lobbying efforts and accountability.

Conforti discussed the multitude of opportunities that could result in working with Netflix. He discussed Reed Hastings and the Hastings Fund.

Conforti discussed his meeting with Ian Stiegel of MOCAP, who is interested in hiring interns.

Intern Coordinator's Report

Jones explained we are prioritizing internships for seniors.

Jones discussed the current work he is doing with ABQlive. He said they will train interns to manage social media, which will give the school a chance to be present and effective on social media.

Student Representative's Report

McCabe explained that the SGA is hosting a winter formal dance December 13, and that they are putting together a survey for the students but it hasn't been distributed yet.

Carlson asked McCabe how he thinks students are feeling about the school at this point. McCabe replied that they are feeling good.

Old/New Business

Carlson discussed attending the meeting with the PED with Director Jones. She explained how it went and said the PED had complimentary things to say about our efforts. In the end, the PED decided not to place us on any kind of monitoring.

Carlson discussed training with the board members. Menke mentioned there is online training and that she will share the schedule with the other board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

The New Mexico Academy for the Media Arts (f.k.a. Media Arts Collaborative Charter School) offers secondary students a comprehensive, project-based, cross-curricular education centered in the media arts. We prepare our graduates for positions in the media industries and for the rigor of postsecondary education.