Minutes
New Mexico Academy for the Media Arts
4401Central Ave NE, Alb., NM 87108
Governing Council Hybrid and In Person Regular Meeting via the Zoom Platform
May 13, 2025 @ 10am

1. Quorum Call - Governing Council President Carolyn Carlson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am, with Governing Council Members Channing Concho, Malinda Menke, Eddie Tafoya present and Kendra Toth excused. Also present were Business Manager Ashley Wolfel, Media Coordinator Anthony Conforti, Principal John Rodarte, Tom Richardson and former parent Amy Wilds.

2. Approval of Agenda – GCM Menke made a motion and seconded by GCM Tafoya to approve the amended agenda to include approval of the 2025-26 contract with attorney Susan Fox. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative.

3. Approval of Minutes GCM Concho motioned to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025 regular meeting and April 23, 2025 special meeting, seconded by GCM Menke. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative.

4. Public Comment – Former parent Amy Wilds spoke about her children’s experience with outgoing Principal Rodarte.

5. Reports

- Business Managers Report (Ashley Wolfel) reported the beginning balance per bank on April 30, 2025, was $710,666.80. Cleared transactions included checks totaling $320,267.33 and deposits of $244,847.03. The ending balance per bank is $635,246.50, with outstanding checks of $32,088.47. Balance Sheet shows total assets amount to $607,614.02, Total liabilities are $56,168.73, the net increase/decrease in fund balance is $627,855.24. The total expenditure budget for FY2025 is $4,183,298.48. Actual expenditures YTD amount to $2,526,628.50, with encumbrances of $746,037.20. Instruction-related expenses are the highest at $1,383,654.00, with actual spending of $981,049.01. Fund 11000 (Operational) shows a total expenditure of $1,825,406.27.

6. Action items –
    A. GCM Tafoya motioned with a second by GCM Menke for approval to allow the Executive Director/Head Administrator and the Business Manager to enter and submit any final Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) on behalf of the school to maintain budgetary compliance for audit and other regulatory purposes. This is done knowing that the BARs will not impact actual cash but only address budgets. In addition, any BARs submitted as allowed under this approval will be brought before the GC at the next meeting with review and detailed explanation. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative.
    B. GCM Menke motioned with a second by GCM Tafoya to approve the the Budget Development and Salary Schedule. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative.
    C. GCM Concho motioned with a second by GCM Tafoya to approve Bar #501-000-2425-0021-DGeneral Fund / Capital Outlay / Debt Service Decrease ($49,294.03) The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative.

A. Principal’s Report – John Rodarte highlighted the school's current enrollment, staff openings, and upcoming events. The principal also discussed the transition process, including the completion of the school budget, master schedule, and Powerschool entry. The principal also mentioned the submission of the title one application and the preparation of employee contracts. The facilities master plan was also discussed, with work set to begin in May. He submitted the upcoming year’s school calendar.

   1. Action Item - GCM Tafoya motioned with a second by GCM Menke to approve the Calendar for School Year 2025-2026 The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative.

B. Intern Coordinator Report – Tom Richardson The internships program was also discussed, with 45% of seniors participating and 24% of juniors already completing or currently involved in internships. The program was praised by GCMembers for its success and potential for growth.

C. Media Coordinator - Anthony Conforti shared updates on the Generation Justice program and a shout-out from the PED's CTE bureau. He also discussed the funding received for capital outlay from House Bill 4 and the operational funding from House Bill 58. He emphasized the importance of receiving the funds by July 1st to avoid losing them. He also mentioned a grant opportunity related to the 2026 centennial of Route 66 and the potential for additional redevelopment funds. Mr. Conforti also mentioned a student film project for the Emmy awards and the need to thank legislators who provided capital outlay.

8. An Executive Session was be held according to New Mexico Statutes Section 10-15-1(H)(1)(3) and (7) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) to discuss limited personnel issues. GCM Menke motioned with a second by GCM Tafoya to go into executive session at 11:08am. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative. Council members came out of executive session with a motion by GCM Tafoya and seconded by GCM Menke at 11:21am with only limited personnel issues being discussed and no action taken. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative

D. Action Items

A. GCM Tafoya motioned to approve with second by GCM Menke the hiring of Christopher Jones as Executive Director for the 2025 -2026 school year The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote with all present board members voting in the affirmative.

E. New/Old Business

- A discussion was held of possible responses to the Federal DEI request to comply. Governing Council members were reminded to keep up with board training and to register for the upcoming conference. A reminder of some pending bylaw revisions that will be adopted in June. No action was taken during these discussions.

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F. Adjourned 11 :28am

__p_Carolyn Carlson
__p_Malinda Menke

_p__Channing Concho
__e_ Kendra Toth
_p___Eddie Tayofa

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 post-secondary education.

This meeting will be held per the New Mexico Open Meeting Act. The Council reserves the right to take agenda items out of order, items may be removed or delayed from the agenda at any time, and two or more items may be combined for consideration. The Council is happy to make reasonable accommodations for any member of the public with a disability and wishes to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Carolyn via email at ccarlson@nmmediaarts.org at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.