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 September 9, 2025 at 12 pm.

Governance Board Members in Attendance
Carolyn Carlson
Kendra Toth
Malinda Menke
Eddie Tafoya

Governance Board Members Absent
Channing Concho – excused absence

Others in Attendance at the Meeting

Chris Jones	Courtney Clyne	Anthony Conforti
Ashley Wolfel	Taihg McCabe	Donna Wickerd
Bryn McCabe-Kelly	Sonya Lopez	

Date of Meeting: October 14, 2025
Time: Called to order at 12:01 pm
Location of Meeting: 4401 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM
Meeting via Zoom

October Agenda

Carlson asked for a motion to amend the agenda. She requested an executive session be inserted between the Business Manager's report and the Executive Director's report. Tafoya motioned to approve the amended 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 minutes of the September meeting. Menke moved to approve the minutes, Tafoya seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Business manager's report

Wolfel explained that the school had received a grant for murals from the New Mexico Department of Tourism, so she added a bar on the revenue report for it.

Wolfel explained that the current operational budget is negative because it is based on 110 students, but on the 40th day the school will see an increase in funding due to higher enrollment, and the negative amount should go away.

Wolfel explained that the school has $4582 available in the GOB Library Fund Grant, and about $3000 available in instructional materials. The school also has $455,00 in special outlay capital.

The school has about $102,000 available in HB33. She explained that we are still waiting on the lease assistance reward, which, once received, should allow her to move those expenses out of HB33 and into the lease assistance fund.

Wolfel explained we have about $10,000 in SB9 Local and $21,000 in SB9 State Cash Match.

Wolfel presented the bank account register activity report and the open purchase orders. She then presented the bank reconciliation report, and explained the general ledger balance was $496,030.93.

Wolfel then presented the new bar, 0006-IB, with the mural project grant that will be $13,424.92.

Business Manager Action Items

Carlson asked for a motion to approve bar 0006-IB for the amount of $13,424.92 from a direct grant and an increase to the initial budget. Tafoya motioned to approve the bar, Menke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Toth moved that the meeting move into an executive session. Tafoya seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Only members of the board, the business manager and the executive director were allowed to attend. Recording was turned off at 12:13 p.m.

The executive session ended at 12:24 p.m. and recording resumed.

Carlson said that the only issues discussed in the executive session were pending litigation and limited personnel issues.

Special Business

Toth moved to give the executive director, Chris Jones, a bonus of $5,000 for the excellence in enrollment this year. Tafoya seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Jones explained the recent use of capital outlay funds: The school did a lighting upgrade, installing LED lights and that the school has also started a fencing project, which is currently underway. Jones explained the next step is window coverings, which will be installed Oct 20.

Jones explained we have 75-inch smartboards going into all classrooms and office spaces. Jones explained that the school is purchasing Land School, a program that allows teachers to view student's screens while they're working on computer based programs.

Jones explained that our annual visit by the state will be February 25, 2026.

Jones explained he had ordered software called My Path for $11,000. He said students will complete roughly 15 minutes per day in the core ELA and Math classes. He explained My Path starts with a diagnostic assessment to ensure students are placed appropriately and making the best use of their time.

Jones explained the new school initiative "Know Your Number" where students look at the beginning of the year test scores and set brand new goals for math and reading. He explained our goal is for 80% of students to meet their growth goals, or proficiency goals if that is what they selected. He described various ways students will be celebrated for meeting those goals.

Regarding attendance, Jones explained that the school has been enforcing the Attendance for Success Act. He explained that about 25% of students did not attend the day of assessments and it became apparent we needed to take action so we had parent meetings and created attendance improvement plans.

Jones explained that rather than referring families to CYFD for reaching the 20% threshold for attendance, the school is implementing attendance improvement plans.

Jones explained that the school was on track with the Professional Development Plans for evaluating teachers.

Jones said parent-teacher conferences were held October 9. He explained we had a new system that allowed the parents to attend conferences virtually and schedule themselves.

Jones explained that the Parent Advisory Committee introductory meeting was October 9 and that about 20 parents signed up, allowing them to form subcommittees. He explained that the president, Ms. Dena Dickenson, would support agenda development and the facilitation of meetings.

Jones explained that the school had hired a full-time school counselor. The counselor's salary is prorated so that about $20,000 comes from Title I, and that she would support the school's attendance initiatives, support dual credit opportunities, do transcript analysis and other things that will put our students on a pathway to success.

Jones explained that the school is looking for a part time gifted teacher. He explained funding for that position has not been figured out yet.

Jones explained that enrollment is at 123, with 110 the original projection. Regarding staffing, Jones explained we are at 22 with a goal of 21. He explained the extra teacher was needed to keep class sizes below 30.

He explained we had seven middle school and eight high school referrals, for a total of 15. He explained there were three high school suspensions related to vaping, so the school is looking into installing vape detectors in the restrooms. He explained how restorative practices work and that they are being used as an alternative to suspension.

Jones explained that we had one homeless referral for middle school and one for high school.

Jones explained that there had been one incident with suicidal ideation and that the school has a protocol to follow with both suicidal and homicidal ideation.

Jones explained there had been four middle school and two high school wellness referrals, that our social worker is following up on.

Executive Director's Action Items

<u>Action Item 1:</u>

Carlson asked for a motion to approve changes to the PED-approved Wellness policy, which would ban sugar and caffeine for students. Toth motioned to approve the changes, Menke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

<u>Action Item 2A, B and C</u>

Carlson asked for a motion to approve changes to the student handbook regarding: (A) the discipline point system, (B) the dress code policy and (C) the student pick-up procedure. Tafoya motioned to approve the policy adjustments, Menke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Media and Intern Coordinator's Report

Anthony Conforti reported on media and marketing opportunities, including a visit to the school by the Isotopes mascot, Orbit.

Conforti reported three new interns with the Ice Wolves, 9th graders that will have a chance to work for them for multiple years.

Conforti said he would like to plan a way for recognition of Stanley Hubbard for all the media and internship opportunities he has offered the school to participate in.

He explained the New Mexico Department of Tourism grant will give us funding for ten internships.

Conforti discussed various possible methods for getting more internship opportunities for our students in various film-related fields.

Student Representative Report

Taigh McCabe explained that the Student Governance Association has returned and is meeting every Tuesday and Thursday in Mrs. Reyes's room at lunch. He explained elections were held October 6, and that right now the SGA is planning a fall festival.

Old Business

Carlson explained that work is still being done to create a foundation but that the leader of the effort had had some minor surgeries which had slowed things down a bit.

Carlson encouraged the board members to get their training hours in, and if they need help to go to Jones or Courtney for help.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 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.