



John Muir Charter Schools
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John Muir Charter Schools Meeting of the Board of Directors

Wednesday June 11, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps

6101 27th St, Sacramento,

CA 95822

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
380 East Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID:

Audio of this meeting will be recorded

AGENDA

1. Meeting Call to Order: Stan Miller at 10:06 a.m.

2. Introductions: Eileen Hillmer, Administrative Assistant. Dawn Ryley, Administrative Coordinator. Hunt Drouin, Board Member. Stan Miller, Board Chair, Len Eckhardt, Board Member. RJ Guess, CEO. Rachael Navarrete, CFO. Via Zoom Carey Lowery, Marketing Director. Cristina Dickason, Southern Regional Director. Gil Botello (logged in to make it open to the public but unable to attend the meeting). Sally Wilson joined in person at 10:11 a.m.

3. Oral Communications/Public Comments: Recognition of individuals wishing to comment on non-agenda items may do so at this time. Individuals who wish to address an agenda item may do so at this time or at the time the agenda item is heard. After being recognized by the board president, please identify yourself. 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.

4. Additions to the Agenda: Correction to page 2, item G (a) should reflect 2025-2026. Item H should also reflect 2025-2026.

5. Adoption of the Agenda: Motion to approve by Hunt Drouin, seconded by Len Eckhardt. Approved 3-0-0-2. (Ayes, 3. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 2 Gil Botello and Sallie Wilson)

6. John Muir Charter Schools LCAP and Budget Public Hearing: 2025-2026

- A.** Open public hearing to receive public comments and input about the John Muir Charter Schools 2025-2026 proposed LCAP (Under Separate Cover)
- B.** Open public hearing to receive public comments and input about the John Muir Charter Schools 2025-2026 proposed LCAP Local Indicators Report (Under Separate Cover)
- C.** Open public hearing to receive public comments and input about the John Muir Charter Schools 2025-2026 Adopted Budget (Attachment 1, Page 5)
- D.** Close Public Hearing

7. Informational/Action Items

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, May 14, 2025 (Attachment 2, Page 14) Motion to approve by Len Eckhardt, seconded by Hunt Drouin. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)
- B.** Approval of Vendor Payments 4/26/2025-5/30/2025 (Attachment 3, Page 22)
Hunt Drouin asked about the costs of Gmail account, RJ Guess stated that it is the school wide system that it is used, and costs are relatively low accordingly. Hunt Drouin continued with the costs paid for “Restorative Justice”. RJ Guess replied that it was for training in Restorative Justice Practices and Implementation and is a pilot for full implementation. Dawn McConnell added that this would include our partner agencies. Hunt Drouin also asked about the fees paid to Chartwell School. RJ Guess replied that the school ran an advanced literacy program. Dawn McConnell added that it was a focused literacy program on dyslexia and Rancho Cielo paid for half of the total cost. Hunt Drouin asked if JMCS is looking at bringing it to other sites? RJ Guess responded that it is geared towards Professional Development. Stan Miller asked if that meant training the teachers and if so, analyzing the success rate of the program would be helpful. As well as, to track, whether it would be more affordable to send the JMCS teachers to them for training? Hunt Drouin inquired about the costs for Optum Foods particularly for the SRCC (Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps) site as the costs seem more than other sites. RJ Guess stated that the enrollment at SRCC is larger than some of the other sites and has always had a “order as you need” approach for these shelf stable meals. In addition, Tammie Wood, Accounts Payable oversees the ordering process as well as costs to make sure they are within reason. Hunt Drouin also inquired regarding the travel costs for the Student Leadership Conference. RJ Guess responded it was for flights and minivan rental for students and staff to attend. Sallie Wilson requested more information regarding the Parent/Guardian Focus Group at Rancho Cielo. RJ Guess and Dawn McConnell replied that it was called out in the LCAP for community involvement and the charges fell under the Equity Multiplier Grant Funds. Costs for graduation invitations were questioned. RJ Guess shared that there are about 80 graduates at Rancho Cielo with approximately 500 total attendees and is a large event in which invitations are sent to individuals who help fund the programs. JMCS pays half of those costs. Len Eckhardt asked for more information regarding the GED Vouchers. RJ Guess stated that they are

purchased for our students to take the GED test. Teachers request them through Tammie Wood, Accounts Payable. Stan Miller requested more information regarding breakfast purchased for Rancho Cielo. RJ Guess responded that it was provided for breakfast on testing days. Dawn McConnell added that it is a part of testing incentives to increase attendance and engagement during required testing and the incentives have shown a drastic improvement. The 11th and 12th graders are tested, and the funding is written into our LCAP for events. Previously, attendance was approximately 48-49% annually. Since offering incentives, it has increased to over 80% with a target goal of 95%. which makes a difference on our aggregate score. Stan Miller asked about the cost for graduation portraits. RJ Guess stated that we are allowing them more often and they are digital photos. Motion to approve by Sally Wilson, seconded by Len Eckhardt. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)

- C. Approval of New and Termed Employees 05/01/25-05/31/25 (None) (Attachment 4, Page 35) Motion to approve by Len Eckhardt, seconded by Sallie Wilson. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)

D. Third Interim Budget

- a. Approval of the 2025-2026 3rd Interim Budget (Attachment 5, Page 36)
- b. Approval of Resolution 25-02 ROLL CALL VOTE (Attachment 6, Page 44)

Presented by Rachael Navarrete: Summary sheet was updated and issued to each board member. The projected ending fund balance was close to the original projections without many changes in the revenue. Interest accrued from the money market account is included, however, interest from the certificate of deposits is not included as the interest accrued is reinvested. Overall, there is not a huge change in revenue except for DOR funds being re-categorized from federal to state funds. Staffing costs were updated, and operating expenses were re-categorized where needed and savings were recognized by reviewing allowable expenses through various grants. A lot was included in the LCAP which increased fund balance. RJ Guess shared that JMCS supports a dynamic budgeting strategy whereas Rachael Navarrete and Dawn McConnell systematically go through expiring grant funds to make sure they are being used in full prior to funds expiring. This of course affects our end balance in a positive way. Hunt Drouin asked what should our reserves be? Rachael Navarrete replied that typically it is 3% but we operate with 10% reserves. Stan Miller asked if when grants are expiring, do we look at extending successful actions with our own funding? RJ Guess responded that Aaron Scholl, Community Schools Director, Dawn McConnell and other grant coordinators discuss and implement how to continue these services. Equity Multiplier has been helpful in extending services and we also look at renewal of grant funding as well. Stan Miller stated that he noticed the large decrease of federal funding and appreciated the explanation of the funds shifting from federal to state in the narrative. Stan Miller also asked if SPED funding also came from federal funds and if we expect anything to change since it is federally sourced? RJ Guess replied that SPED is fully funded for 2025-2026 so no changes are expected to fund that program.

- a. Motion to approve the 2025-2026 3rd Interim Budget by Hunt Drouin, seconded by Sallie Wilson. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello).

- b. Motion to approve Resolution 25-02 ROLL CALL VOTE: Hunt Drouin, yes. Sallie Wilson, yes. Len Eckhardt, yes. Stan Miller, yes. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)
- E. JMCS 2025-2026 LCAP Board Approval, Dawn McConnell (under separate cover) Presented by slide show. Began with the overview of the LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan), outlining that it is a 3-year plan. Hunt Drouin asked who receives the information? Dawn McConnell shared that it is available to the public, our partner agencies and our authorizer, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools as it tells the story of our graduation rate and how we spend down our funds. Hunt Drouin asked if it is reviewed mid-year and this is the finalization of that information. Dawn McConnell states yes as well as how we met our goals, and it is a visual representation to the public so they can see our funding sources. The plan summary includes exclusive narration that the CDE (California Department of Education) requires to be reasonably understandable. It reflects how we engage with partners, agencies and staff. Annual student climate surveys are completed to collect responses that are specific to be responsive through the LCAP. Some goals are requirements stipulated under the LCAP such as graduation rate as well as other components. Hunt Drouin asked if this is beneficial as JMCS doesn't fit the mold of a traditional high school. Dawn McConnell stated that we fall under the category of an alternative school, and this gives us flexibility if we are calling those items out and they are explained in the document. Our authorizer, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, looks at our 1-year graduation rate. RJ Guess added that if we were a traditional charter school, and had a full 9th-12th grade student body it would be more difficult for JMCS. It is complicated as we pay attention to this data, but it does not measure us. Dawn McConnell continued that the LCAP includes broad goals and focus goals as well as various action types which are measured by metrics as well as other growth measures. The reporting results reflect pluses and minuses which we will find shows improvement across the board. These metrics reflect how we are doing. These results show an increase in the dropout rate which will be researched further. Stan Miller gave his appreciation for all the work put into the report and appreciated the fact that NCSOS (Nevada County Superintendent of Schools) as our authorizer understands the nature of our school. Dawn McConnell concluded by stating that the LCAP is uploaded to the CDE database. Motion to approve by Hunt Drouin, seconded by Sallie Wilson. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)
- F. Approval of the John Muir Charter Schools 2025-2026 Dashboard Local Indicators Report (under separate cover) Presented by Dawn McConnell. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)
- G. JMCS 2025-2026 Adopted Budget, Rachael Navarrete (Attachment 7, Page 45) Overview by Rachael Navarrete. The new year is rolling forward with our period 2 ADA of 448 students going into the LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) calculation. There was an increase in CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) dollars, it is a 3-year cycle so we will see this in coming years as well. Hunt Drouin asked how do we allocate site salary revenue? Rachael Navarrete referred to page 9 of the report and stated that salaries were placed under LCFF. Balance ends up in administration, including overhead. We have seen reimbursement from the DOR (Department of Rehabilitation) Re-Allotment Grant which is in its first year of implementation. Staff is up and running and we

can continue to receive reimbursement as we continue under this 3-year program. In the new year, STRS (State Teachers Retirement System) employment rate will not see a change. PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) is decreasing. JMCS will continue to maintain a 10% reserve and additional cash flow reserves. The 2025/2026 Equity Multiplier grant is not included in the Adopted Budget. The budget is conservative, and RJ Guess added that we used to show projected growth but now, we show growth once it's received.

- a. Approval of the JMCS 2025-2026 Operating Budget Motion to approve by Sallie Wilson, seconded by Len Eckhardt. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)
 - b. Approval of Resolution 25-03 - Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (Roll Call Vote) (Attachment 8, Page 54) Motion to approve by Hunt Drouin, seconded Sallie Wilson. Roll call: Hunt Drouin, yes. Sallie Wilson, yes. Len Eckhardt, yes. Stan Miller, yes. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)
- H.** Approval of Resolution 25-04: EPA Account Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Rachael Navarrete (Roll Call Vote) (Attachment 9, Page 55) Motion to Approve by Len Eckhardt, seconded by Hunt Drouin. Roll call: Hunt Drouin, yes. Sallie Wilson, yes. Len Eckhardt, yes. Stan Miller, yes. Approved 4-0-0-1. (Ayes, 4. Noes, none. Abstentions, none. Absent, 1 Gil Botello)

7. Discussion Items

- A. CEO's Report

8. Miscellaneous Information Items

- A. 2024-2025 Notable Dates:

- 1. Thursday, June 12, 2025: Ready, Set, OC Graduation; Brea, Ca
- 2. Friday, June 13, 2025: Rancho Cielo Graduation in Salinas, Ca
- 3. Friday June 13, 2025: UCCIE San Bernardino, Riverside, and Indio Graduation; 10:00 am, Riverside, Ca
- 4. Friday June 13, 2025: SRCC Graduation, 10:00am, Sacramento, Ca
- 5. Monday, June 16, 2025: OCCC Graduation, 3:00pm, Fullerton, Ca
- 6. Wednesday June 18, 2025: CSET/Sequoia Corps Graduation, Visalia, Ca
- 7. Saturday, September 27, 2025: CCNB Graduation, Petaluma

- B. Correspondence

- C. Schedule of Future Board Meetings

- i. Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Sacramento Regional Conservation, Corps 6101 27th Street Sacramento, CA 95822
- ii. Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Sacramento Regional Conservation, Corps 6101

27th Street Sacramento, CA 95822

iii. Wednesday, September 10, 2025. Annual Board Retreat, Brown Act Training 10:00 a.m.
Sacramento Regional Conservation, Corps, 6101 27th Street Sacramento, CA 95822-

*change of date requested for the training to be conducted in October 2025

Board Attendance at Upcoming Meetings:

	July 9, 2025	August 13, 2025	September 10, 2025
Stanton Miller	Yes / No In-person / Remote	Yes / No In-person / Remote	Yes / No In-person / Remote
Sallie Wilson	Yes / No/Uncertain In-person / Remote	Yes / No/Uncertain In-person / Remote	Yes / No/uncertain In-person / Remote
Len Eckhardt	Yes / No In-person / Remote	Yes / No In-person / Remote	Yes / No In-person / Remote
Gil Botello	Yes / No In-person / Remote	Yes / No In-person / Remote	Yes / No In-person / Remote
Hunt Drouin	Yes / No In-person / Remote	Yes / No In-person / Remote	Yes / No In-person / Remote

9. Request for Agenda Items

- Annual Travel Expense Report July 9, 2025
- Inservice Expense Report July 9, 2025
- Earl Jamieson van purchase discussion or action item for July 9, 2025 *tabled to a future meeting
- Update on Arts and Music Grant Plan
- Update to graduation requirements
- Emergency Plan for closures

10. Adjournment: by Stan Miller at 11:59 a.m.

This agenda was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting at: