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## Mission

RFK Charter School prepares, motivates, and supports students to achieve their college and career goals.

in partnership with their families and the community.

**Governance Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, August 28, 2025**

**4:30 p.m.**

RFK Governance Council President Mark Walch called a Regular Meeting on August 28, 2025. The time was 4:34 p.m.

**ALL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mark Walch, President

April Gallegos, Secretary

Lawrence Barela, Treasurer

Bob Edgar, Member

Kristi Bechdol, Member

**ZOOM:**

LaNika Bullington, Member

**ABSENT:**

Carlos Cabarellos

**QUORUM:**

Yes

**STAFF:**

Robert Baade,

Holly Gurule

Irene Sanchez

Aaron Arellano

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

RFK GC Secretary April Gallegos makes a motion to accept August 28, 2025, Meeting Agenda with the addition to Housekeeping. Adding Board Membership Process. RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote. “Yes” and no one opposing. The Agenda for August 28, 2025, is approved.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 24, 2025, MEETING MINUTES**

RFK GC President Mark Walch made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2025, RFK GC Treasurer, Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. The Regular Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2025, are approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**:

RFK GC President Mark Walch did not have anyone for Public Comment.

**SPED RESTRAINT & SECLUSION POLICY:**

RFK Principal, Aaron Arellano did a review of the SPED Restraint and Seclusion Policy with the RFK GC.

RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela made a motion to approve the SPED Restraint & Seclusion Policy. RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. The SPED Restraint & Seclusion Policy is approved.

**STUDENT HANDBOOK WITH POLICY CHANGES:**

RFK ED Holly Gurule and RFK Principal, Aaron Arellano did a review of the Student Handbook with Policy Changes with the RFK GC. RFK President Mark Walch made a motion to approve the Student Handbook with the Policy Changes. RFK GC Secretary April Gallegos seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. The Student Handbook with Policy Changes are approved.

**HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE:**

RFK Principal Aaron Arellano’s report was submitted and is attached to these minutes.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

RFK ED, Holly Gurule’s report was

**P-CARD POLICY:**

RFK Director of Finance and H.R. Compliance, Irene Sanchez reviewed the P-Card Policy with RFK GC. RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela made a motion to approve the P-Card Policy. RFK GC Member Bob Edgar seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. The P-Card Policy is approved.

**CARLOS -BOARD MEMBER ACCEPTING RESIGNATION:**

RFK President Mark Walch made a motion to remove Carlos Caballero as an RFK GC member. RFK Secretary April Gallegos seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. RFK GC member, Carlos Caballero is removed from the RFK GC.

**VOTE IN NEW BOARD MEMBER – ANN LYN HALL:**

RFK GC President Mark Walch made a motion to approve Ann Lynn Hall to serve on the RFK GC. RFK Treasurer Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. RFK GC approves Ann Lynn Hall as a new RFK GC member.

Welcome, Ann!

**OFFICER ELECTION:**

Nominations for Officers for FY 25/26 took place with a vote following.

* President: RFK GC member April Gallegos nominates RFK GC member Mark Walch. Mark Walch accepts the nomination.
* Vice President: RFK GC member Bob Edgar nominates RFK GC member Kristi Bechdol for Vice President. Kristi Bechdol accepts the nomination.
* Secretary: RFK Mark Walch nominates April Gallegos. April Gallegos accepts the nomination.
* Treasurer: LaNika Bullington nominates RFK GC member Lawrence Barela. Lawrence Barela accepts the nomination.

RFK GC President Mark Walch makes a motion to approve the Election of Officers for FY 25/26 results. RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote “Yes” and no one opposing. Election of Officers for FY 25/26 has been approved.

**President, Mark Walch; Vice President, Kristi Bechdol; Secretary, April Gallegos; Treasurer, Lawrence Barela**

**IDENTIFY FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

RFK GC President Mark Walch mentions that there is a need to identify Finance Committee Members. RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela and RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington have volunteered to serve on this committee.

**CALENDAR/MEETING TIMES/OPEN MEETING ACT (POST):**

RFK GC President makes a motion to approve the RFK GC’s calendar and meeting times and location for FY 25/26. RFK GC members seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. The calendar, meeting times will occur on the fourth Thursday of every month beginning at 6 p.m. at RFK Charter High School. This will continue to be posted on the RFK Charter School website as well as on the RFK Charter High School marquee in respect to The Open Meetings Act.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE:**

RFK Director of Finance and H.R. Compliance, Irene Sanchez passed out Conflict of Interest Disclosures for GC members to sign and return. All GC members signed and returned at this meeting.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

RFK GC President Mark Walch mentioned an Audit Committee needs to be established. RFK GC Finance Committee members, LaNika Bullington and RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela will sit on this committee. RFK GC President Mark Walch will update as soon as the rest of the committee is established.

**AUDIT REVIEW – DATES**

RFK Director of Finance and H.R. Compliance, Irene Sanchez let the RFK GC members know that the Audit Review will take place in September.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR JULY 2025 -**

RFK GC Treasurer, Lawrence Barela, makes a motion to accept the Finance Committee Report for July 2025. RFK Secretary, April Gallegos seconded the motion. With a unanimous “Yes” vote and no one opposing. The Finance Committee Report for July 2025 is approved.

**CASH DISBURSEMENT FOR JULY 2025**

RFK GC Member, Bob Edgar makes a motion to approve Cash Disbursements for July 2025 in the amount of $556,537.07. RFK GC Member, Lanika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. Cash Disbursements for July 2025 are approved.

**BAR(S) APPROVAL**

RFK GC Member Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve BAR# 001-051-2526-0003-I, Fund 31400 Legislative Appropriations for $326,911.89. RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. Bar is approved

RFK GC Member Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve BAR# 001-051-2526-0004-IB, Fund 29130 SBHC for $50,000.00. RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. Bar is approved

RFK GC Member Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve BAR# 001-051-2526-0005-OB, Fund 26107 Ed Fellows for $44,000.00. RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. Bar is approved

RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve the Maintenance/Transfer Blanket BAR. RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. The Maintenance/Transfer Blanket BAR is approved, signed and returned to Irene Sanchez.

RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela makes a motion to approve the Cash Transfer – 26107/11000. RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous, “Yes” vote and no one opposing. The Cash Transfer is approved.

**HOUSE KEEPING**, **TRAINING HOURS, COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

RFK GC President Mark Walch reminded the GC members of the upcoming Strategic Planning session on September 5, 2025. Also, of the Charter Renewal. He encourages training hours as well.

**ADJOURN:**

RFK President Mark Walch makes a motion to adjourn the meeting RFK GC Member Bob Edgar seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. RFK GC President Mark Walch adjourns the RFK GC Regular Meeting at 7:10 p.m.

**Next meeting:**

September 25, 2025

**Minutes by:**

RFK GC Board Secretary, April Gallegos

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Governance Council Secretary Signature***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Date***

**RFK Governance Council Meeting**

**Middle School Report**

**RFK Governance Council Meeting**

**High School and Middle School Report**

**DATE: August 28, 2025**

**What’s going on at both schools?**

\*We have officially welcomed back students to both campuses. Teachers are working to establish

classroom rituals, routines, and procedures. And are now jumping into content and curriculum.

\*Last week, we administered our Beginning of Year Star Assessment in both Math and Reading. This

took place at both schools. Teachers are jumping into student data and adjusting as needed to support

students in their classrooms.

\*We also started our evening school program as well. We are hoping to see these numbers increase over

the next several weeks.

\*Weekly meetings (Staff Meetings, PLC’s, Department, Student Solutions, and EWS/SSS meetings are

underway.

\*Mr. Pete Ciurczak is meeting with the seniors on a regular basis now, and assisting with keeping them

on track to graduate.

\*Robert, Holly, and I, along with others are finalizing plans for our partners to begin working with students at both the HS and MS.

**Staffing**

\*Unfortunately, we have some changes arise with staffing due to various things over the last few weeks.

Primarily, licensing is becoming an issue that we are currently working on addressing. We moved one our

HS teachers to the MS to support the math classes. We are currently shifting supports around at the HS

to support the vacancy, we currently have. The Math Department has been very supportive and

collaborative in terms of options, planning, etc. Everyone has stepped up and offered support!

**Students/Recruitment**

\*Our current student count sits at: 87 students at RFK MS and 232 students at RFK HS. This puts us at 46

students away from our target of 365.

\*Both Holly and I continue to communicate with south valley APS schools.

\*Radio Stations and RFK Radio 102.1 FM – please spread the word. 102.1 FM can only be heard in the

south valley quadrant of the city.

**Attendance**

\*RFK Attendance Coach Crystal Mora continues to sift through the lists of both new and returning

students, paying close attention to their previous attendance records. She has already flagged certain

students and continues to have meetings. We do have students who have not yet attended, and

home visits for those students started this week. Although we are very close to making our goal, in terms of

student count, these students if enrolled in other schools will impact our count. This is problematic.

\*The RFK attendance team attended a state convening with other attendance teams from around the

state to focus on student attendance, school procedures, and general networking.

**Facility/Campus**

\*Nothing new to report.