



**B.E.S.T. ACADEMY MINUTES:
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS August 27, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of Brookfield Engineering Science and Technology Academy Charter School (“**B.E.S.T.**” or the “**School**”) was held on June 10, 2025



VIDEO LINK:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/sX40QtFRKPBmnTpeF6SeggudX1G2531_IWy83qsP37cLKM_fkuFOTQXRF2Ju0esW.qRYd7PJ9sw2Bjb-r

Directors Present in Person: Joseph Cipres, Marcella Nino, Debra Webb, Gary McCloskey, Cassandra Bolden

LOCATION:

Chula Vista Public Library Computer Lab
Civic Center Branch
365 F Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910
619.691.5160

Directors Present Via Video Conference: None

Directors Absent: NONE

Also Present: Alex Soriano, James Mays, Joel Manwarren, Cory Cavanaugh, Andrew Corder

1. CALL TO ORDER: Board President Gary McCloskey called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. A quorum of the directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Present: Marcella Nino, Debra Webb, Joseph Cipres, Gary McCloskey, Cassandra Bolden

Absent: None

2. Approval of Agenda: *Motion to approve the June 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting agenda.*

Approval Motion: Joseph Cipres

Second: Debra Webb

Ayes: all

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey - *aye*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Leads Pledge: *Joseph Cipres*

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS / RECOGNITION / REPORTS

Joseph Cipres, Term Ending

Alex Soriano recognizes Joseph Cipres as his term is ending. Mr. Cipres was a founding board member.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PROPOSALS/REPORTS/INFORMATION

1. Budget / School Update: *Cory Cavanaugh presents the 25-26 budget narrative to be approved at the next board meeting.*

2. School Safety Plan 2025-2026 [LINK](#)

Alex Soriano presents the draft of the safety plan. It will be updated with new personnel.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED MOTION FOR CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board considers all matters under the consent agenda to be routine and will approve, ratify, and enact them in one motion, as listed below. Unless specifically requested by a board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, no further discussion will be held on these items before the Board vote. Comments by the Board may be made at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Approval Motion: Joseph Cipres

Second: Cassandra Bolden **Ayes:** all

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye

Joseph Cipres - aye

Debra Webb - aye

Cassandra Bolden - aye

Gary McCloskey - aye

- a. Minutes [LINK](#)**
- b. Expense Reports**
- c. Check Register**

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. 2025-2026 Local Control and Accountability Plan [LINK](#)
[Presentation](#)**

- i. Approval formalizes the four key goals that will guide the school's focus and strategic efforts during the next academic year.**

Alex Soriano reports that at the last board meeting, the LCAP was presented by Marian Lozano and [James Hummel, Ed.D.](#)

Debra Webb asks a question regarding the data on parent engagement. She asks if that is to be improved. James Mays states that the data is only reporting on ParentSquare.

Motion: 1st *Debra Webb*

2nd: *Marcella Nino* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

b. 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget Financial Report Adoption [LINK](#) Presentation

i. Approval establishes the preliminary budget for the upcoming school year.

[Cory Cavanah](#) states that all the numbers were presented at last week's regular board meeting and is here to answer any questions and seek approval.

Motion: 1st ___ *Cassandra Bolden* ___ 2nd: ___ *Joseph Cipres* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

c. NWEA Contract Renewal [LINK](#)

i. Approval continues the use of the digital benchmark assessment

James Mays states that this is a renewal for benchmark assessments and is over \$10,000.

Motion: 1st ___ *Debra Webb*

2nd: ___ *Marcella Nino* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*
Gary McCloskey- *aye*

d. Board On Track Contract [LINK](#)

i. Approval establishes the Governance Board digital portal.

Alex Soriano presents the contract to move forward with a digital portal to store all board documents and facilitate future board meetings.

Joseph Cipres thanks the team for looking into Board On Track.

Motion: 1st__*Debra Webb* 2nd: __*Joseph Cipres* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*
Debra Webb - *aye*
Joseph Cipres - *aye*
Cassandra Bolden - *aye*
Gary McCloskey- *aye*

e. 2025-2026 Proposed Board Meeting Dates [LINK](#)

i. Approval establishes the Regular Board Meeting dates of the upcoming school year.

Alex Soriano presents the proposed dates, with August 27th as the initial meeting date. Follows the first Wednesday of the month pattern, with a meeting at the end of January.

Motion: 1st __*Marcella Nino* 2nd: __*Cassandra Bolden* Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*
Debra Webb - *aye*
Joseph Cipres - *aye*
Cassandra Bolden - *aye*
Gary McCloskey- *aye*

f. CLOSED SESSION

i. Employment Evaluation: Executive Directors [LINK Folder](#)

Board motions to push the closed session evaluation to a future board meeting.

Motion: 1st Joseph Cipres 2nd: Marcella Nino Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

g. Approval of Employment Agreements for Executive Directors

i. Approval establishes compensation as fair and reasonable

Motion: 1st Cassandra Bolden 2nd: Debra Webb Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

8. BOARD COMMENTS:

Joseph Cipres states that the board will be in good hands with the current board. He is excited to follow the organization's growth. States that he appreciates being part of the process.

He states that he appreciates the collaboration among the board. Gives kudos to [Joel Manwarren](#) for a great job at the graduation ceremony.

Everyone did a great job at the ceremony.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Alex Soriano appreciates the entire staff and the connections that are evident with the students.

James Mays appreciated the staff and the support.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Upcoming BEST Academy Board Meetings:

● August 21, 2024, Organizational Meeting

- October 2, 2024, Brown Act Training
- November 6, 2024
- December 4, 2024
- February 5, 2025
 - February 26, 2025, added
- March 5, 2025, Canceled
- April 2, 2025
- May 7, 2025
- June 4, 2025
- June 2025 Graduation

Gary McCloskey *asks for a motion.*

Approval Motion: *Joseph Cipres* **Second:** *Marcella Nino* **Ayes:** all

Meeting Adjourned at 12:28 pm

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*