



**B.E.S.T. ACADEMY MINUTES:
REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS JUNE 4, 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 May 7, 2025



VIDEO LINK:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/cj5RB2SATZ9gPs_HiD-8z6AxUXSea3BY_eJuW1uTY46-l3OMmEzwBbv1EczSM47H.nQxye3tCb--xL9Co

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

LOCATION:

Barker Blue Dog Office
6360 El Cajon Blvd #101
San Diego, CA 92115

Directors Present Via Video Conference: None

Directors Absent: NONE

Also Present: Alex Soriano, James Mays, Joel Manwarren, Cory Cavanaugh, Chad Leptich, Daniel Crook, Celeste Danner, Andrew Corder

1. CALL TO ORDER: Board President Gary McCloskey called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM. 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 May 7, 2025, Regular Board Meeting agenda.*

Approval Motion: Joseph Cipres

Second: Marcella Nino

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: *Cassandra Bolden*

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS / RECOGNITION / REPORTS

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PROPOSALS/REPORTS/INFORMATION

1. Budget / School Update:

James Mays presents an update on AB84 and the potential impact it may have on our organization and its budget. He states that BEST is preparing itself for the impact by making cost savings decisions now in preparation for the worse case scenario. That included not facilitating an in-person PD in August. There may be a smaller PD for newly hired staff.

2. Board Ethics Training [LINK](#)

- a.** *Alex Soriano will reach out to Gary McCloskey to have him complete the board ethics training. All other board members have completed it.*

3. Internal Information Security Policy: [LINK](#)

- a. *Alex Soriano reports that this policy will be developing over the next couple of meetings. It will be robust.*

4. Board Member Joseph Cipres' term is ending

- a. **June 10, 2025**

Alex Soriano reports that board member J Cipres' term will be ending at the last board meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED MOTION FOR CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board considers all matters under the consent agenda to be routine and will be approved, ratified, and enacted in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no more discussion on these items prior to the Board vote. Comments by the Board may be made at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Approval Motion: Debra Webb

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**
- d. **Routine Contract Renewals**
 - i. **Nearpod Digital Program renewal**
 - ii. **EDynamics Learning program renewal**

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Online Purchasing System (OPS) Renewal** [LINK](#)
 - i. **Approval continues the partnership to provide an online portal for families to purchase educational products and**

services

James Mays shares the role that OPS plays and the management of the program by one of our staff members

Motion: 1st *Joseph Cipres*

2nd: *Marcella Nino*

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

b. Julian USD MOU LINK

i. Approval continues oversight from the Julian school district

Alex Soriano reports that this is not ready and will be tabled until the next meeting. Julian USD will need to have their board approve the MOU first, then it is approved by our board.

Motion: 1st _____

2nd: _____

Roll Call

Marcella Nino

Debra Webb

Joseph Cipres

Cassandra Bolden

Gary McCloskey

c. Nepotism Policy 4112.8 [LINK](#)

i. Approval establishes a policy to maximize staff and community confidence in school hiring, promotion, and other employment decisions by promoting practices that are free of conflicts of interest or the appearance of impropriety.

Alex Soriano presents the details of the policy.

Motion: 1st Cassandra Bolden

2nd: Debra Webb

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

d. Summit K12 renewal [LINK](#)

- i. Approval continues the partnership with the digital program and professional development to increase learning for English Learners.**

James Mays presents the details of the English Learner support program. He states that it has generated growth data above the state average. The key is that it is monitored by our ELD Director, [Natalie Maldonado](#).

Motion: 1st ___ Debra Webb 2nd: ___ Marcella Nino

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

e. Beable Digital Literacy program renewal [LINK](#)

- i. Approval continues the partnership with the literacy intervention and acceleration digital program.**

James Mays provided details of the online literacy program. The program supports reading at the student's Lexile level.

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

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

f. Amplify Contract [LINK](#)

- i. Approval partners with Amplify's Boost Reading Program. Boost Reading helps K–5 educators meet the needs of every reader with personalized literacy instruction based on the Science of Reading.**

Celeste Danner presents the details of the program to support the dyslexia testing that will initiate the next academic year. Screening for dyslexia will occur for Kindergarten through second-grade students.

She points out that it is not a Special education program, but a general education program.

Motion: 1st__Debra Webb 2nd:__Cassandra Bolden Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

g. ASU Contract Amendment [LINK](#)

- i. Approval amends the Universal Learner Course agreement with BEST. The Program will officially begin on 7/1/2024 and will continue through 06/30/2026.**

James Mays presents the continued partnership agreement with ASU to support our high school students taking college courses at no cost to the student.

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*

h. CDW-G Quote for Student Laptops [LINK](#)

- i. Approval allows the purchase of 200 student laptops configured to support our learning platforms and state testing**

James Mays reports the need to purchase before tariffs increase the price of technology.

Motion: 1st__Debra Webb 2nd: _Cassandra Bolden _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

i. New Position Job Description: CURRICULUM AND DATA STRATEGY DIRECTOR [LINK](#)

- i. Approval establishes a supervisory position to manage curriculum fidelity and data analytics.**

Alex Soriano explains the reasoning for the new position. It will focus on the data and curriculum that directly affect the state dashboard. The dashboard is the key to the petition renewal in 2 years.

Motion: 1st__Marcella Nino 2nd: _Debra Webb _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*

j. New Position: High School Counselor Position Job Description [LINK](#)

- i. Approval establishes a new high school support position to address state dashboard needs.**

Alex Soriano explains the need for a high school counselor with a PPS credential. This position will focus on college and career readiness, attendance, and the CTE pathways. All are essential for the petition renewal process in 2 years. The previous counseling position will be closed. This position will be on teacher's salary and on the teacher calendar.

Motion: 1st__Debra Webb 2nd:_Cassandra Bolden _ Ayes: All

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - aye

Debra Webb - aye

Joseph Cipres - aye

Cassandra Bolden - aye

Gary McCloskey- aye

CLOSED SESSION

a. Executive Director Evaluation Ed Code 89307 [LINK](#)

Gary McCloskey reports that the evaluation of the executive directors was discussed.

8. BOARD COMMENTS:

Gary McCloskey shares his appreciation for the staff in preparation for board meetings and the Executive Directors being proactive in planning and finances.

Marcella Nino appreciated different staff members presenting during the board meeting. She becomes familiar with the staff.

Cassandra Bolden appreciates forecasting and solutions.

Joseph Cipres appreciated [Celeste Danner](#) being prepared for the presentation. Appreciated transparency with the data and the finances.

Marcella Nino realizes the tough decisions that are being made for the benefit of students and the organization.

Debra Webb is proud of students being able to take classes online.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Alex Soriano appreciates the team, and the team is beginning to click and focus on what matters. Conversations are more tangible due to the 2-year renewal. Appreciates leadership

and support team.

James Mays appreciated the staff and the support. Realizes some decisions are tough. Communicates that we will figure out cost-effective ways of continuing the PD. Maybe new employees receive a smaller PD. He reports that there is a new marketing video.

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: Cassandra Bolden

Second: Joseph Cipres **Ayes:** all

Meeting Adjourned at 12:13 pm

Roll Call

Marcella Nino - *aye*

Debra Webb - *aye*

Joseph Cipres - *aye*

Cassandra Bolden - *aye*

Gary McCloskey- *aye*