



**EL CAMINO REAL ACADEMY
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025 AT 7:00 A.M.**



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MINUTES

1. Preliminary Business
 - A. Call to Order
7:03 a.m.
 - B. Roll Call
Governing Council Present: Vianey Valeta-Arambula (Google Meet), Brian Carter (Google Meet/out at 7:55), Gretchen Long (Google Meet), Marsha Majors (Google Meet), Jim Nessel (Google meet/in at 7:08).
Staff Present: Jennifer Mercer, Ian Johnson-Escudero, Denise Brown, Christopher Villarreal
 - C. Approval of Agenda
VV, as presented, GL, all
Vianey Valeta-Arambula motioned to approve the July 21, 2025 agenda as presented. Gretchen Long seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
 - D. Approval of Minutes
Brian Carter motioned to approve the June 20, 2025 minutes as presented. Gretchen Long seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
Vianey Valeta-Arambula abstained
2. Public Comment
None
3. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
 - A. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)
Jennifer Mercer updated the council on: Executive Director transition, Interim ED review form, new graduation requirements, policy and bylaw review, new Special Education Coordinator, 1st Care of New Mexico backpack giveaway, assessment conferences, enrollment, short summer, and the Chief Procurement Officer status.
A detailed written document was provided.
 - B. Recommendation to Approve Purchases and Give Director Permission to Sign Contracts Over \$15,000 (Action)
Jim Nessel motioned to approve the Consolidated Builders Purchase Order of \$110,109.00 and give the Executive Director permission to sign. Vianey Valeta-Arambula seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.



Vianey Valeta-Arambula motioned to approve the purchase order for NM ACES in the amount of \$138,000 for the Curriculum Specialist/Administrative Support. Jim Nessel seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.

Vianey Valeta-Arambula motioned to approve the increase of the NM ACES Business Consultant purchase order from \$30,000 to \$36,000 as presented. Gretchen Long seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.

Jim Nessel motioned to approve Charter Law Office PC contract authority increase to \$60,000 and give contract authority to the Executive Director. Vianey Valeta-Arambula seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.

- C. Interim Executive Director Contract FY26 (Action)
Jim Nessel motioned to approve the Interim Executive Director Contract. Vianey Valeta-Arambula seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
- D. Approval of Updated SY 25-26 School Calendar (Action)
Jim Nessel motioned to table item D. Vianey Valeta-Arambula seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
- E. Approval of ECRA Graduation Requirements (Action)
Jim Nessel motioned to approve the ECRA Graduation requirements as presented. Vianey Valeta-Arambula seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
- F. Consideration of PED Letter to OCR and Request for LEA Response (Discussion/Action)
Jim Nessel motioned for ECRA to choose not to respond. Marsha Majors seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
- G. Policy and Bylaw Review (Discussion/Action)
Jim Nessel motioned to table item G. Vianey Valeta-Arambula seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
- H. Approval of Civil Rights Policy and Procedures for USDA Child Nutrition Programs (Action)
Vianey Valeta-Arambula motioned to approve the Civil Rights Policy and Procedures for USDA Nutrition Programs effective after the 15-day comment period. Jim Nessel seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
- I. Board Development (Discussion)
Denise Brown will send training information to the Governing Council.



5. Closed Session (closed to the public)
 - A. Limited personnel matters and Executive Director Evaluation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1
Jim Nessel motioned to go into closed session at 8:15 a.m. Vianey Valeta-Arambula seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.
Jennifer Mercer was invited to join the closed session.
Marsha Majors re-convened the meeting at 8:25 a.m. and polled the council on matters discussed during closed session. The council members individually agreed that the only item discussed was related to: Limited personnel matters and Executive Director Evaluation pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1
6. Concluding Business
 - I. Discussion of other business and issues
None
 - II. Announcements
None
 - III. Next Meeting Date
August 21, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.
 - IV. Adjournment
Vianey Valeta-Arambula motioned to adjourn at 8:26 a.m. Jim Nessel seconded the motion. Council members unanimously approved.