



**Vegas Vista Academy Board Meeting Minutes**  
**4660 N Rancho Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89130**  
**6:30 PM; June 11, 2025**

**Posting of Agenda:** This agenda has been posted at the following locations: Vegas Vista Academy website at <https://vegasvistaacademy.org/>; Nevada Public Notice <https://notice.nv.gov/>

**Format / Procedures / Rules:** This is a notice of a public meeting held pursuant to NRS Chapter 241. Members of the public are invited to be present.

Certain items may be removed from open/public consideration if permitted or required by Nevada law. The Board may also (i) take agenda items out of order; (ii) combine two or more items for consideration; (iii) separate one item into multiple items; (iv) table an agenda item to a future meeting; and/or (v) remove an agenda item.

Comments from the public are welcome at this time. You may present your comment during the meeting or beforehand, by contacting Gretel Valdes at [info@vegasvistaacademy.org](mailto:info@vegasvistaacademy.org) and relaying the comment to her. No person may sign up for another person, nor yield his/her time to another person. The Board may not deliberate on, or take any action regarding, a matter raised during the public comments sessions, unless the matter itself has already been specifically included on the agenda as an “Action” Item (and then, only at the time such Item is heard). The Board Chair will limit public comment to [3 to 5] minutes per person to ensure that all participants may speak and the Agenda is not unduly delayed, subject to any brief extension granted by the Board Chair in his sole discretion. No restrictions apply based on the speaker’s viewpoints. If the Board hears public comments which exceed, in total, [20] minutes, the Board may postpone the remainder of the public comments to the same agenda item at the end of the meeting. The Board Chair may, in his discretion, forgo Public Comment at the start and end of the meeting and instead solicit such Comment during each individual action item below, as permitted by NRS 241.020(3)(d)(3). The information above applies to all Public Comment periods.



Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate persons with physical disabilities desiring to attend the meeting. Please contact Gretel Valdes at [info@vegasvistaacademy.org](mailto:info@vegasvistaacademy.org) at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting, if possible, so that reasonable arrangements may conveniently be made.

Please also contact Ms. Valdes if you would like a copy of the agenda and any public reference materials relating to agenda items. Those materials will also be available at the meeting location. Those materials would provide you with greater context and clarity as to the matters under discussion.

By law, no one may willfully disrupt the meeting to the extent that its orderly conduct becomes impractical.

All items are action or possible action items if denoted as such.

## **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eric Duran Valle at 6:34 PM on Wednesday 6/11/2025.

## **2. Attendance**

- **Present:** Eric Duran Valle, Victor Tavares, Machel Rasmussen, Layla Medina, Anthony Ruiz, Karl Catarata
- **Absent:** Elena Fabunan, Dr. Silvina Jover, Renee Cadaoas
- **Others Present:** Dr. Benjamin Feinstein, Uriel Campos, Nandini Vishinoff

## **3. Public Comment (if any)**

The public comment period was opened, but no one came forward to speak.

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the 03/01/2025, 03/10/2025, and 05/14/2025 meeting minutes made by Karl Catara.

Seconded by Layla Medina.

Motion carried unanimously. (6-0)



## 5. Ongoing Items

- A. Executive Director's Report
  1. Community Engagement/Enrollment Update
    - Total enrollment numbers were presented.
    - 172 full enrollments and 12 partials.
    - Presented enrollment numbers by grade.
    - Staffing is conditional on enrollment.
    - Ribbon cutting of new campus is Thursday August 7th 5:30 PM
  2. Facility Update
    - New facility is up and running.
    - Presented facility updates needed.
    - Funding is coming from bond money.
  3. Finance Update
    - Transportation grant was submitted on time, but returned for outstanding items.
    - We are finalists in KABOOM! Grant for playground build.
    - Credit card was approved.
  4. Governance Update
    - Disclosure forms need to be turned in ASAP.
    - There are 3 past due items in Epicenter.
  5. HR Update
    - Interviews are tomorrow for 2 open positions.
    - We have been approved for an assistant principal, which will be funded by Opportunity 180.
  6. Testing Update
    - MAP numbers were returned.
    - Testing which measures progress by students.
    - The entire school grew in all 4 areas, which include Math and Reading.
    - Chair Duran requested clarification of higher percentile being better.
    - Grade level data of growth in testing was shown on graphs.
  7. School Update
    - The summer institute has wrapped up. Included IB workshop, employee onboarding, and staff training.
    - 19 faculty members have completed a 3 day IB Teacher Workshop.
    - Final Donuts with doc was held.
    - Gala planning meeting was held today. The next Gala is April 18, 2026.
    - After curriculum review, the math curriculum will be changed. The change will need board approval.
  8. Upcoming Events
    - Presented dates for upcoming events, including meetings.



- Karl Catarata commends Dr Feinstein for numbers. Questioned what changes will be implemented to see growth. Dr Feinstein explained the team for 1st grade will be new and are all experienced. A new coaching model will be implemented and having an Assistant Principal will also be in place.

- Karl Catarata confirmed to have received information. Questioned if competitiveness is better than CCSD. Dr Feinstein states he has not seen CCSD MAP data so we will be able to compare results.

- Catarata will follow up for CCSD MAP results to make sure we are doing well to compete.

- Dr Feinstein states he was at a legislative meeting and charter schools are being looked at closely. Urges the board to make sure to keep up with compliance. We are succeeding where others have failed.

- Chair Duran would like to clarify that updates to facilities are coming from grants. Dr Feinstein confirms updates are coming from grants.

- Chair Duran would like clarification of drop in 1st grade, if it is due to curriculum or staffing. Dr Feinstein states there are variables due to drop. States staffing was an issue and changes have been made and an action plan is being implemented to make sure we don't see drop. We will also have 3 classes instead of 1 class to get more accurate data.

## B. Finance Report

### 1. 2024-25 Financial Update

- Chair Duran wants to recognize Nicholas Mawad was reassigned and would like to recognize his hard work to assist in getting us to our current position. Recognizes Nandini will be the new presenter

- Nandini gave background of her experience with education and finance of charter schools.

#### A) April Revenue

- Presented details on revenue which includes local revenue, PCFP, Other State Revenue, CSP, and other Federal Rev. About 178,117

#### B) April Expense

- Presented details on expenses which included salaries and benefits, Property expenses, Services, and supplies. \$175,353

#### C) 2024-25 Forecast Update

- Presented the forecast for next month.

#### D) 2024-25 Cash Flow Projection

- Cash Flow Projection graph with what funds will be coming in.

#### E) CSP Grant Tracker

- The tracker for CSP is showing we are still at a balance of \$352,513

- The first fiscal year is wrapping up as a school.

- We are trying to wrap up in FY25 and start FY26



C. Financial Update

- Approval needed for Transportation Grant. It allocates \$150,072 for transportation. It includes Bus Service Management Fee, Monthly Bus Route, Field Trip Transportation, and Transportation Coordinator.

## 6. New Business/For Discussion and Possible Action

A. Authorization of Automated Clearing House (ACH) Installments for Vegas Vista Property, LLC Bonds (For Discussion and Possible Action)

- This is to authorize ACH payments to make payments more efficient.
- Motion to approve the Authorization of Automated Clearing House (ACH) Installments for Vegas Vista Property made by Victor Tavares.

Seconded by Eric Duran Valle.

Motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

B. Authorization to Apply for the Competitive FY26 Transportation Grant (For Discussion and Possible Action)

- Motion to approve the submission for the Competitive FY26 Transportation Grant made by Victor Tavares.

Seconded by Anthony Ruiz.

Motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

C. Renewal of Executive Director's Employment (For Discussion and Possible Action)

- Dr Feinstein recused himself from the meeting.
- Per Contract, June 30th is the last day of contract. Evaluation summary was sent to the board.
- Chair Duran presented results of Survey which reflected opinions of VVA families and Staff. He highlighted all the positive items, as well as opportunities for growth in the survey.
- There will be a 2% increase in salary, which is to up
- Anthony Ruiz has a question about legislation for teacher raises and would like clarification regarding the raises for charter teachers. Chair Duran will follow up with Ruiz.
- Karl Catarata would like to clarify if there are benchmark goals for fundraising as part of the executive directors evaluation. Chair Duran confirms the increase of expenses. He suggests breaking down fundraising targets for each quarter.
- Karl Catarata would like to figure out what meeting we will need to review benchmarks of fundraising. We also need to work better along with the executive director to communicate better with fundraising initiatives.
- Anthony Ruiz would like clarification of length of employment agreement. Chair Duran confirms it is a 1 year contract. Ruiz would like to have a discussion of multi year agreements of employment. Chair Duran agrees and would like to talk to the legal council of what multi year employment would look like.



- Motion to approve the renewal of the Executive Director contract at the rate of what is listed in FY26 budget made by Karl Catarata.

Seconded by Anthony Ruiz.

Motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

- Karl Catarata thanks Dr Feinstein for work as executive board. Additional comments regarding agenda items, we want to continue communicating to the public at a critical time in Nevada. Would like to showcase and communicate the number of donors, whether big or small, for recognition. Would like to hold the executive director, and board accountable when it comes to fundraising.

D. Potential New Board Member: Margie Gonzales (For Discussion and Possible Action)

- Met Dr Feinstein and Chair Durana a couple weeks ago.

- Has great connections in communities in Las Vegas

- Karl Catarata thanks Dr Feinstein and Chair Duran for consideration and meeting with Margie Gonzales. Confirms she has decades of relationships in the city. As well repertoire with keeping business afloat. Assures she will bring expertise and help with working on fundraising.

- Motion to approve new board member Margie Gonzales made by Karl Catarata.

Seconded by Victor Tavares.

Motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

- When Margie was in the Philippines, she was assistant to the speaker in the house.

## **7. Public Comment (if any)**

The public comment period was opened, but no one came forward to speak.

## **8. Closing**

Motion to adjourn made by Karl Catarata.

Seconded by Victor Tavares.

Motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM Wednesday 6/11/2025.