VEGAS VISTA ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2026

Location: Vegas Vista Academy, 4660 N. Rancho Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
Meeting Date: August 5, 2026
Scheduled Time: 6:30 p.m.
Call to Order: 6:41 p.m.
Presiding Officer: Eric Duran-Valle, Chair
Adjournment: 7:51 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Eric Duran-Valle called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

2. Attendance

Board members identified as present:

- Eric Duran-Valle, Chair
- Kristina Lowrey
- Anthony Ruiz
- Charis Garcia, Treasurer
- Dr. Janna Bernstein-Rogers

Staff and other participants:

- Dr. Benjamin Feinstein, Executive Director
- Nandini Vaishnav, Vertex Education
- Scott O'Campo, Vertex Education
- VVA staff

3. Public Comment

Chair Duran-Valle opened the first public-comment period and explained the procedure for participating in person or remotely. The Chair stated that public comments would generally be limited to three minutes and that the Board would not directly address matters raised during public comment unless they concerned an agendized matter.

No members of the public requested to speak.

Public comment was closed.

4. Consent Agenda — Approval of June 3, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board considered approval of the June 3, 2026 Board meeting minutes.

Motion: Anthony Ruiz moved to approve the June 3, 2026 Board meeting minutes.

Second: Kristina Lowrey seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried. No opposition was stated. The June 3, 2026 minutes were approved.

5. New Business — Taken Out of Order

The Chair proposed moving the New Business items ahead of the ongoing reports because certain participants had scheduling constraints. The Board agreed. The agenda authorized items to be taken out of order.

A. Admission of Prusela Philips to the Board of Directors

The Chair presented the proposed admission of **Prusela Philips** to the Board of Directors. The Chair reported that Ms. Philips had been interviewed by the Chair and Executive Director and had completed the required Board application materials. Ms. Philips was not present at the meeting.

Dr. Feinstein described Ms. Philips's prior involvement with VVA, including her work on the Gala and assistance with development of the school's database and organizational systems. He also described her prior experience with the alumni association and Board at San Francisco State University.

The Board discussed the anticipated size of the Board following the proposed additions and the Board's educator representation.

Motion: Charis Garcia moved to admit Prusela Philips to the Vegas Vista Academy Board of Directors.

Second: Kristina Lowrey seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried by voice/raised-hand vote; no opposition was stated.

B. Admission of Lizeth Saldana Valle to the Board of Directors

The Chair presented the proposed admission of **Lizeth Saldana Valle** to the Board of Directors. The Chair disclosed that the candidate is a cousin of the Chair. The Chair stated that he would recuse himself from the vote while continuing to facilitate the discussion and vote.

The Chair described Ms. Saldana Valle as a Clark County School District second-grade teacher with approximately three years of classroom experience and an interest in charter-school operations and educational administration. Dr. Feinstein also expressed support for her candidacy and noted the value of additional educator representation on the Board.

Member Anthony Ruiz asked about the Chair's recusal. The Chair explained that the candidate is his cousin and stated that the applicable SPCSA Board provisions permit blood relatives to serve together on a Board but do not permit a Board member to be a blood relative of an employee of the organization.

Motion: Kristina Lowrey moved to admit Lizeth Saldana Valle to the Vegas Vista Academy Board of Directors.

Second: Dr. Janna Bernstein-Rogers seconded the motion.

Recusal: Chair Eric Duran-Valle recused himself from the vote because of his familial relationship with the candidate.

Vote: The motion carried by voice/raised-hand vote, with no opposition stated. The Chair announced that both candidates had been admitted to the Board.

6. Ongoing Business

A. Executive Director's Report

Dr. Benjamin Feinstein presented the Executive Director's Report.

International Baccalaureate Authorization:
Dr. Feinstein reported that Vegas Vista Academy had received full authorization as an International Baccalaureate school. He recognized the work of IB Coordinator **Ruby Howell** and the VVA staff in completing the authorization process.

Enrollment and Community Engagement:
Dr. Feinstein reported that enrollment for the upcoming school year was above the school's planned enrollment and that waiting lists existed at all grade levels. He reported substantial growth from the prior year, as well as the addition of preschool and sixth grade.

He also reported on kindergarten orientation, the upcoming Back-to-School Night, and other school and community events.

Facilities:
Dr. Feinstein reported that VVA had signed a lease for a second location, referred to as the VVA Sage Campus, to house the preschool while the modular classrooms at the primary campus are completed. He reported that occupancy of the modular facilities was expected around January.

He explained that arrangements had been made for the other grades to operate at the primary campus, including classroom scheduling adjustments, while preschool would operate at the leased location. The Board discussed transportation between the primary campus and preschool site. Dr. Feinstein reported that preschool students would be dropped off at the primary campus, transported to the preschool site during the school day, and returned to the primary campus for dismissal, with an option for pickup at the satellite location.

School Safety and Property:
Dr. Feinstein reported receipt of a $200,000 school safety grant. The funds are expected to support secured building entrances, cameras, front-desk check-in systems, and other campus-security improvements.

He also reported that the neighboring property remains encumbered by liens and unpaid taxes and cannot currently be purchased or leased until the title is cleared.

Finance/Operations:
Dr. Feinstein reported that VVA had again been approved to participate in the National School Lunch Program and would offer breakfast, lunch, and snacks to students.

He reported that the final cost of the preschool and modular expansion project, including a new bathroom and underground utilities, was approximately $650,000, compared with an earlier estimate of approximately $250,000. VVA was working with Raymond James and 22 Beacon on financing.

Governance:
Dr. Feinstein discussed the upcoming Board retreat and emphasized the importance of Board attendance. The retreat was scheduled for August 29, with the location to be finalized.

Human Resources:
Dr. Feinstein reported that VVA was fully staffed and discussed several new hires, including a new Propel Fellow/assistant director and in-house health personnel.

Testing and Academic Performance:
Dr. Feinstein presented schoolwide MAP assessment data and discussed growth and achievement in mathematics and reading. He reported areas of strength as well as areas requiring additional improvement, particularly achievement in certain upper grades.

The Board discussed strategies to improve student performance, including instructional coaching, differentiated instruction, test-taking strategies, i-Ready, United Readers, increased data analysis through professional learning communities, and administrator participation in data-driven instruction training.

The Board also discussed the distinction between MAP growth and achievement and whether IB authorization would involve additional high-stakes metrics. Dr. Feinstein explained that the IB Primary Years and Middle Years programs operate as instructional frameworks rather than a set curriculum and do not involve high-stakes testing.

Community/IB Activities:
Dr. Feinstein reported on VVA's nomination for Best in Vegas, summer IB training for staff, participation in IB leadership activities, potential use of VVA as a site for statewide IB events, and efforts to establish VVA as a community distribution center for Three Square.

Upcoming Events:
The Board was advised of upcoming Back-to-School Night, the first day of school, preschool orientation, the first day of preschool, the next Gala planning meeting, and the monthly "Donuts with Doc" parent meeting. The record reflects that the Gala planning meeting date was corrected during the report to August 12.

The Board asked questions regarding academic performance, IB metrics, and transportation between the primary and preschool campuses.

The Executive Director's Report was received and discussed. **No Board action was taken.**

B. Finance Report

Nandini Vaishnav presented the Finance Report on behalf of Vertex Education.

Ms. Vaishnav explained that the report consisted of unaudited FY2025-26 actuals and remained subject to final entries and audit adjustments. She explained that the auditors would also convert the financial presentation to the fund basis used for SPCSA reporting.

The presentation addressed:

- FY2025-26 budget compared with unaudited actuals;
- Revenue and expense variances;
- Cash-flow projections;
- Balance-sheet position;
- Preschool expansion costs;
- Grant reimbursements;
- FY2026-27 enrollment and budget assumptions;
- Bond-covenant considerations; and
- Audit timing and milestones.

The Board discussed revenue and expense variances, including increased local and state revenue, lower federal revenue associated with reimbursement timing, increased salary and professional-service expenses, and higher property and depreciation expenses associated with preschool expansion.

Cash Flow:
Ms. Vaishnav reported that the projected June 30 cash-on-hand position had declined from an earlier projection of approximately 41 days to approximately 20 days, primarily because of construction timing, delayed grant reimbursements, and increased project costs. The Board's stated goal was 35 days cash on hand.

The Board discussed communication with bond financing representatives concerning the cash-on-hand position and facility financing.

FY2026-27:
The Board discussed the financial implications of the preschool expansion, the leased preschool facility, modular construction, enrollment-based state funding, sixth-grade expansion, and projected enrollment.

Audit:
Ms. Vaishnav reported that FY2026 accounting had been closed and that auditors were scheduled to conduct their primary FY2026 work during the week of September 21. A draft audit was expected to be submitted to the Board by October 31, with final submission to NDE and SPCSA anticipated by December 1 following Board review and approval.

The Finance Report was received and discussed. **No separate Board action was taken.**

7. Board Retreat — Discussion/Planning

The Chair revisited the Board retreat discussed in the Executive Director's Report.

The Board discussed August 29 as the retreat date and considered holding the retreat at Camp Alamo versus on the VVA campus. The Chair reported that the cost of Camp Alamo was relatively high and that the current preference was to hold the retreat on campus.

The Board generally expressed support for holding the retreat at VVA. The location remained subject to final confirmation.

No formal motion or vote was taken.

8. Final Public Comment

Chair Duran-Valle opened the final public-comment period and again invited comments from members of the public, including participants attending remotely. The Chair stated that comments would be limited to three minutes and would not be directly addressed by the Board at that time.

No members of the public requested to speak.

Public comment was closed.

9. Adjournment

Motion: Kristina Lowrey moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Chair Eric Duran-Valle seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried by voice/raised-hand vote. No opposition was stated.

The meeting was adjourned at **7:51 p.m.**

Submitted by:
Chair, Vegas Vista Academy Board of Directors

Date of Approval: 08/29/26

Signature: