



Real Learning for Real Life®



**MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR SIATech, Inc.
SIATech and SIATech Academy South Charter High Schools
April 29, 2025**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME GUESTS

Board Chair Unaka called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. and recognized a quorum. In-person board members included Stacey Wilkins, while Elyse Burden, Jennifer Credit, Joe Herrity, Erica Alfaro, Oliver Unaka, and Asha' Jones participated virtually. Central office staff also joined in person and virtually.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion from Joe Herrity and seconded by Erica Alfaro, the Board took roll call votes to approve the Agenda for April 29, 2025, as posted:

Ayes: 7 (Herrity, Burden, Alfaro, Jones, Credit, Wilkins, and Unaka)

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

IV. CLOSED SESSION

Recess to Closed Session at 5:37 p.m.

- 1. [x] Public Employment pursuant to Gov. Code §54957(b)(1)**
Titles: Superintendent/CEO
Deputy Superintendent
- 2. [x] Conference with Labor Negotiators (Gov. Code section 54957.6)**
Agency designated representative(s): Board Chair, Oliver Unaka
Unrepresented employee Stacey Wilkins

V. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION at 6:10 p.m.

Report of Action Taken in Closed Session – None.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion from Joe Herrity and seconded by Erica Alfaro, the Board took roll call votes to approve the Consent Agenda as posted:

Ayes: 7 (Herrity, Burden, Alfaro, Jones, Credit, Wilkins, and Unaka)

APPROVED

- 3. Regular Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2025**

4. Cybersecurity Board Policy #5676 for SIATech
5. Cybersecurity Board Policy #5676 for SIATech Academy South
6. Edgenuity Curriculum Contract

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION

7. **Information:** Update on Superintendent/CEO Job Description and Search

Board Chair Unaka emphasized the importance of the Board's continued commitment to supporting the long-term success of the organization. He acknowledged that the Board is still working through several complex challenges, including budget constraints, staffing considerations, and fluctuations in average daily attendance.

In alignment with the principle of "going slower to go further," the Board is intentionally taking a more deliberate approach to decision-making. This includes seeking greater clarity and incorporating diverse perspectives from across the organization.

As part of this recalibrated approach, the Board has decided to adjust its leadership timeline and will be asking Mr. Wilkins to continue serving as Interim Superintendent for the upcoming school year.

8. **Voted:** Resolution Approving Retention Compensation for Interim Superintendent/CEO

On a motion from Joe Herrity and seconded by Asha' Jones, the Board took roll call votes to approve the Retention Compensation Resolution for Interim Superintendent/CEO:

Ayes: 5 (Herrity, Burden, Alfaro, Jones, and Unaka)

Abstain: 2 (Wilkins and Credit)

9. **Voted:** Finance & Administration Committee Updated Charter

On a motion from Stacey Wilkins and seconded by Erica Alfaro, the Board took roll call votes to approve to table the Update to the Finance & Administration Committee Charter:

Ayes: 7 (Herrity, Burden, Alfaro, Jones, Credit, Wilkins, and Unaka)

VIII. BUSINESS SERVICES ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

10. **Discussed:** Preliminary Budget

Tom Renner and Daniel provided an update on the development of next year's budget, which remains in progress and will be finalized following the May Revise. The preliminary budget is informed by the most recent P2 attendance reports and includes the step-in-class salary adjustments for both charter schools. For SIATech Academy South, current projections indicate a lower Average Daily Attendance (ADA), resulting in an estimated shortfall of approximately \$20,000 needed to fully cover expenditures. Should this additional ADA not materialize, the site will utilize a portion of its fund balance to address the projected deficit. Daniel noted that the budget will initially be built using current-year figures, with any additional revenue allocated toward prioritized "wish list" items.

In response to a Board inquiry about written business plans for each site, Stacey clarified that each campus maintains a Site Action Plan focused on student engagement and retention, which directly supports their enrollment goals. Additionally, the use of Proposition 28 Arts and Music funds was clarified, and it was noted that guidance on these funds will continue to be reinforced through monthly principal meetings.

11. For Information:

- a. SIATech and SIATech Academy South Purchase Order Reports
March 1 – March 31, 2025
- b. Monthly Financial Report – March 1 – March 31, 2025

IX. EDUCATION SERVICES

12. Community Schools Presentation

Nicole Taylor, Executive Director of Student Support Services, shared key highlights of the ongoing community schools initiatives, supported by community schools coordinators Terrance Thomas and Jose Martinez. She outlined the implementation plan, which is structured around four pillars, each with targeted strategies designed to drive student success. Specific achievements and progress related to both SIATech and SIATech Academy South were presented, showcasing the positive impact of this collaborative work.

X. REPORTS/PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

13. Superintendent's Report

- a. Principal Best Practices Presentation
German Gallardo, Principal at East Los Angeles IS, delivered a comprehensive overview of the wide-ranging activities underway at his site aimed at increasing student engagement and boosting enrollment. He emphasized the overarching theme of *Building a Home in East Los Angeles*, a vision centered on cultivating a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student feels supported by all staff members. The plan also includes the strategic development of partnerships with local organizations and neighboring schools to strengthen community ties and enhance student opportunities.

XI. BOARD CALENDAR/NEXT MEETING AGENDA

14. For Information: Proposed Agenda Items for Next Regular Meeting – May 20, 2025

- a. LCAP Public Hearing – SIATech and SIATech Academy South
- b. Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators
- c. Budget Update

XII. REMARKS FROM THE BOARD – Each Board member took a moment to share remarks and expressed appreciation to the presenters for today's updates.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:05 p.m.

Recorder: Pricilla Perez

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a short upward flick.

Asha' Jones, Secretary

05/28/2025

Date