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Bright Star Schools Board of Directors
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Bright Star Schools was held on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026** at Stella Elementary Charter Academy - Mansfield and via teleconference, pursuant to notice duly given.

On the meeting agenda, the legislative body noticed each teleconference location of each member participating in the public meeting, each teleconference location was accessible to the public, members of the public were allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, and the legislative body posted an agenda at each teleconference location. At least a quorum of the legislative body participated from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction.

In attendance at the start of the meeting were board members Andrew Murr, Dr. Roberta Benjamin-Edwards, Stephen Green, Alyce Johnson, Lois Levy, and Louisa Wee

Bright Star Schools staff in attendance were Breana Baskerville, Liliana Bustos, Angelina Calderón, Elizabeth Carter, Gene Castro, Daniel Feria, Lydia Garcia, Alexandra Lee, Ana Martinez, Emily O'Neil, Andres Paniagua, Marni Parsons, Elijah Sugay, Sebastian Valdes, Ana Vargas.

Helena Han and Joseph Daee, LAUSD-CSD Fiscal Oversight Managers, as well as Sunserae (Sunny) Keaton, LAUSD-CSD Specialist, joined as guests. Pilar Cervantes also joined as a member of the public.

1. **Call to Order and Introduction of Guests:** Andrew Murr called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. after confirming that a quorum was present.

2. **Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items**: The chair explained public comment rules and asked for public comment on non-agenda items. No comments were made at this time.

3. **Meeting Kick-off by Andres Paniagua at Stella Middle Charter Academy:** Andres Paniagua, Dean of Operations at Stella Middle Charter Academy, provided an overview of the school's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe, clear, and functional, and welcoming campus. He shared that facility repair and preventative maintenance are ongoing priorities and emphasized the importance of the student experience. Stella Middle earned a 100% Williams Facility Inspection score during the 25-26 school year. Andres also highlighted the work of the Maintenance team, noting that even newer buildings require regular upkeep due to daily use and normal settling. He expressed appreciation to the Maintenance team and other teammates across the organization who support their work.

4. **Academic Committee Report by Committee Chair Dr. Roberta Benjamin-Edwards:** Dr. Benjamin-Edwards reported that the Committee received several key updates starting with Ana Martinez's update on the 2025-2026 outcomes, including progress in student belonging, attendance, literacy, math, and teacher retention. Liliana Bustos reported on preliminary 2025-26 CAASPP results showing academic growth across ELA, Math, and Science. She also provided updates on school leadership development, professional development, instructional coaching. The Committee also received updates from Marni Parsons on student attendance and suspension, enrollment, and student support initiatives. Dr. Benjamin

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Edwards also shared that several tutoring options were reviewed by the committee and recommended approval of a $447,036 contract with Dynasty United Youth Association (DUYA) to provide after-school tutoring. She also shared that Ana Vargas provided staffing and hiring progress for 2026-2027; Angelina Calderon provided updates on 2025-2026 Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit results and charter petition renewals; and Lydia Garcia provided updates on the CharterSAFE Mandated Reporter Training and presented a Board resolution required for LACOE Williams Monitoring.

5. **Chief Executive Officer/Lead Executive Officer Presentation by Ana Martinez:** Ana Martinez provided updates on the following:
   Strategic goals update: Ana Martinez shared an update on Bright Star School's 2025-26 measurable outcomes. For the goal of Strengthening Student Voice and Belonging, Sprint-to-Spring Panorama survey results showed a 6% increase across the organization. While the growth target was not fully met, the increase was viewed as a positive outcome given challenges related to chronic absenteeism and external factors impacting students and families. For Inspire Daily Learning Through Strong Attendance, we grew in this area with some schools meeting 95% Average Daily Attendance. In the area of Strengthening Literacy Foundation and Achievement, we exceeded our goal of increasing the percentage of K-3 students reading at or above grade level by achieving an 11% increase, surpassing our 10% goal, as measured by DIBELS. For Building Mathematical Identity and Achievement, overall growth was observed across all schools, with gains in several grade levels, although results varied by school and grade. For Supporting Excellent Educators, teacher retention reached 78% at the end of July, falling short of the 85% target. Overall, one measurable outcome exceeded its target, three showed growth even if we did not fully meet their target, and one did not meet its target. Ana also shared that the measurable outcomes for 2026-27 will be focused on improving the performance of our Multi-Language Learners, Strengthening our students' sense of belonging by five percentage points, and cultivating staff as Bright Star Promoters, which will also focus on our net promoter score that we give on our pull survey data every year.

6. **Chief Instructional Officer Presentation by Liliana Bustos:** Liliana provided the following updates:
   Overview of the preliminary California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) data for 2025-2026: Liliana shared that in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science proficiency rates for all Bright Star Schools for 2025 and 2026 has shown growth across all three testing subjects.
   In ELA, preliminary data shows Bright Star Schools grew by 2.31%, with five out of nine schools improving their scores. In Math, preliminary data shows Bright Star Schools increased by 1.90%, with eight out of nine schools showing growth. In Science, preliminary data shows Bright Star Schools increased by 3.11%, with six out of seven schools showing growth. She noted that Rise Kohyang Elementary School (RKES) showed an increase of 17.42%. Overall, the preliminary data reflected continued academic progress among student groups, while also identifying opportunities for targeted interventions to further improve outcomes for historically underserved populations.
   Instructional Priorities and Updates: Liliana provided a high level overview of ongoing efforts to strengthen Tier 1 instruction through improved systems and structure grounded in John Hattie's research on collective efficacy. The work focuses on developing and coaching critical meeting structures that align organizational priorities with school-level actions, build

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leadership capacity through collaboration and coaching, and support shared problem-solving across leadership teams. These efforts are intended to strengthen the leadership pipeline, enhance teacher support and development, deepen the impact of strategic initiatives, improve organization sustainability, and promote staff retention, ultimately leading to stronger outcomes for students.

7. **Senior Vice President of Student and Family Services Presentation by Marni Parsons:** Marni presented on the following:
   Confirmed 2025-2026 Attendance:Marni presented the confirmed 2025-26 attendance data, highlighting each school's confirmed attendance rate and ADA actuals compared with the 2026-27 targets. She noted that BSS's 25-26 ADA was 93.97%, with several schools meeting or exceeding the 95% ADA target while SHCA and VAHS were below the 93% target.
   Week one attendance: Marni also provided an overview of Week One attendance across all Bright Star Schools. She shared that all schools were performing above the budgeted ADA target, with most schools exceeding the network's 95%ADA goal.
   ADA Year Over Year Comparison: Marni also reviewed trends across all schools over the past three school years and noted that ADA performance remains strong and has shown improvement compared to prior years.
   2025-2026 Suspension Targets and Actuals Analysis: Marni shared a comparison of the suspension data for each of the nine bright star schools and their 25-26 targets and actuals. She explained that Rise Kohyang Elementary School, Stella Elementary School, Valor Academy Elementary School, and Valor Academy Middle School met or exceeded their targets. Rise Kohyang Middle School, Rise Kohyang High School, and Valor Academy High School missed their targets slightly. Stella Middle Charter Academy and Stella High Charter Academy were significantly below their goal. Our number one recurring incident of suspension is physical injury threats and actions and repeated substance use.

8. **Vice President of People Presentation by Ana Vargas:** Ana shared updates on the staffing, retention, and hiring efforts for the 2026-27 school year. She shared that there has been an increase in teacher retention, which improved from 68% in June to 78% in July, while overall staff retention dropped slightly from 75% to 73%. Retention data was reviewed by school site, with several schools demonstrating strong year-over-year improvements. Teacher hiring remained a key area of focus, with 49 of 51 teaching positions filled, putting us at 96%. Most school sites were fully staffed, with only two remaining vacancies for Physics Teachers. Overall, the update reflected significant progress toward fully staffing schools for the start of the academic year while continuing efforts to fill the remaining critical positions.

9. **Public Hearing: LACOE Williams Monitoring**
   Lydia Garcia presented the Board resolution of sufficiency, a requirement as part of the Williams settlement and as part of the submission of instructional materials in preparation for the LACOE Williams Monitoring visits.
   Andrew Murr announced that the public hearing for the Williams monitoring and instructional materials was in session and allowed the public to provide their comments. There being no questions or comments during today's public hearing, Andrew called for a motion to approve the Board Resolution presented during today's public hearing. Louisa Wee Moved and

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Marisol Leon seconded the motion. The votes to approve the Board resolution were recorded as follows:

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Andrew Murr	☑	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Marissiko Wheaton-Greer	☐	☐	☐	☑
Jennifer Cole	☐	☐	☐	☑
Lois Levy	☑	☐	☐	☐
Louisa Wee	☑	☐	☐	☐
Marisol León	☑	☐	☐	☐
Stephen Green	☑	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Roberta Benjamin	☑	☐	☐	☐
Alyce Johnson	☑	☐	☐	☐
David Chang	☐	☐	☐	☑
Total	7	0	0	3
Motion Carries?	Yes			

10. **Governance Committee Report by Andrew Murr, Board and Committee Chair:** Andrew reported that the Governance Committee received several updates during their meeting on September 2. He shared that Ana Martinez provided updates on the 2025-2026 measurable outcomes and on the 2026-2027 three measurable outcomes. Andrew shared that Angelina Calderon presented the LAUSD Annual-Performance Based Oversight Scores for each Bright Star School as well as the timeline and milestone for the five schools that are up for renewal this year. He thanked Cynthia Trigueros, Principal of Rise Kohyang High School, for representing Bright Star Schools at the LAUSD Public Hearing last month. The Committee also reviewed the revised Code of Conflict of Interest to reflect title changes for four staff members. They also received an update from Lydia Garcia on Board member attendance at Board meetings during the 2025-2026 school year and the status of Board members' completion of the CharterSAFE Mandated Reporter Training.

11. **Chief Executive Officer/Lead Executive Officer Presentation by Ana Martinez:** Ana Martinez provided an update on the following:

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BSS Board Retreat: Ana informed the Board that the annual BSS Board retreat is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Valor Academy Elementary School and reminded them to RSVP with Lydia Garcia.

12. **Manager of Compliance and Special Projects Presentation by Lydia Garcia:** Lydia Garcia provided updates on the following:
    Board Member Attendance: Lydia reported that eight of ten board members meet or exceed the board covenant requirements around attendance to board meetings. Only two board members were below the required attendance for board meetings at the end of school year 2025-26.
    CharterSAFE Mandated Reporter Training: Lydia reported that all Board members completed the online training on time and thanked them for their continued support, participation and commitment to effective governance and oversight.

13. **Vice President of Public Affairs Presentation by Angelina Calderon:** Angelina provided updates on the following:
    2025-26 Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit scores: Angelina reported that in the area of Governance, all schools received a rating of 3 – *Proficient*. In the area of Student Achievement and Educational Performance, all schools except SMCA and VAMS received a rating of 3 – *Proficient*. In the area of Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations, five of the nine schools received a 3 – *Proficient*, while the remaining four earned a 4 – *Accomplished*. In Fiscal Operations, all schools received a 2 – *Developing*. This score was impacted by the Notice of Concern and this also impacted the score in the area of Governance.
    Charter Renewal Update: Angelina outlined the timeline and key milestones for the 2026 charter renewal process, including petition development, submission, public hearings engagement with LAUSD regarding recommended revisions, and final Board action.
    Conflict of Interest Code: Angelina shared that the Governance Committee reviewed the revised Conflict of Interest Code and was asked to make a recommendation to the Board for approval. The proposed changes were limited to updating several staff position titles to align with the current organizational structure. The work of staff whose titles changed will remain the same.
    Approval of the Change Order of Statement of Work for the Aspiring Principals of Color Fellowship (APOC) 26-27 Cohort: Angelina shared the the Finance Committee received a presentation on a proposed change order to the Statement of Work for the Aspiring Principals of Color (APOC) 2027 Cohort. The Committee reviewed the increased participation in the program and was informed that Bright Star Schools proposes to support eight current employees as fellowship candidates during the 2026-27 school year at a total cost of $228,000. She noted that there is no out-of-pocket cost to either participating fellows or Bright Star Schools and recommended approval of the change order to the 2027 cohort.
    Consideration and approval of BSS Board Resolution Supporting Submission of an application to CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Angelina reported that the Finance Committee received a presentation on a proposed Board resolution supporting BSS' application for the CAL FIRE Aliso Canyon Green Schoolyards Grant, which awarded, the grant would provide approximately $1.5 million to support outdoor space improvements at three Valor campuses, including expanded tree canopy, shade structures, climate-appropriate landscaping, and other nature-based enhancements.

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14. **Finance Committee Report by Louisa Wee, Finance Committee Chair:** Louisa Wee reported that Ana Martinez provided updates on the organization's strategic goals, highlighting strong progress in both school culture and academics. She also shared that Sebastian Valdes presented ADA trends, noting that attendance remains strong despite some variation from the prior year. Enrollment is also trending positively, exceeding budgeted projections by nearly 60 students and surpassing enrollment at the same time last year by approximately 200 students.The Committee reviewed a tutoring back up vendor, which will be presented to the Board for approval during today's meeting. Louisa also shared that Elijah Sugay provided a detailed overview of the school budgets and he will go over that during today's meeting. Overall, all schools are in good standing from a budget perspective.

15. **Senior Vice President of Operations Presentation by Sebastian Valdes:** Sebastian Valdes provided updates on the following:
    2025-26 School Enrollment Overview: Sebastian shared an enrollment overview, explaining that BSS had 3,898 students enrolled as of Day 5 of the new school year, which is 56 students above the budgeted enrollment and 210 students higher than the same point last year. He highlighted that enrollment is currently exceeding expectations and has started the year above budget, reflecting positive enrollment trends across the organization. Sebastian also noted that operations, instruction, and finance teams adjusted this year's enrollment baseline to reflect current enrollment trends and student attrition, resulting in a more conservative and sustainable budget forecast.
    Proposal for Sub Vendor - Trade Winds: Sebastian presented a proposal to add Trade Winds as an additional substitute teacher vendor to provide greater flexibility in meeting staffing needs. He reviewed the vendor's rates compared to the organization's current substitute provider.
    Tutoring Contract: Sebastian also reviewed three tutoring provider proposals and recommended Dynasty's United Youth Association (DUYA) as the preferred tutoring partner based on its ability to provide in-person services, structured student progress monitoring, and its established partnership with Bright Star Schools.

16. **Chief Finance Officer Presentation by Elijah Sugay**: Elijah Sugay updated the Committee on the following:
    2026-27 Budgets Elijah presented preliminary budgets recap, which were presented in detail at the June 23, 2026 Board meeting. He also reported that the final budgets reflect stable net incomes across most school sites, with assumptions including a budgeted Average Daily Attendance (ADA) rate of 92.9%, a 4.31% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and an increase in AB 602 funding. He noted that quite a few of our schools have gone beyond their 1% net income target receive requirements. We expect Valor Academy Elementary School and Stella High Charter Academy to exceed their budgeted enrollment targets due to an increase in enrollment from what we had budgeted back in June. Valor Academy Middle School and Valor Academy High School still hold the positive amount from where their 1% net income target is. Elijah shared that Rise Kohyang Elementary School (RKES) will require a $240,000 grant from BOT to meet net income requirements. This is in addition to the $260,000 in one-time funds the school is utilizing to address enrollment-related budget gaps. Elijah also reviewed the BSS' FY27 starting budget, reporting approximately $89.2 million in revenue, $87.7 million in expenses, and a projected net income of about $1.5 million,

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reflecting a stronger starting position than the prior year due to higher anticipated revenue and lower budgeted expenses.
Update: Notice of Concern (NOC): Elijah shared that staff training requirements have been finalized and documented, a corrective action tracking system has been developed, and a formal response package has been submitted to LAUSD. Bright Star Schools is currently in the final audit phase and continues to coordinate with ExEd. The Board Chair asked if there was anything BSS could do to ensure we are aligned with the current timeline. Elijah shared that he and his team will continue to provide updates to the Committee and the Board.
Facilities Updates: Elijah shared that a project manager has been hired to help move along the Stella Elementary Charter Academy (SECA) related project. He also shared that Bright Star Schools continues to explore other potential sites for Stella High Charter Academy (SHCA).

17. **Chief Finance Officer Presentation by Elijah Sugay**: Elijah Sugay updated the Committee on the following:
2026-2027 Local Control and Accountability Plans: Elijah Sugay reported that the LCAPs for Rise Kohyang Elementary School, Valor Academy Elementary School, Stella Elementary Charter Academy, and Stella High Charter Academy were revised to reflect updated financial information. The revisions were needed to correct how certain funds carried over from the 2025-26 school year to the 2026-27 school year were reported and to ensure the financial information in the plans was accurate.

There being no comments or questions from members of the public or BSS board members about the revised LCAPs, Andrew Murr called for a motion to approve the revised LCAPs for Rise Kohyang Elementary School, Valor Academy Elementary School, Stella Elementary Charter Academy, and Stella High Charter Academy. Dr. Roberta Benjamin-Edwards moved and Lois Levy seconded the motion. The votes for all four LCAPs were recorded as follows:

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Andrew Murr	☑	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Marissiko Wheaton-Greer	☐	☐	☐	☑
Jennifer Cole	☐	☐	☐	☑
Lois Levy	☑	☐	☐	☐
Louisa Wee	☑	☐	☐	☐
Marisol León	☑	☐	☐	☐
Stephen Green	☑	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Roberta Benjamin	☑	☐	☐	☐

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Alyce Johnson	☑	☐	☐	☐
David Chang	☐	☐	☐	☑
Total	7	0	0	3
Motion Carries?	Yes			

18. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Andrew Murr asked if any board members wished to remove items on the consent agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda as follows:

Governance

- Minutes of the BSS Board meeting (second meeting) on June 23,2026
- Minutes of the Academic Committee meeting on August 31, 2026
- Minutes of the Governance Committee meeting on September 1, 2026
- Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on September 3, 2026
- Amendment to Conflict of Interest Code

Finance and Facilities

- 2026-27 Budgets
- Approval of the Change Order of Statement of Work for the Aspiring Principals of Color Fellowship (APOC) 26-27 Cohort
- Approval of BSS Board Resolution Authorizing Submission of an Application to CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Operations

- Tutoring Contract: Dynasty's United Youth Association (DUYA) After School Tutoring
- Proposal for Sub Vendor - Trade Winds

Alyce Johnson moved to approve all items on the consent agenda, and Lois Levy seconded the motion. Votes were then recorded as follows:

Board Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Andrew Murr	☑	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Marissiko Wheaton-Greer	☐	☐	☐	☑
Jennifer Cole	☐	☐	☐	☑
Lois Levy	☑	☐	☐	☐
Louisa Wee	☑	☐	☐	☐

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Marisol León	☑	☐	☐	☐
Stephen Green	☑	☐	☐	☐
Dr. Roberta Benjamin	☑	☐	☐	☐
Alyce Johnson	☑	☐	☐	☐
David Chang	☐	☐	☐	☑
Total	7	0	0	3
Motion Carries?	Yes			

19. **Closed Session:** ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Pursuant to Gov. Code s. 54956.9(d)(2): One matter. At 5:58 PM, all Board members in attendance, Ana Martinez, Elijah Sugay, Marni Parsons, Angelina Calderon, and Lydia Garcia went into a closed session. At 6:16 PM, everyone returned from the closed session. There was no reportable action to report from the closed session.

20. **Closed Session:** PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Gov. Code section 54957(b)(1).) Title: Lead Executive Officer. At 6:17 PM, all Board members in attendance, Ana Martinez, Elijah Sugay, Angelina Calderon, and Lydia Garcia went into a closed session. At 6:33 PM, everyone returned from the closed session. There was no reportable action to report from the closed session.

21. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, Andrew Murr called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lois Levy moved, and Alyce Johnson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Signed by: andrew Murr 7746144674444C1...
Andrew Murr, Board Chair

DocuSigned by: Lydia Garcia 32B1B3530B8A48E...
Lydia Garcia, Manager of Compliance & Special Projects & Board Secretary