MIAMI ARTS CHARTER SCHOOL

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14th, 2026
Location: Listening Room, 1st Floor
Time: 1:00 PM

Present:

- Dr. Raymond Kimsey, Board Chair
- Ms. Jennifer Kenney, Secretary
- Mr. Julio Bague, Board Member
- Mr. Alfredo de la Rosa, Principal
- Ms. Carolina Torres, Asst. Principal
- Mr. Oscar Solorzano, Asst. Principal
- Ms. Valerie Barreiro, Asst. Principal
- Mr. Noel Puig, CFO
- Ms. Venessa Vargas, Administrative Asst.

1. Opening and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Raymond Kimsey at 1:15 P.M.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on January 29, 2026, were reviewed and approved unanimously.

3. Financials & Budgets

Mr. Noel Puig presented the financial report and discussed the draft budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Mr. de la Rosa, through New Way Schools, has drafted the 2026-2027 budget, which incorporates the costs of launching the Classical Education program alongside continuing AP Capstone and arts offerings. The deadline to submit the final budget is August 1, 2026, with approval scheduled for the July board meeting.

Mr. Puig confirmed that the FY2024-2025 independent annual financial audit under Florida Statute 218.39 has been finalized and submitted to the Auditor General and the FDOE Charter School Portal, with no material findings reported.

4. Public Comments

Members of the public were invited to provide comments. No speakers were present.

5. Action and Discussion Items

PM3 Results Review- The board reviewed and discussed the PM3 results. Mr. de la Rosa provided encouraging comments regarding positive outcomes across most subject areas and noted continued focus on science scores heading into the final testing window.

Auditions for New Student Acceptance- Ms. Barreiro discussed the recent auditions for new student acceptance for the 2026-2027 school year, emphasizing the importance of maintaining high standards.

June FTE Preparation- Ms. Venessa Vargas reminded the board that FDOE FTE Survey 4 (survey week June 15-19, 2026) is due July 3, 2026, and that preparations are underway.

Adoption of Drug-Free Workplace Policy (MACS-HR-1124)- Mr. de la Rosa presented the newly drafted Drug-Free Workplace Policy package (Policy MACS-HR-1124), developed after M-DCPS discontinued its in-house drug testing service for charter schools. The policy is modeled on M-DCPS Policy 1124, designates LabCorp as the primary testing vendor with an external Medical Review Officer, and carries an effective date of July 8, 2026. The board reviewed the policy and approved it as presented, unanimously (3-0).

Approval of 2026-2027 Annual Employment Offer Letter Template- Mr. de la Rosa presented the 2026-2027 conditional annual employment offer letter template for the board's review, to be used for the school's pending new hires. The board reviewed and approved the template as presented, unanimously (3-0).

Classical Education School Development Plan — Final Readiness- Mr. de la Rosa confirmed that the Classical Education School Development Plan is fully finalized ahead of its August 2026 date, with both the Day 1 and Day 2 agendas complete. The board discussed final logistics ahead of the school's transition to the Classical Education model for the 2026-2027 school year.

Flagler College Partnership Update- Mr. de la Rosa provided an update on the school's partnership with Flagler College, noting that the college has agreed to provide MAC with nationally-ranked guest speakers and trainers regarding the new Classical Education program. He stated that now that the school will have a system in place to train its own teachers in classical education, MAC will be able to request classical teaching certificates for its staff pursuant to Florida law. He added that MAC will provide ongoing professional development in classical education all year long, every year.

Screen-Free Philosophy, AI Position, and Vision/Mission Review- Mr. de la Rosa also mentioned that the school will develop a philosophy to support MAC becoming a "screen-free" school, as well as a formal position on artificial intelligence and the school's broader educational values. He noted that the school's vision and mission statements will also be reviewed and repurposed to reflect these new values and direction.

Campus Branding and Beautification Plan — Rationale- Mr. de la Rosa brought forth a proposal to significantly improve the school campus. He noted that the campus has never received an overall branding design since its original construction, due to financial constraints, and that the walls throughout most of the building remain plain white. He stated that students, teachers, and parents have consistently expressed that this was an area in need of improvement. Mr. de la Rosa specifically noted that the school's stairwells have become a significant eyesore, citing years of plain white construction-grade paint on the walls and raw, unfinished, untreated concrete flooring on the stairs, which have become very unseemly. He reported that this year, for the first time, students began writing on the stairwell walls with markers, which had never previously occurred, and stated that he interpreted this as a sign that students did not see value in the condition of the status quo — an indirect message that the space was being treated as a "wasteland." He further noted that the stairwells have become difficult for the school's small maintenance crew to maintain and are in serious need of an upgrade.

Campus Branding and Beautification Plan — Stairwell Renovation Proposal- Mr. de la Rosa proposed repainting the stairwell walls with higher-quality paint and installing new commercial-grade epoxy flooring on the stairs throughout all stairwells. He noted that, once complete, the school could plan and consider mural designs and projects to further beautify these areas through the school's student Visual Arts Department.

Campus Branding and Beautification Plan — Building-Wide Branding and Thematic Design- Mr. de la Rosa also presented a broader vision for the school to invest in a major branding and beautification project throughout the campus, including installing colored, highly-designed graphic wraps and murals throughout all areas of the school. This includes professional, high-end graphic wraps to enhance the school's hallways and common areas; walls dedicated to curated student artwork strategically placed throughout the school; and graphic references to themes based on classical education (such as Truth and Virtue), citizenship, the arts, and the school's vision and mission, along with arts-themed designs on classroom doors. Mr. de la Rosa also raised the need for the school to respond to the ongoing development of artificial intelligence, noting that students are clearly concerned about it, and stated that the school's new Classical Education program is more appropriate than ever, as it represents a reawakening of what it means to be human in an age of super technology. The board discussed how the branding and beautification project could help visibly reinforce this message throughout the campus.

Campus Branding and Beautification Plan — Exterior Murals- Mr. de la Rosa proposed having students in the Visual Arts Department design and paint themed murals on the exterior walls of the school to reflect the school's new identity as a fine arts and classical institution.

Multi-Faceted Library and Reading Resources System- Mr. de la Rosa called for the board to approve adopting a multi-faceted library and reading resources system, to include: an "Encore Library" on the fourth floor; multiple cabinets housing over 5,000 books throughout the building; a library management system; a collection of classical education Great Books for teachers to cycle at all grade levels; approximately 150 Kindles to be housed in classrooms and loaded with Great Books titles available through Project Gutenberg (public domain); and a system for teaching students how to access the Miami-Dade Public Library online for free. He also announced that the school will be launching a campaign through Amazon wishlists through which parents may donate books directly to the school as it develops its library resources program.

Rooftop Deck and Sixth-Floor Renovations- Mr. de la Rosa noted that the artificial turf on the sixth floor is in quite bad shape and recommended it be replaced. He also noted that the dining tables and chairs on the rooftop deck are now over ten years old and have been exposed to the elements for the entire time, and that the rooftop deck is now looking unseemly for students and parents. He recommended replacing this furniture as part of the overall beautification plan.

Middle School Dance Room Renovation- Mr. de la Rosa recommended renovating the middle school dance room to match the same level of design as the high school dance room, including a new marley dance floor cover, a new suspended dance floor, improved LED lighting, and all new paint in the room.

Visual Arts and Film Program Facilities Upgrade- Mr. de la Rosa noted that the visual art classrooms have not received an equipment upgrade in many years and requested that the school invest significantly in art room FF&E, including new art tables for student use and high-quality storage cabinets for student work and equipment. He also requested moving the film program to a larger room on the sixth floor and removing the dividing wall of the current film room to increase space for both the visual arts and film programs.

Campus Branding and Beautification Plan — Budget Proposal and Approval- Mr. de la Rosa submitted a budget proposal indicating the expenses that would be incurred in order to implement the school improvements discussed above. Mr. de la Rosa emphasized that, if approved, this would be a turning point year for the school — not only because the school is committing to becoming a classical institution dedicated to school improvement and excellence, but because it would be investing significantly in a re-branding of the school itself and actively implementing the plan. He urged the board on the importance of this investment in order for the school to remain competitive and relevant in support of enrollment and its vision. Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. de la Rosa's Campus Branding and Beautification Plan and the associated budget as presented, with funding to be drawn from the school's reserves. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Kitchen Renovations, Parking Garage, and Facilities Improvements- Facilities projects, including any kitchen, HVAC, or parking improvements planned for the summer, will begin as soon as school ends. Mr. Puig confirmed that, with ESSER grant funds now fully expended, these projects will be funded through the school's capital reserve allocation within the 2026-2027 budget.

Summer Camps and Tutoring- The board reviewed summer camp plans for 2026. Given the school's focus on dedicating time and resources to the renovation and beautification projects discussed above, the school will only be running the Joffrey Ballet camp this summer, with other camp offerings paused for the season.

6. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was reviewed and approved without any objections.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Jennifer Kenney

By: Jennifer Kenney, Board Secretary

Miami Arts Charter School MAC Miami Arts Charter School