PPEP TEC HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DATE: October 5, 2026
TIME: 6:10 PM
LOCATION: Zoom Meeting and Conference Call
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83835138964?pwd=2EAkSkWahTePaonxqbr4z0JIwijgSg.1

In Attendance - Board Via Zoom
Maria Chavez, Board President
Dr. Celestino Fernandez, Board Member
Gertha Brown-Hurd, Board Member
Linda Dailing, Board Member
Maritza Lynn Higuera, Board Member
Dr. Ricardo Castro-Salazar, Board Member

In Attendance - Administration Via Zoom
Monica Berumen, PTHS Superintendent
Troy Carpenter, PTHS Director of Business Operations
Barbara Coronado, Interim CEO

CALL TO ORDER -*Roll call is conducted by Superintendent Berumen.*

Board members Linda Dailing, Gertha Brown-Hurd, Maritza Lynn Higuera, Dr. Ricardo Castro-Salazar, Dr. Celestino Fernandez, and President Maria Chavez all confirm they are present. Quorum is confirmed with all six members present and Madam President Maria Chavez calls the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. President Chavez expresses appreciation for the board members' dedication and commitment to the schools.

OLD BUSINESS

I. Approval of the July 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes – Action Item

The motion is made to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 meeting by board member Celestino Fernandez and seconded by board member Linda Dailing. No discussion is raised. All board members present vote in the affirmative; the motion is carried.

UPDATES

II. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Berumen presents an update on district initiatives. Through the School Safety Program grant, every campus now has an assigned officer, and discipline incidents have decreased. She also reports on community events, collaboration with area middle schools, community partnerships, and campus open houses and cultural activities. President Chavez asks about local radio as a free channel for enrollment outreach, and Superintendent Berumen confirms the Jose Yepez Learning Center has used radio outreach. No action is taken.

III. Cognia Accreditation Virtual Review

Superintendent Berumen reports that the Cognia Accreditation Virtual Review is scheduled for October 29-30, 2026, and requires at least one board member to take part in an interview-style session on October 29. Board member Dr. Ricardo Castro-Salazar expresses interest and requests details by email. Superintendent Berumen will email information to all board members. No action is taken.

NEW BUSINESS

IV. FY2026 Internal Financial Review

Mr. Carpenter presents FY2026 year-end results. Despite an ADM drop of approximately 100 students, the district ended FY2026 with a net income of approximately $100,000, exceeding the revised budget target of $47,000, and met all Charter Association financial benchmarks. Final ADM was 623. Results varied by site, with Raul Castro posting the largest gain (+$211,000) and Colin Powell (-$82,000) and Jose Yepez (-$108,000) the largest losses. The presentation is on file. No action is taken.

V. Approval of the FY2026 Annual Financial Report (AFR) – Action Item

Mr. Carpenter reviews the FY2026 Annual Financial Report, submitted through the state's new web portal. Revenue totaled $8.6 million, and M&O expenses were $6.5 million, down $450,000 from the prior year. Mr. Carpenter reports two minor data entry errors, in the SPED recap and ESSER tabs, that will be corrected before the final signed version is distributed; the corrections do not affect net income or reserve balances. At the request of Dr. Castro-Salazar, Superintendent Berumen will share the presentation slides with the board. The presentation is on file.

The motion is made to approve the FY2026 Annual Financial Report as presented, with the two minor data entry errors to be corrected by Mr. Carpenter and the revised version distributed to board members for electronic signature, by board member Dr. Celestino Fernandez and seconded by board member Dr. Ricardo Castro-Salazar. All board members present vote in the affirmative. The motion is carried.

VI. FY2027 Financial Outlook and Enrollment

Mr. Carpenter reports that current ADM is 516, compared to 623 at the end of FY2026, and that the district projects a loss of approximately $659,000 for FY2027 if no action is taken, against a budgeted profit of $400,000. The Jose Yepez Learning Center is projected to lose $287,000, largely due to competition from a newly opened high school in Somerton. Staff will present updated financials and a multi-scenario plan at a Special Board Meeting.

VII. Scheduling of Special Board Meeting

The board agrees to hold a virtual Special Board Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 5:00 PM to review September financials and a proposed plan. Superintendent Berumen will post the public notice.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. -No public comment was received.

ADJOURN- Madam President, Maria Chavez

Meeting adjourned by Board President Maria Chavez at 8:04pm

October 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes