LARAEC Executive Board	**Minutes- Regular Board Meeting** Thursday, September 24, 2026 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM In person at teleconferencing locations and via Zoom

Executive Board Members in		Point Person Team Members		Staff	
Juan Noguera, Burbank USD	X	Yanira Chavez, BUSD	X	Dr. Francisco Narciso, Interim Project Director	X
Dr. Dionne Garner, CCUSD	X	Paul Karaiakoubian, Ed.D, CCUSD	X	Dr. Michele Stiehl, Advisor	X
Dr. James Lancaster, LACCD	X	Dr. Adrienne Ann Mullen, LACCD	X	Justin Gorence, Advisor	X
Matthew Oberlander, Los Angeles USD (alternate)	X	Megan Carroll, LAUSD	X	Rey Rodriguez, Budget Analyst	X
Deanna Plascencia, Montebello USD	X	Elvis Carias, MUSD	X	Teresa Plaza, Secretary	

1 **Call to Order**	a. Mr. Noguera called the meeting to order with quorum at 1:03pm.	Juan Noguera
	1.1 Pledge of Allegiance a. Mr. Gorence led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. **1.2 Approval of the agenda** a. There were no requests to adjust the agenda. The agenda stood as printed. **1.3 Items for future agendas – The Board President will request items for future board meetings** a. There were no requests for future agenda items. **1.4 Approval of Minutes** **Regular meeting: August 21, 2026** a. There were no requests for changes, and the minutes stood as published. b. Mr. Noguera announced that Matthew Oberlander would be representing LAUSD as a school-board-approved alternate and reminded the board of his rights as a board member for discussion and voting.	Juan Noguera
2 **Public Comment**	a. Mr. Gorence saw no requests for public comment electronically, and there were no requests for public comment at the teleconferencing locations.	Justin Gorence

3 **Information and Staff Reports**	3.1 Review upcoming CAEP due dates and reminders. a. Mr. Rodriguez reviewed upcoming dates for submitting reports in NOVA. 3.2 LARAEC Events Update a. Mr. Gorence summarized the Allied Health Collaborative on September 12th, saying it was a very successful event and thanking Dr. Mullen for making the Van De Kamp center available as a venue. i. He described the variety of speakers at the event, as well as the overwhelmingly positive response to the event from students, member districts, and attendees from outside LARAEC who participated. ii. Mr. Noguera attended the event and said it was very impressive and shared a comment he received from a Glendale Community College member of how impressive the event was, noting the participation is improving every year. iii. Mr. Oberlander echoed Mr. Noguera's sentiments, saying it was the first time he had attended and he was really impressed as well. b. Mr. Gorence added that the next event coming up is the LARAEC Experience 2026 conference on October 10th at the Universal Sheraton hotel. i. He explained how to register and noted that the conference is a day of appreciation, acknowledgment, and awards for their member district personnel. ii. Mr. Gorence also broke down the highlights of the convention including presenters and community partners that will be in the engagement zone of the conference. iii. He also encouraged board members to participate and to submit any speakers or VIPs they would like to include in the conference. iv. Dr. Stiehl added that they will be delivering conference materials to all member district sites this week. She encouraged member districts to push the conference to bump up attendance.	Rey Rodriguez Justin Gorence
4 **Public Comment**	a. Mr. Gorence saw no requests for public comment electronically, and there were no requests for public comment at the teleconferencing locations.	Justin Gorence
5 **Discussion and Action Items**	**5.1 Discussion Item: Review structure and hours for the 2026- 27 Action Planning Teams** a. Dr. Stiehl explained that the APTs are part of their annual planning and gave background on the creation and structuring process. The	Michele Stiehl

	structure and hours are presented to the board since it will affect the budget and scheduling for district staff who are participating. b. Dr. Stiehl broke down key considerations for the three 2026-2027 Action Planning Teams: Counseling and Transitions, Student Support, and Onboarding New Teachers. i. Considerations included the number of meetings and the hours expected of members, task leaders, and co-chairs. She also explained the number of hours districts participated in the APT's last year for comparison. **5.2 Discussion: Review LARAEC Monitoring Procedures for the Full Scope Review of 2025-26 Fiscal Year.** a. Dr. Narciso introduced the topic and gave context for the review, a part of LARAEC's established monitoring procedures. This review will be a full-scope review for the last school year, 2025-2026. b. He explained the full-scope review's position within their 3-year planning cycle, taking place in year 2. i. Districts continue to complete self-monitoring work as in years 1 and 3, but year 2 adds an independent review conducted by an outside contractor. c. He also compared the extent and scope of the district self-monitoring work vs. the full-scope review. He also introduced and explained a proposed implementation timeline for the next several months, breaking down the full-scope review by tasks. d. Mr. Oberlander asked if the monitoring packet had been given to member districts, since the timeline said it would happen in September. Dr. Narciso explained that the packets were already distributed to the point persons in one of the point persons meetings, and that the board has until November to fill them out. e. Mr. Noguera asked when the last full-scope review was done, and Dr. Stiehl confirmed that it was done in fall 2023. **5.3 Discussion Item: Update on progress with the LA Care partnership, upcoming activities, and possible agreements.** a. Dr. Stiehl gave background on the item and the LA Care partnership, explaining that HR1 led to new changes to federal laws that will require Medi-Cal recipients to show that they meet a new work requirement by working for 20 hours, participating in an education program, or volunteering for 20 hours in order to maintain benefits. i. This led to them connecting to Dr. Lancaster and partnering with LARAEC during Round 3 of the ELL pathways grant funding. b. They have started working with them to accommodate their beneficiaries and connect them to LARAEC's resources and educational opportunities for low-cost or no-cost.	Francisco Narciso Michele Stiehl

	i. They were able to find money to pay for subsidies for students for programs that still came with price tags attached. c. They are currently working on finding pathways that streamline the process to: i. Ensure students are funded and in class without delay ii. That funds are allocated to districts and schools where needed AND being utilized iii. Ensure school bookstores do not have to fund supplies out of pocket with long reimbursements timelines iv. Work inside district structures and existing foundations d. Dr. Narciso explained that currently they are meeting with individual districts to assess interest, capability, and whether they need an MOU between LA Care and their districts and consortium. i. They are also figuring out what kind of data reporting LA Care needs and how to standardize student documents. ii. LA Care is also creating a list of specific pathways they would like to subsidize. e. Mr. Noguera thought this partnership was very exciting and that it would open the door for many people who are lacking opportunities, though there are many logistical hurdles to be solved. **5.4 Discussion Item: Share possible protocols for the October board discussions related to carryover and effectiveness and share draft of data that will be available to all districts.** a. Dr. Stiehl explained that they will be talking in October about carryover and member effectiveness as they did last October, and the intent of the agenda item is to prepare people for those conversations. b. She would like to show the board some of the charts and data available for those conversations so they are not waiting until the board packet in October. They will not be getting into the data itself today, but staff wanted to show the board a preview of that data so they can use it as they prepare for those conversations in October. c. She introduced and explained the Excel workbook that featured the carryover report as well as historical carryover data, member effectiveness calculation, and historical effectiveness calculation data. i. She also explained what the agenda items for discussion and then action related to carryover and effectiveness for the October meeting and possible actions and discussion for November and beyond. d. Ms. Plascencia asked when MUSD would have to submit their presentation regarding their growth data, and Dr. Stiehl said they	Michele Stiehl

	should be turned in at the same time that agenda items are due, October 14th. e. Mr. Oberlander asked for clarification where it says "determine actions" in November and beyond, what that means since there are numerous things listed. i. Dr. Stiehl explained that they left the "actions" up to board discussion so they can work out what corrective actions might look like. They do not stipulate anything specifically within their bylaws. ii. She noted that it could be in October that the board does not find that any district has been consistently ineffective, in which case that November item will not be there. f. Ms. Plascencia asked, if MUSD presents that they are showing growth and moving toward effectiveness during the October meeting, whether they would then ask the board to vote that they are not ineffective. i. Dr. Stiehl confirmed, adding that the member effectiveness calculation is done only to put an item on the agenda, and the calculation itself does not determine that a member district is ineffective. This is because effectiveness is very much grounded in circumstances. g. Mr. Oberlander commented that these discussions are very serious and impact a lot of people's jobs. So if they get to November they should make sure member districts that might still be in challenging positions or trying to recover and grow really have a strong voice in making those decisions. He thinks their goal collectively is for all member districts to be successful and for their ability to serve students to be as wide and broad and expansive as possible. He is hoping they handle those discussions with sensitivity and the equity of students in mind. **5.5 Discussion: Next Steps for hiring a LARAEC Project Director.** a. Mr. Gorence explained the genesis of this agenda item, added that between June when this item was requested and now, the project director position was vacated, so they are making the transition from having a general conversation to having a conversation about moving forward with the hiring process. b. The outcome here today is two things: i. One is to create a shared understanding with the board on the kind of items they will have to take a look at and make decisions about ii. And two is to talk a little about what the timing might look like for the board. iii. He reminded the board that the bylaws give them broad authority on how to handle things.	Justin Gorence

c. He explained that the bylaws suggest different articulation points for how they will articulate the hiring process and summarized these areas for consideration.
    i. He explained that the board will work with the employer of record to agree on the job posting for the board's final approval.
d. He summarized the basic process suggested and asked whether the board would like to schedule a special meeting to look at that process.
e. Mr. Noguera's opinion was that they should try to have a special meeting to avoid waiting too long.
f. Dr. Garner thought they should have a special meeting as well given the other meetings are so packed with items.
g. Dr. Lancaster asked if the employer of record has to be LAUSD, and if it is required to be LAUSD he would like to see a presentation on their hiring protocols and how they'll incorporate the board's responses.
    i. Mr. Gorence said that the bylaws do not require the project director to come from the current employer of record. Beyond that in terms of the employer of record ensuring or guaranteeing the board's opinion, he might defer to Mr. Oberlander on that.
    ii. He also reminded them that the previous executive director of LAUSD was able to work out with the oard a protocol around making a recommendation and that it would be honored.
    iii. Dr. Lancaster said that it sounds like they have to make a decision first about who is going to be the employer of record for the exec director first.
h. Mr. Oberlander agreed with Dr. Lancaster on the first question. He thinks there are probably some natural benefits to keeping it LAUD in some ways. As far as the second, LAUSD is happy to do a presentation and provide the information about how the hiring process would play out with LAUSD.
    i. He also thinks they should have those discussions in a special meeting.
    ii. He also thought that they could not make guarantees, but that he hoped that at the meeting they could co construct what the process would look like.
i. Mr. Noguera said it sounds like they should have a special meeting. He also asks about the protocols the director would follow and the district currently the employer of record. Mr. Gorence clarified the relevant passage/page.
j. Ms. Plascencia agreed with Dr. Lancaster and would like to open the discussion up on discussing the employer's funding or future funding.

k. Mr. Noguera confirmed that the member districts agreed there should be a special meeting about this item. Mr. Gorence added that the staff looked at scheduling and anticipated there might be a possibility of a special meeting. October is quite busy with the conference coming up but they took a look at the first week of November as a possibility for the special meeting. He asked if the board members would be available Thursday, November 5th.
    i. Dr Lancaster was not available on the 5th.
    ii. Finally, they asked to hold the afternoon of the 3rd or the 6th if it works for the board members.
    iii. Dr. Lancaster suggested they send out a poll with options for different times on different dates and bring a suggestion back to the board. Or they could do an ad hoc meeting then come back to the board with a suggestion.
    iv. Ms. Plascencia said either November 3rd or 6th works for MUSD.
    v. Dr. Garner leaded towards a special meeting over an ad hoc one because she doesn't have that much experience, but either way it works for her.
    vi. Dr. Lancaster suggested that they send out a poll first.
    vii. Mr. Gorence said he would send out a poll for that week in November and which part of the day they'd like to do it in.

5.6 Action Item: Approve the primary duties to be used for the LARAEC Project Director position posting.

a. Mr. Noguera thought that now there is going to be a special meeting, it is important to open the mic on this item.
b. Mr. Gorence explained that this was just meant to align the job duties of the job posting and it was just asking the board to approve the job duties so they aligned with current LARAEC bylaws.
c. Ms. Plascencia noted that the example they provided was the coordinator position, and then the bylaws say "project director"; he asked if there was a difference. Mr. Gorence confirmed that they are talking about the same position.
d. Mr. Oberlander asked if the board would want to table this item for today since they are talking about having a special meeting. Mr. Noguera thought this was in line with what they are going to be discussing during their special meeting.
    i. Dr. Lancaster said he was having trouble pulling up the document. Ms. Plascencia wanted to table the item as well. Dr. Lancaster agreed to table.
e. Mr. Noguera stated that they would place this item as part of the special meeting that they're going to have.

Juan Noguera

	5.7 Action Item: Approve extended use of the board alternate for LAUSD not to exceed 6 meetings during a vacancy of the LARAEC Executive Board member position. a. Mr. Noguera introduced and explained some background for the item. This item will allow Mr. Oberlander an additional three meetings as alternate. b. Dr. Lancaster asked if the current board position that's been approved by the Board of Education is vacant and not on leave, which was confirmed. c. He thought that they should not extend an alternate because the district's board should just name a replacement and he would rather see them name a permanent board member. i. Mr. Oberlander added that they have already submitted that board item and the timeline is typically a bit longer. And once they approve it at their meeting then Mr. Oberlander will be an official board member. d. Dr. Lancaster moved the motion and Dr. Garner seconded. e. Roll call vote: i. BUSD: Aye ii. CCUSD: Aye iii. LACCD: Aye iv. LAUSD: Aye v. MUSD: Aye f. The motion passed unanimously. **5.8 Consent Agenda** **5.8.1 Approve capital outlay request for Culver City USD for electrical infrastructure** **5.8.2 Approve capital outlay request for Montebello USD for cosmetology lab equipment** **5.8.3 Approve capital outlay request for Montebello USD for architectural services for utilities upgrades.** a. Mr. Noguera moved to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Oberlander seconded the motion. b. Dr. Lancaster asked about the cosmetology program proposed and wished MUSD luck with it. c. Roll call vote: i. BUSD: Aye ii. CCUSD: Aye iii. LACCD: Aye iv. LAUSD: Aye v. MUSD: Aye d. The motion passed unanimously.	Juan Noguera
6 **Board Member Reports**	**a. BUSD**	Board Members

	i. Reported that on Thursday, October 1st they are going to have a ribbon cutting and will inaugurate the two new bungalows where the medical classes are now. It will be an open house where they will have medical personnel to demonstrate what they do here. 1. The mayor confirmed that she is attending the ribbon cutting ceremony so that is good news. 2. They hope to have more elected officials who are interested in adult education so they can continue supporting their programs. ii. Also, BUSD's medical classes are going to be featured on Job Hunt LA. iii. Finally they are in the process to get the Vocational Nursing Program program approved and plan to start it in spring 2027. **b. CCUSD** i. No report. **c. LACCD** i. No report. **d. LAUSD** i. Mr. Oberlander wanted to thank again the LARAEC team and everybody who showed up for the Allied Healthy Collaborative. ii. He also congratulated the LVN program and Montebello on their cosmetology program. He noted that both are life-changing programs and discussed the hardships in the way of getting those certifications. **e. MUSD** i. Reported on progress with the Ford Park project's driveway to expand it and how she hopes to share some pictures of the construction next month.	
7 **Announcements**	Mr. Noguera announced that Montebello USD has approved Kaivan Yuen, EdD. as a LARAEC Executive Board Alternate for the 2026-27 school year. Next Regular Board Meeting: October 23, 2026, 1:00PM – 4:00PM. This meeting will be conducted in person at East Los Angeles Skills Center. Last day to submit agenda items is October 14, 2026	
8 **Adjourn**	Mr. Noguera adjourned the meeting at 2:37 PM.	