

Magellan Charter School

Board Meeting

May 19, 2026

6:00pm

Board members in attendance: Jim Nowak, Jessica Leggett, Ailis Monsees, John Esham, Suzy Allaire, Brantley Springett, Jessica O'Donovan (non-voting)

Visitors: Jairus Dolfi, Becky Green, Liz Wood, Connor Donovan, Amy Grant

The meeting was called to order by J. Nowak at 6:06pm. No conflicts of interest relating to the agenda were declared.

5th grade presentation @ 6:00pm

Mr. Donovan and the 5th grade students presented their original poetry to board members and guests, showcasing impressive creativity, reflection, and confidence. Their readings demonstrated both the hard work they invested in crafting their poems and the dedication they brought to preparing for the presentation. The board expressed appreciation for the students' thoughtful work and willingness to share.

Approve Minutes by J. Leggett @ 6:24pm

S. Allaire moved to approve the 4/21/2026 board meeting minutes. J. Leggett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MaP Update & Booster Update by C. Dickerson and K. Moffat @ 6:28pm

No updates

Staff Update by L. Wood @ 6:29pm

- Helen Pettiford has been nominated to serve as the Teacher Representative for the upcoming school year and will attend board meetings in that role.
- The Board of Directors will be conducting exit interviews with departing teachers over the coming days to gather feedback and insights.

School Update by J. O'Donovan @ 6:38pm

Hiring Updates:

- Allison Huckle was recommended for the 4th Grade ELA position. T. Liberatore will transition back to teaching math, a role she previously held at Magellan and is excited to return to. Allison holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in

Early Childhood Education. She has spent the past two years teaching first grade in Wake County. Before that, she taught first, second, and fourth grades for 10 years in the Georgia public school system, bringing a strong background in elementary instruction.

- Jack O'Neill was recommended for the Part-Time Fit & Fun position. Jack holds a Bachelor's in Sport and Exercise Science and a Master's in Sport Nutrition. Over the past two years, he has worked in the Raleigh area as a personal trainer and head soccer coach for NCFC. Prior to relocating to the U.S., Jack spent eight years as a Physical Activity Leader with Healthy Kidz in Northern Ireland, gaining extensive experience in youth physical activity programming. For the past several weeks, Jack has also been serving as a substitute for Fit & Fun.
- Bethany Darrah was recommended as a Part-Time Occupational Therapist under an independent contractor agreement. Bethany holds a Master's in Occupational Therapy and a Bachelor's in Dietetics. Over the past fifteen years, she has established herself as a leader in pediatric occupational therapy and a health technology innovator, with extensive experience spanning school-based services, outpatient rehabilitation, private practice ownership, and digital health.

Recognition of Service for S. Allaire @ 6:45pm

J. Nowak presented a gift and shared words of gratitude with Suzy Allaire in recognition of her years of dedication and service to Magellan on the Board of Directors.

Committee Updates @ 6:55pm

Academic Excellence by J. Esham:

- The committee helped share Charter renewal feedback with the community, marking a positive and celebratory moment for the school.

Governance Committee by J. Nowak:

The committee asked the Board to consider nominations for next school year's officer roles. Officer elections will take place in June. The following nominations were presented during the meeting:

- Secretary: A. Monsees
- Treasurer: S. Witty
- Chair: J. Leggett
- Vice Chair: J. Esham

Finance Committee by S. Witty:

- The school is in a stable cash position.
- Parking lot sealing/stripping scheduled for the week of July 8.

Strategic Planning & Development Committee by J. Nowak

- Joint strategy meeting with BOD, MaP and Boosters planned.
- Increased outreach to upcoming 3rd grade families (e.g., Popsicles in the Park).

Land Sub-Committee by J. Nowak

- Meeting with Clark Nexxon on May 29 to review initial design

Capital Campaign Sub-Committee by J. Leggett:

- Campaign at 93% of goal.
- 8th grade raffle for graduation seats/parking spot successful

New Business and action items @ 7:21pm

Vote on Recommended hires:

- B. Springett motioned to approve a contract to hire Allison Huckle, full-time, teaching 4th grade ELA. A. Monsees seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- J. Esham motioned to approve a contract to hire Jack O'Neill part-time, as a Fit & Fun Coordinator. S. Witty seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- S. Witty motioned to approve moving forward with Bethany Darrah, as an independent contractor, to provide part-time OT services. B. Springett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session @ 7:42pm

On proper motion by A. Monsees and seconded by S. Witty, the board unanimously approved to enter Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel issue.

On proper motion by J. Esham, seconded by J. Leggett, the board unanimously approved to leave Closed Session.

Open Session Voting @ 8:20pm

- The Board discussed the opportunity for a year-end staff bonus. Board members unanimously expressed strong support for recognizing the hard work and dedication of Magellan's teachers and affirmed that this commitment merits the bonus.
- J. Leggett made a motion to approve the year-end staff bonus. B. Springett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session @ 8:55pm

On proper motion by J. Esham and seconded by J. Leggett, the board unanimously approved to enter Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel issue.

On proper motion by B. Springett and seconded by A. Monsees, the board unanimously approved to leave Closed Session.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 16th.

J. Leggett moved to adjourn, and J. Esham seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.