NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

EXPLORE ACADEMY - RIO RANCHO GOVERNING COUNCIL

Please note that a quorum of the board may attend training, school activities, or community events. If this occurs, no board work will be discussed nor will any actions be taken at these gatherings. All board discussion regarding decisions and voting occur at publicly noticed meetings.

Explore Academy - Rio Rancho will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, beginning at 5:15 pm.

This meeting will be held in accordance with the New Mexico Open Meeting Law and the Governing Council's (GC) annual Open Meetings Act (OMA) Resolution. During the pandemic, members of the public may view the meeting online via the virtual meeting room link listed in the agenda.

If a member of the public would like to view a document referred to in any meeting of the Explore Academy - Rio Rancho Governing Council and is not able to easily find or access said document, please email board-rio@explore.academy and it will be made available within five (5) business days.

Public comment time will be allotted during each board meeting (1) at the beginning of the meeting regarding items on the agenda before any items are discussed on which action may be taken so comments may be heard by the governing body, and (2) at the end of the meeting prior to adjournment for items not on the agenda. No action may be taken regarding any topic during this public comment section and the council members are not allowed to respond, but rather must wait until the topic at hand is included as an action item on an agenda. A time limit of three (3) minutes will be imposed on public comments to allow all members of the public the opportunity to speak. These comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint.

- The GC reserves the right to limit or curtail repetitive comments or other expressions that are obscene, profane, disruptive of the orderly conduct of the GC's meeting, harassing or defamatory or not in keeping with the decorum of a school board meeting which includes students or other minors.
- Complaints regarding personnel matters or involving students may be redirected to appropriate administrative procedures for review and handling.
- Public comment can also be submitted prior to a meeting via email board-rio@explore.academy to be included in the minutes and provided to the Board.

The Board reserves the right to take agenda items out of order, items may be removed or delayed from the agenda at any time, and two or more items may be combined for consideration.

The Board is happy to make reasonable accommodations for any member of the public who has a disability and wishes to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify the Board via email (board-rio@explore.academy).

Draft meeting minutes will be available within 10 working days of the meeting. Minutes will become official after approval at the next board meeting where a quorum is present. Minutes are available on the school's website (www.explore.academy/rio) in the Agenda and Minutes Archive.

AGENDA

EXPLORE ACADEMY - RIO RANCHO GOVERNING COUNCIL

Mission	The mission of Explore Academy - Rio Rancho is to provide all students, regardless of background, with a personalized, standards-based, educational experience through the power of student choice, allowing each student to create a personalized and engaging educational pathway in preparation for college.

Chartering Authority: Public Education Commission (PEC)
Support Staff to the PEC: Charter Schools Division (CSD) of the PED
Department of Education: Public Education Department (PED)
Board Members: Chair Mike Mierzejewski, Vice-Chair Matt Smith, Secretary Skip Mackay, Cathy Gaarden, and Brianna El-Nasser

Meeting Date:	September 23, 2026	Meeting Time: 5:15 pm
Meeting Location:	In person at Explore Academy - Rio Rancho, Building 7000, Conference Room and Virtually via Zoom Webinar https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81309697581?pwd=h9jEJ2PRG3VV2IINrIxc4OMVr0XA2v.1 Or via telephone: 346 248 7799 or 669 900 6833 or 408 638 0968 Webinar ID: 813 0969 7581 Passcode: 058934	

I **Call to Order**
Roll Call and Ascertain Quorum
Pledge of Allegiance

II **Public Comment** - regarding any item on the agenda — For information

Members of the public attending this meeting will be invited to address the Board regarding items listed on the agenda at this time. Board members should not respond until the topic is discussed later in the agenda. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes. Commenters should state their name, relationship to the school, and the agenda item to which they are speaking. Comments regarding other topics will be heard at the end of the meeting.

III **Approval of Current Agenda** — For possible action

Following a request for any declarations of conflicts of interest, the Chair will request a motion to approve the agenda.
Topics may be re-arranged or taken out of order at the discretion of the Board Chair.

IV **Approval of Meeting Minutes** from October 14, 2026 (special meeting) — For possible action

V **School Finance** — For possible action

A. **Monthly Financial Packet Reports and Finance Committee Update** *(Anna Cress)*

B. **Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs)**
Details included in the Financial Packet
1. 586-000-2627-0008-IB Charter School Program Grant CFDA 84.282A $ 752,200.00
2. Others, if any

C. Resolution for HB47 Compliance regarding NMPSIA rule that does not allow schools to offer a competing line of health benefits coverage (two options)

VI **Governing Council Business** For possible action

A. **Update regarding Construction Project**

B. **Lease Purchase Agreement**

C. **Governing Board Annual Assurances to PEC**
(due date postponed from Sep 1 until Nov 2)
1. Assurances Document
2. Compliance Requirements
   a. CharteRIO Annual Board Assurance Document 5.22.26.docxr Contract
   b. Performance Framework (including Mission Goals on pages 6-7 of the document.)
   c. 25-26 DRAFT Annual Report and Mission Goals Report
   Submitted requested corrections.
   d. Previous Charter Performance Reports

D. Board Committee Reports, if any
1. Audit Committee (updates as appropriate; if not covered in the School Finance section)
2. Finance Committee (if not covered in the School Finance section)

VII **Administration**

A. **School Leader Report** *(Jackie Bogue)*
The school leader provides an update on academics, events, and activities at the school. This may include, but is not limited to topics such as staffing, enrollment, student performance, facility, CSP Grant, etc.
1. CSP Grant Update

B. **General Updates/Reminders** *(Karen Woerner)*
1. Monthly Update from AllyOp
   Report of tasks being handled by the support team vendor. Board members are encouraged to ask questions and/or notify board liaison to invite team members to join a meeting to explain any details.
2. Governing Board Training Status
3. Public Education Commission (PEC) Seats are on November 3, 2026 ballot

VIII **Board Comments** For discussion only
An opportunity for comments, announcements or updates, including future agenda items, from Board members. No action will be taken.

IX **Public Comments** regarding any item NOT on the agenda For information
Members of the public will be invited to address the Board regarding items not listed on the agenda but within the Board's jurisdiction. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes. Commenters should state their name, their relationship to the school, and the topic of their comment. There shall be no action taken, nor should there be comments on, responses to, or discussion of a topic not on the agenda. The Board members may (1) acknowledge receipt of information/report; (2) refer to staff with no direction as to action or priority; or (3) refer the matter to the next agenda.

X **Adjournment**
The next regular meeting of the GC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at 5:15 pm.

References/Reminders:

- **Charter School Conferences**
  December - Public Charter Schools of NM (PCSNM) FEE; need to confirm fee for member schools
  June - NMPED Charter Schools Division(CSD) NO CHARGE - not being offered in 2026

- Public Education Commission (PEC) seats will be on the ballot on November 3, 2026

- 2023-2028 Contract folder
  1. Executed Contract
  2. Performance Frameworks
- Governing Council Bylaws
- Board Policy Manual Please continue to review policies and propose any for review by the board.
- Governing Council Annual Calendar of meeting topics
- RIO Governance folder

- **Agenda Items or Work Session Topics** - Please advise the Governing Board Chair and/or Board Liaison of any topics of interest for consideration, discussion, or training at future meetings (regular, special, or separate work sessions).

- **Annual Evaluations**
  1. Head Administrator
  2. Board Self-Assessment

- **Governing Board Mandatory Training must be completed annually by June 1st**
  The Explore Academy Explore Academy RIO Internal Tracker and NMPED/CSD Training Tracker are available internally and for board members only.

  1. **Synchronous virtual session**s (1-2 hours) offered by NMPED/CSD training
     a. See the link for the Governing Board training schedule for the list of upcoming training sessions.
     b. To register, please send your name, the name of the school you serve, and the sessions you wish to attend to charter.schools@ped.nm.gov
     c. NOTE: Credit for training from NMPED will not be granted if the board member arrives more than 15 minutes late to a session.
  2. **Asynchronous modules** via **Canvas** platform
     a. Email charter.schools@ped.nm.gov and melissa.brown@ped.nm.gov if you do not have a Canvas account login or need to add training modules for the current school year.
  3. **Charter School and other Conference sessions**, if approved in advance.