



Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District
Minutes for the Board of Trustees
On Monday, September 29, 2025, at the
District Office Board Room
1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040
5:30 PM Closed Session, and 7:00 PM Regular Session

Voting Members Present: Thida Cornes, Acting Board President
Vadim Katz, Board Member
Alex Levich, Clerk
Catherine Vonnegut, Board Member

Voting Members Absent: Esmeralda Ortiz, Board President

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Call to Order

The Board President will call the meeting to order.

Recommendation: Call to Order.

Acting President Thida Cornes called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and established a quorum, 4-0.

2.0 Public Comment

2.1 Public Comment on Items Scheduled for Discussion in Closed Session

This time is reserved for any person to address the Board of Trustees on items scheduled for discussion during Closed Session only. These presentations are limited to three minutes each. Speakers are not allowed to yield their time.

Recommendation: Listen to public comment.

There were no requests to address the Board on Closed Session matters.

3.0 Closed Session Agenda at 5:30 p.m.

3.1 Conference with Labor Negotiator Regarding Negotiations with CSEA, DTA, and Non-represented Groups Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 Agency Negotiators: Leyla Benson and Eric Volta

Recommendation: Information/action.

3.2 Consideration of Student Discipline or Other Confidential Student Matter Pursuant to Government Code §35146 and §48912(b)

Recommendation: For Information/Action.

3.3 Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint Pursuant to Government Code §54597 - one potential case

Recommendation: For information/action.

3.4 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 - Two Potential Cases

4.0 Adjourn to Closed Session

5.0 Reconvene Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

Acting Board President Thida Cornes called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

6.0 Preliminary Business

6.1 Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

The Board President will lead the Pledge of Allegiance and conduct Roll Call.

Recommendation: Information.

Acting Board President Thida Cornes led the Pledge of Allegiance and noted that Trustees Vonnegut, Levich, and Katz were present. Also, student trustees Claire Schwarzhoff (MVHS) and Lucy Lai (LAHS) are present.
Trustee Ortiz: absent

6.2 Approval of the Meeting Agenda

The Board will review and approve the meeting agenda.

Recommendation: Approve the meeting agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve the meeting agenda'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut Yes

Thida Cornes Yes

Vadim Katz Yes

Alex Levich Yes

6.3 Report on Action Taken in Closed Session

Item #3.4 Conference with Legal Counsel

In Closed Session, the Board voted 4 to 0 to approve a compromise agreement with parents of a student to resolve potential and threatened claims against the District in exchange for (\$18,400.00) Student's private placement tuition during the 2025-26 school year.

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the Compromise agreement motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut	Yes
Thida Cornes	Yes
Vadim Katz	Yes
Alex Levich	Yes

6.4 Audience is notified that the open session will be audio-taped and streamed

At the beginning of the meeting, the Board president shall announce that a recording or broadcast is being made at the direction of the Board and that the recording or broadcast may capture images and sounds of those attending the meeting.

Recommendation: For information

7.0 Communications

7.1 Student Board Member Reports

Student Board members may wish to make a report.

Recommendation: Information.

Lucy Lai (Los Altos High School) and Claire Schwarzhoff (Mountain View High School) provided an update on activities at their respective schools.

7.2 District Organizations: CSEA and DTA Updates

At regular Board meetings, a single spokesperson of each recognized District organization (CSEA, DTA) may give a brief update.

Recommendation: For information.

None present.

7.3 Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Anyone wishing to address the Board on any topic not listed on the agenda should make a request to the Board President by completing a request to be heard form and present it to the Superintendent's Executive Assistant. The President will recognize those who desire to speak either during the "Public Comment" section or during the particular agenda item. Each speaker is allocated a maximum of 3 minutes. If you wish to speak on an issue not on the agenda, please be advised that the Board may not take action on any item not specifically listed on the agenda. The Board members may ask brief questions for clarification, but may not otherwise discuss the issue. The Board values constructive community comments and suggestions and welcomes your participation in the democratic process.

Recommendation: Listen to public comment.

The Board received the following public comment(s) on non-agendized items:

Makika Murakami
Maureen Griffin
Laura Larghi
Lure Byrne
Wolfgang Hoffman
Sybil Cramer
Silja Paymer
Steve Apfelberg
Heather Boyle
Peter Boyle
Stefi Ganesan
Fernando Mujica

8.0 Recognitions and Resolutions

8.1 Resolution No 25/26-5: Recognition of Administrators.

MVLA Administrators have shown time and time again, they go above and beyond. They support our students in a myriad of ways. Most school administrators began their careers as teachers. The average administrator has served in public education for more than a decade. Such experience is beneficial in their work to effectively and efficiently lead public education and improve student achievement. This month we recognize and honor all of our administrators who have dedicated their lives to our students.

Recommendation: The administration recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 25/26-5, Recognition of Administrators.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Alex Levich)** Moved, Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The administration recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 25/26-5, Recognition of Administrators'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut Yes
Thida Cornes Yes
Vadim Katz Yes
Alex Levich Yes

9.0 Presentations, Reports and Information

9.1 Ethnic Studies Review by Staff

To inform Board discussion on Social Studies and Ethnic Studies, staff will present department priorities, student experience goals, and draft program models for input.

Recommendation: Information only

Public comment(s): Tomas Margain, Antonio Perez-Lopez, Brook Mangin-Hinkley, Arianna Santiago, and Julie Yick

Teri Faught, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services; Nate Bowen, Social Science Department Chair (MVHS); and Chelsea Doiguchi, Social Science Department Chair (LAHS), presented the school site priorities/recommendations in Ethnic Studies.

Trustees Vonnegut, Cornes and Levich asked clarifying questions. Superintendent Eric Volta also reminded the Board about the Ethnic Studies timeline if they would like changes and clarified current Social Studies requirements.

9.2 2025-26 Grade Nine Math Course Enrollment

In accordance with Senate Bill 359, annually, the Board and the Superintendent or designee shall review student data related to placement and advancement in the mathematics courses offered at District high schools to ensure that ninth-grade students who are qualified to progress in mathematics courses based on their performance on objective academic measures are not held back in a disproportionate manner on the basis of their race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background. This report provides the Board with information about 2025-26 current ninth-grade enrollment, class size, and associated trends in mathematics courses. This report is based on data from sixth week in the school year.

Recommendation: For Information.

Teri Faught, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, presented the Nine Math Course offerings at Mountain View Los Altos High School District.

Trustee Vonnegut asked what Integrated math is/means? And how many sections of co-taught math is there? Associate Superintendent, Teri Faught indicated she would send the information to the Board within the week.

9.3 College & Career Readiness Update

Educational Services will provide an overview of the District's Advanced Placement (AP), A-G, and Graduation Rates data for the 2024-25 school year.

Recommendation: Information only

Teri Faught, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, presented Advanced Placement and Graduation Data which focused on AP access and outcomes, A – G completion and graduation.

Trustees Levich, Katz, Vonnegut and Cornes asked clarifying questions and commented. The trustees would also like to review how to assist struggling students with extra support either in the academic year or summer school.

Student Trustees Lucy Lai (Los Altos High School) and Claire Schwarzhoff (Mountain View High School) were excused at 8:59 PM.

10.0 Consolidated Agenda

10.1 Personnel Report

Personnel Report

The Personnel Office reports the district's personnel changes at each meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Recommendation: Approve the Personnel Report.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve the Personnel Report'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut Yes
Thida Cornes Yes
Vadim Katz Yes
Alex Levich Yes

10.2 Los Altos High School's ASI Trip to London, England, February 28 - March 8, 2026 to Participate in an International Science Symposium

The final request was received for 25-40 students and 4 chaperones to travel to London, England, February 28 - March 8, 2026 to Participate in an International Science Symposium. Per Board Policy 6153, students will miss five school days of instruction and will make arrangements with their teachers prior to their trip.

Recommendation: Approve Los Altos High School's ASI Trip to London, England, February 28 - March 8, 2026 to Participate in an International Science Symposium.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Los Altos High School's ASI Trip to London, England, February 28 - March 8, 2026 to Participate in an International Science Symposium'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut Yes
Thida Cornes Yes
Vadim Katz Yes
Alex Levich Yes

10.3 Mountain View High School's Trip to the Future Educational Technology Conference in Orlando, Florida, January 10-15, 2026

This is the final request for 6 students and 2 chaperones to travel to Orlando, Florida, January 10-15, 2026, to present the Tech Internship Work at a National Technology Conference. Per Board Policy 6153, students will miss four school days of instruction and will make arrangements with their teachers prior to their trip.

Recommendation: Approve Mountain View High School's Trip to the Future Educational Technology Conference in Orlando, Florida, January 10-15, 2026

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Mountain View High School's Trip to the Future Educational Technology Conference in Orlando, Florida, January 10-15, 2026'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut Yes
Thida Cornes Yes
Vadim Katz Yes
Alex Levich Yes

10.4 Mountain View High School's Trip to MIT, Cambridge Massachusetts, January 22-25, 2026, to Participate in The MIT Science Olympiad Tournament

This is the initial request for 30 students to travel to MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, January 22-25, 2026, to participate in the MIT Science Olympiad Tournament. Per Board

Policy 6153, students will miss two school days of instruction and will make arrangements with their teachers prior to their trip.

Recommendation: Approve Mountain View High School's Trip to MIT, Cambridge Massachusetts, January 22-25, 2026, to Participate in The MIT Science Olympiad Tournament

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve Mountain View High School's Trip to MIT, Cambridge Massachusetts, January 22-25, 2026, to Participate in The MIT Science Olympiad Tournament'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut	Yes
Thida Cornes	Yes
Vadim Katz	Yes
Alex Levich	Yes

10.5 Declaration of Sale or Disposal of Surplus Property

Education Code sections 17545-17546 authorize school districts to sell or dispose of district property that is not required for school purposes or is no longer suitable for school use.

Surplus property may be sold at a publicly noticed auction conducted by district employees. Items for which no qualified bid is received, or that are less than \$2,500 in value, may be sold at private sale without advertising. Property of insufficient value to defray the cost of sale may be donated to a charitable organization or disposed of. Money received from the sale of surplus property may be placed in the district's general or reserve fund. The District owns the following items that are beyond their useful life and now need to be surplus.

The following individual items have been determined to be valued at less than \$2,500: 1 Kitchen Mixer 2 Toasters

Recommendation: Approve declaration of sale or disposal of surplus property and authorize the Superintendent to sell or otherwise dispose of the property consistent with Education Code sections 17545-17546.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve declaration of sale or disposal of surplus property and authorize the Superintendent to sell or otherwise dispose of the property consistent with Education Code sections 17545-17546'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut	Yes
Thida Cornes	Yes
Vadim Katz	Yes
Alex Levich	Yes

10.6 Gifts And Donations

The Fiscal Services Department reports gifts and donations the district has received at each meeting of the Board of Trustees. REPORT \$200 from Song Wang and Tsubame Nin to Middle College \$300 from Chi Zhang and Haixia Zhao to LAHS Robotics \$170 from Scott E. Stanford to MVHS Girls' Water Polo \$2,000 from Roni and Leslie Zeiger to the LAHS Roma Hammel Scholarship Fund

Recommendation: Accept the gifts and donations listed above and request that acknowledgement be sent to the donor expressing the Board's appreciation.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Accept the gifts and donations listed above and request that

acknowledgement be sent to the donor expressing the Board's appreciation'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut Yes
Thida Cornes Yes
Vadim Katz Yes
Alex Levich Yes

10.7 Warrants, August, 2025

Education Code 42631 requires that the Board of Trustees approve District expenditures. A copy of the warrants are available at the District Office and can be reviewed by any interested person during regular business hours.

Recommendation: Approve the warrants for the month of August, 2025.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve the warrants for the month of August, 2025'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut Yes
Thida Cornes Yes
Vadim Katz Yes
Alex Levich Yes

10.8 Minutes for the Board of Trustees Closed, and Regular Meetings Conducted on September 8, 2025.

Minutes for the Board of Trustees Closed and Regular Meetings Conducted on September 8, 2025, are presented for approval.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting conducted on September 8, 2025.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Catherine Vonnegut)** Moved, Member **(Alex Levich)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve the minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting conducted on September 8, 2025'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 4 - 0**

Catherine Vonnegut Yes
Thida Cornes Yes
Vadim Katz Yes
Alex Levich Yes

11.0 Items Pulled from Consolidated Motion for Discussion

None

12.0 Board Operations

12.1 Board Suggestions for Future Board Reports/Meetings

Trustees may wish to share suggestions for future Board reports/meetings.

Recommendation: For information.

The Trustees requested information/report on implementing a Summer Math Boot Camp to assist incoming students who need additional support.

12.2 Communications/Correspondence

The Board of Trustees may wish to share communications/correspondence.

Recommendation: Information.

12.3 Legislative Update

The Superintendent will share updates on legislation relevant or of interest to education.

Recommendation: For information.

Superintendent Volta indicated the Governor has until October 13, 2025, to sign all the bills that have been passed to him.

12.4 Next Meeting: October 13, 2025, Study Session at 5:00 PM and Regular session at 7:00 PM, MVLA District Office, Board Room

The Board of Trustees will meet next:

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, October 27, 2025, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, November 17, 2025, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, December 15, 2025, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, January 12, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, February 9, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, March 9, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, March 23, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, April 20, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, May 4, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular Board Meeting - Monday, May 18, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Regular board Meeting - Monday, June 8, 2026, at MVLA District Office, Board Room

Recommendation: For information.

13.0 Resume Closed Session if Needed

13.1 Items not Completed During the First Closed Session will be Carried Over to this Closed Session

Recommendation: Information/action.

N/A

14.0 Reconvene Open Session and Report Out Action Taken in Second Closed Session

14.1 The Board will Reconvene Open Session and Report Out Any Action Taken During Second Closed Session

Recommendation: Information/action.

15.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

*Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District
Board of Trustees Minutes for September 29, 2025.
Closed and Regular Meetings
District Office Board Room
1299 Bryant Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040*

Minutes approved on October 13, 2025:

Thida Cornes

Thida Cornes, Acting President

Alex Levich, Clerk

Eric Volta, Secretary

Signature: 
Thida Cornes (Oct 16, 2025 14:03:04 PDT)

Email: thida.cornes@mvla.net

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Final Audit Report

2025-10-16

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-  Document created by Amy Vargas (amy.vargas@mvla.net)
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-  Document emailed to Thida Cornes (thida.cornes@mvla.net) for signature
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