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2024-07-15, Special Meeting

Agenda  BoardDocs
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Duration 01:32:54

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- [▶ \[Toya Lemus \] Member Thomas.](#)
- [▶ \[Nancy Thomas \] Here.](#)
- [▶ \[Toya Lemus \] Member Nguyen.](#)
- [▶ \[Nancy Thomas \] Here.](#)
- [▶ \[Toya Lemus \] Member Plancarte absent. Vice President Jones. Here. President Hill.](#)
- [▶ \[Aiden Hill \] Here. OK. Moving on to meeting practices and information. Members of the public may observe the meeting via NUSD YouTube channel, live transmission, on camcast. 26 are in person at the NUSD boardroom. Spanish translation available via Zoom. Public comment, public will have the opportunity to address the Board of Education regarding non-agendized matters and agendized matters with a live audio only comment via Zoom with advanced notice requested by email at publiccomment at newarkunified.org, a written comment by submitting a speaking card via email at publiccomment at newarkunified.org, or with a live in-person comment by submitting a speaker card with the executive assistant. And so we're now going to move on to this to the step. We don't have a thing for approving our agenda, do we? Okay, so can I get Okay, all right, okay, so okay. All right, so I 1.3 public comments. So do Miss Lemus, did you have anybody submit any public comment requests to you?](#)
- [▶ \[Toya Lemus \] I'm going to double check and get back to you in one minute.](#)
- [▶ \[Aiden Hill \] OK. And then we have a member of the audience that joined. Are you looking to make a comment? I am not. I'm here for translation interpretation purposes.](#)
- [▶ \[Tracey Vackar \] Miss Ashley out there is a member of our team.](#)
- [▶ \[Aiden Hill \] OK, great. And you just let me know, Miss Lemus, when you're ready.](#)
- [▶ \[Toya Lemus \] We have no public comment at this time.](#)
- [▶ \[Aiden Hill \] Great.](#)
- [▶ \[Toya Lemus \] Okay.](#)
- [▶ \[Aiden Hill \] So, moving on to 1.4, recess to closed session. So, in closed session, we're going to cover 2.1, copy of public employee appointment, discipline, dismissal, release, complaint, government code 54957, principal appointments, HR assistant superintendent, personnel matter to cases. And with that, we're going to recess to closed session.](#)

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- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Closed session at 4:23, 4:21. There is nothing to, so report out on closed session. There's nothing to report. Moving on to 4.1, Pledge of Allegiance. Can we all stand and repeat after me? I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. OK. Meeting practices. We've already covered this and there will be changes to come in the future based on our board workshop. So moving on to number five approval of the agenda. Can I get a motion to approve.
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] I move that we approve the agenda.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Can I get a second.
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] I'll make a second.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Member Thomas moves, Vice President Jones seconds. Ms. Lemus, can we just do a roll call vote, please?
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Yes. Member Thomas? Here.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] No, no, yes.
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Yes. Member Nguyen? Here. Member Plancarte? No, we're approving the agenda. Yes. Member Plancarte absent, Vice President Jones? Yes. President Hill?
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Yes. Okay, motion carries. Moving on to employee organizations. It doesn't look like we have anybody here. Do we have anybody online, Ms. Lemus?
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Other than Bill, no.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] OK, perfect. OK, moving on to 7.1, public comment on non-agenda items. Do we have any? Do we have a public comment on non-agenda items? Do we have any?
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] No public comment cards were submitted.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] OK. All right. So neither for non-agenda or agenda items.
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] That is correct.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] OK. All right. And there's nobody online other than Bill.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] OK. All right. Moving on to 8.1 superintendent report.
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] This evening there is no superintendent report.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] OK. Great. Moving on to 9.1 Rodan Builders, superintendent.
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Thank you. And online with us is Bill Olien. Before you this evening is an agreement between Rodan Builders. It's a bid award for Kennedy Elementary School for the re-fencing project. If you've got any questions, Bill's available to assist.

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- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Any questions from the board? Okay, seeing none, can I get a motion to approve 9.1 agreement Rodan Builders?
- ▶ [**Phuong Nguyen**] I move to approve.
- ▶ [**Kat Jones**] I'll second.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Member Nguyen moves. Vice President Jones seconds. Can we do this through board docs, the approval, Ms. Lemus? Or do you want to do roll call? Yes. Okay, go ahead.
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Did it come up? Yeah. You're welcome.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] OK, do we have results?
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Yes, we do. Do I need to? Yes.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Yes, you need to tell us.
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] OK. Nancy Thomas. I'm sorry. Member Thomas, yay. President Hill, yay. Member Fong, yay. Vice President Jones, yay. Member Plancarte, absent.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great. OK. Unanimous approval. Moving on to 9.2, lease of teacher Chromebook. Superintendent.
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Yes, thank you. This evening before you is the need to purchase teacher Chromebooks for the ELA adoption. We are excited about our new curriculums coming forward, but we also recognize that the teachers who will be doing this ELA adoption at the elementary and middle school level will need to have sufficient Chromebooks to be able to run the software necessary for the curriculum. With that, the district went back and we looked at Resources that we could use to be able to come back with a more affordable bid. We looked at doing a purchase versus a lease agreement, and we feel the best thing to do is to award a lease agreement for four years and use the piggyback bid that's coming out of Arizona. They would have done a very large bid. Process and their pricing was great and because we're in a consortium We're able to actually use that bid to go along with it This is one of the strategies that we're looking at to be able to help save money Additionally, it provides white glove service to be able to get the Chromebooks set up for teachers So that will have it in their hands in time for PD like in the nick of time With that before you this evening we would ask that you consider this for adoption tonight
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great, questions from the board? Member Thomas.
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] I noticed there's 200. Is that how many elementary and middle school teachers we have?
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] So there's a few extras that are there just because sometimes you have to replace a device by it's being repaired. But that pretty much so covers it for our elementary and middle school teachers who are part of that ELA adoption. There will be other refresh cycles that will be out there for other teachers as we move forward. And we'll also be looking at perhaps a different device at the secondary level as we move in the future in those current devices that they're using become obsolete. So we're trying to put on a refresh schedule, which has never really been around before, but generally is working on that. Our director of IT to be able to come up with a cycle and for us to have a funding cycle that goes along with it. We have set aside money to be able to do that this coming year and for future years as well as being built into our budget now.

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- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] Way back in the day, we had a three year refresh cycle. I don't know what happened to that.

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] It wasn't in the budget last year, as you may recall, and I pointed that out to you, that had gone away. In the more earlier years, in the last couple of years, they actually used pandemic funds to be able to help cover some of the refresh things that were happening out there to be able to get one-to-one devices out to students. But there really wasn't a plan to be able to take that forward. And there aren't extra funds that necessarily come from the state for technology. So it's something we had to carve out of our budget and make sure that we prioritize that to go along with the curriculum pieces, not only for teachers, but also for students.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Vice President Jones.

- ▶ [**Kat Jones**] If you don't have an answer for this question, it's OK. When the pilot was going on, were teachers using the technology for the program on their current computers? Do we have any idea about that? I realize you probably, you know, neither one of you were really around.

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] OK. I don't. I don't have that information. What I do know is that we have a number of teacher computers that were coming up for being out of date, and we needed to do something. We wanted to make sure that what we were giving them was something that would run with the new current software that was coming forward with the new adoption.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Thanks. Additional questions?

- ▶ [**Phuong Nguyen**] I was going to ask it. There was a proper bid process and also the equipment, the scope of the equipment, like what model, if we want to make sure that it is sufficient for them to be able to do their work and there's adequate memory and RAM and hopefully all of that was included because I didn't see that in the background documentation.

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] So we did not put the quote into the documentation, but I can tell you that there was a lot of conversations both within services as well as with our IT director to ensure that we had devices that would be able to run the software that was necessary for these particular teachers. We also recognize that some of the software is not adequate for other teachers. and other kinds of programs, especially at the secondary level at the high school, we may want to be looking at other kinds of future devices in the future.

- ▶ [**Phuong Nguyen**] Yeah. So, and then my next question is, is the district paying the full amount up front, or are we paying the annual amount?

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Yeah, so we're paying an annual amount. It's a four-year lease agreement, and it's broken down into payments, and that has been identified on the board agenda.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] So is the total \$533,000, or \$153,000, or is that a per year cost?

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] No, that's the total and then it's broken out. I think it tells you a price of what's being broken out inside that preamble.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Number one, additional questions. Member Thomas.

- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] It's more of a comment. It seems to me that if Chromebooks and the software are part of the curriculum, that we should make sure, especially in the future, that we are using the software as part of doing our up front.

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- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] 100% agreed. I'm really thankful to Ms. Allard and her team for letting us know this was not something that was on our radar screen prior to Ms. Allard coming, that the devices needed to have a refresh on it, and that the current curriculum required they have this. It was important for us to have it for PD. And so we very quickly worked on a triage plan to make this happen in a way that was affordable, met our budget needs. for what had already been planned within the budget for some refresh. And this is the best recommendation that we're bringing back to you at this point.
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] Is PD going to be offered to all the teachers on this curriculum this year?
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Yes, ma'am. It is. So they will be having that on the, what date is it? The 6th? On the 6th as well as follow up on the other district exam. Yeah. So there will actually be a cycle to be able to help and support our teachers with this. on new curriculum adoption. It's an important one. It's important to your goals. And we recognize that our teachers need to have the support systems available to in the right devices.
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] When is the next time that the state is going to come out with a list of recommendations for ELA? Are we kind of doing this prematurely?
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Do you know that answer, Suffrage?
- ▶ [**Karen Allard**] We're expecting a new type of framework around 26-27, which would then give school districts the opportunity to start to look at new adoptions in 28, with the opportunity, if we want to, to start to stop at another adoption process around 29-30, is the current timeline from the state.
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Thank you. Which is actually ideal, kind of, if you look at the cycle here, actually, of this lease agreement that actually works quite well.
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] Let's hope we don't have to do a complete new ELA adoption in four years.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] OK. And then I had just a couple of questions and a request. And so the first question is, so you talked about how we're going through a procurement consortium. And this original bid was coming out of Arizona. So we're able to even go into consortiums that are outside of our state? Yes, we are. OK. Great. And do we have a sense, I mean, and I know that this is just a ballpark, but do we have a sense of how much we might have saved using this consortium pricing versus if we did it ourselves?
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Mr. Olien, you're online. Do you, by any chance, know what that information is? I know we looked at several different manufacturers. We were looking at who could meet the specs, and we were also looking at who could meet our timelines to make sure that we had devices in time.
- ▶ [**Bill Olien**] Thank you. Thank you. Hopefully you can hear me okay. Yes part of Part of it was just looking at obviously number one. We had to get these things quickly in order The curriculum the start of the school year. So that was number one number two We wanted to be and that's why we're using this process here. Number two is most cost-effective We did look at other options, but this was ends up being the cheapest option I apologize for not having numbers off the top of my head But I do remember being I can't remember the exact number but it was something less per Chromebook
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Okay, it would just be great if, at your convenience, if you could maybe just give us a little detail, it would be helpful. Number one, do you have a question?
- ▶ [**Bill Olien**] Yeah, so some, if I had to guess, somewhere around 20,000.

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- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Okay, okay, great.

- ▶ [**Bill Olien**] Number one?

- ▶ [**Phuong Nguyen**] Yes, generally the consortium pricing is much, much lower than if you were to go out. Even if we had a regular account with CDWG, their pricing to us would still be higher than what is bid out on the consortium. So I just know because I just finished that.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] I understand. And as a fellow analytical, since we learned that earlier, we're just both, we're both, yeah, so we're just interested in the numbers. So I'm just curious about that.

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Yeah, and I will say the school district that we got the bid for, I think it was actually, I think it was a city that we got, city or school district, I can't remember now which one it was, they actually had 6,000 devices that they were actually going after. So we got the pricing on 6,000 devices versus the 200 that we're looking at. So really we get a much better value for being in that situation.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great, and then the request is, If we could post the quotes that we've gotten back on this to the website, that would be great.

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] It would be the quote for this particular item.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] For this, yeah. OK, wonderful. OK, so unless there's additional questions, can I get a motion to approve 9.2?

- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] I move that we approve 9.2. I'll second.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] OK. Ms. Lemus, we could do board docs.

- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Yes.

- ▶ [**Phuong Nguyen**] OK.

- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] All votes are in. Member Thomas, yay. President Hill, yay. Member Fong, yay. And Vice President Jones, yay.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great. Unanimous. And member Plancarte is absent.

- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Correct. Member Plancarte absent.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great. My apologies. OK. No worries. All right. Moving on to 9.3, resolution 2024.25.01, committed fund balance. Superintendent?

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Thank you. I'm going to turn this item over to Bill Olean to introduce. Yes.

- ▶ [**Bill Olien**] Hi. I hope that you're able to hear me. So if you remember when we passed the budget back in June at the end of the last board meeting, There was in the budget section of committed funds. And so, as I mentioned there last time, we have to come back to the board in order to move the money from these areas into the specific budgets. So, for example, you know, good examples, we're doing the roof repair, we're going to trial nutrition, we're doing the technology refresh. And so, we were looking at, you know, the rest of this year, what are the things we're going to have kind of absolutely have to do to make it through the year. And so, this is the purpose of this moving into those budgets.

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- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great. Thank you, Mr. Arlene. Questions from the board?

- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] I have a question. What percentage is this amount, \$1.55 million, of our ending fund balance? And does that meet the state requirements for having this resolution?

- ▶ [**Bill Olien**] I'm sorry. I broke up there a little bit. Could you repeat the question?

- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] Yeah. What percentage is this \$1.55 million of our ending fund balance, and I understand that we have to have a percentage of our, and what, I guess the question is, is this the amount that we are required to have a resolution for as a committed fund because of the state requirements?

- ▶ [**Bill Olien**] Well, we are required any time things are committed category, we're required to, the board's required to move this in this area. As far as, so it's, you know, if you recall from the board meeting, you know, the total amount that we had set aside potentially for community was quite a bit more than this, was more than this. So this is definitely kind of the minimum we need to do.

- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] Right, I assume, what I understand is this is the minimum amount that we have to commit to meet the requirement.

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Maybe I can help. So first of all, we still have to maintain our 3% reserve. So that's not touching this. This is the part that was above and beyond that we had inside those committed funds. that we actually took a resolution on at the time that you adopted your budget. And we actually called out some things and said that if we had to come back and use something, we were going to bring it back to you and let you know. That's what we're doing now is we're giving you that information that, yes, we are asking to be able to use those specific committed funds to be able to help with these things. We actually did it last year, but they didn't make the purchases in time. We were still working through the process to be able to do it, which is why you see the fence piece in particular coming back.

- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] And my recollection is that the committed funds were required to be committed because it was over the amount that we were allowed to. That's correct. To keep in our ending fund balance. So my question is kind of related to that. Is this the amount that we are committed to that needs to be committed so that we can meet the state requirements for our reserves? Absolutely.

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Thank you. Yes, absolutely. That is what this means.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Yes. Okay, any other questions?

- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Just for the public, I just wanted to make sure that they knew that we had a 3% reserve still. Right.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] So can I get a motion to approve 9.3, Resolution 24-2501, committed fund balance?

- ▶ [**Kat Jones**] I'll make a motion to approve 9.3. I'll second that.

- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Okay, Vice President Jones moves, Member Thomas seconds. Can we do our board docs vote, please?

- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Yes, it's now open. Member Thomas, yay. President Hill, yay. Member Fong, yay. Vice President Jones, yay. Member Plancarte, absent.

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- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great. Thank you. Motion carries. OK. So moving on to item area 10, consent agenda personnel items. So we do have a request from the board member to speak on on the personnel report, so we'll pull that. But do we have, does anybody else want to pull the additional item? Okay, so can I get a motion to approve 10.3?
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] I move that we approve 10.3, job description for Director of Maintenance Operations and Transportation. I'll second.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Okay, Member Thomas moves, Vice President Jones second. If we can do the board docs Vote, please.
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Member Thomas, yay. President Hill, yay. Member Fong, yay. Vice President Jones, yay. Member Plancarte, absent.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great, thank you. Motion carries. So personnel reports, Ms. Parks, would you like to come up and ask or make your comment?
- ▶ [**Cindy Parks**] Yes, and I would just like to first start off by saying that it was quite shocking to find out that this agenda was posted for this 315 meeting and all of the items that are located that are on the agenda. And even though your agenda is apparently very little print at the very bottom, there's nothing in the calendar that stated that this was taking place, nor the CSBA, which to me is your workshop and there wasn't anything that you were going to vote on. But there are things that you're voting on now, especially this personnel report. where there are principal and high level management positions that the public was not being made aware of in a timely fashion and your agendas were not posted, a hard copy was not posted on the doors, the front doors. So the public that, you know, unless you're actually monitoring board docs continually, you don't know, you wouldn't have known that this is taking place. The only reason I knew is it popped up on my YouTube that there was, because I subscribe, that your meeting was taking place. So I would hope that maybe you could get a recap of how some of these selections were made. I did initially sit in on the Kennedy principal interviews as the site council chair for Kennedy for the last two years, but you have a lot of other management positions on here too, and the people that are listed on here were not a part of that pool of the interview that I sat in. So I would encourage you to perhaps get an update on how exactly this transpired and how these people were selected to be brought forward to you. Thank you.
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] Ms. Baker, could you clarify what you told us about the agenda being posted?
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] On the door?
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] Yes.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] So this agenda was posted on our doors outside?
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Believe mrs. Park is correct the the agendas were not posted on the window, so I take full responsibility for that as far as What she's referencing about the agenda not being posted on the website so being in my new role I will check with the administrative assistance on how to do that so my apologies for that
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] It's a matter of the process to make sure that you're all covered, because I'm not the only one that's doing this. Sure. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Parks. I appreciate that.
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] We do appreciate it.

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- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Thank you. OK. And just a comment regarding the personnel report that, and we talked about this in the last meeting, that we are making a lot of last minute hires to try to make sure that we have a full complement as we move into the school year. And the board has basically kind of deputized the superintendent to make certain decisions during the summer months so that we can make sure to have that, but understand the request from the community that they would like to have a little bit more detail as we put people into place. Any other questions or comments regarding the personnel report? Can I get a motion to approve?
- ▶ [**Kat Jones**] I'll make a motion to approve.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Second.
- ▶ [**Kat Jones**] I'll second that.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] So Vice President Jones moves. Member Thomas seconds. Can we do a board docs vote, please?
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Online voting is open now. Thank you. Member Thomas, yay. President Hill, yay. Member Fong, yay. Vice President Jones, yay. Member Plancarte, absent.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Great. Thank you. Motion carries. Moving on to Item 11, Consent Agenda and Non-Personnel Items. Are there any items that anybody would like to pull?
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] I may make my notation with regards to the Williams uniform complaint. There were no quarterly items for this.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Any questions or any requests to poll anything? OK, can I get a motion to approve 11.1 through 11.10? I'll make a motion to approve 11.1 through 11.10. Or 11.2. I'm sorry, 11.2.
- ▶ [**Phuong Nguyen**] I'll second.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] All right. So member, Vice President Jones approves, or I have motions. And member Nguyen, it's been a long day. Member Nguyen seconds. Can we get, do a roll, a four dots vote, please?
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Yes. Online voting is now open.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] I don't think that this is right. So are we just approving 11.2? No, it should be 11.2 through 11.10. Or is there a way that you can do it just for the entire 11?
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] You really are taking 11.1 as being?
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Well, correct. Do you know how to do that, Ms. Lemus? I do not. OK. No.
- ▶ [**Nancy Thomas**] So it seems to me we are approving 11.1 because nothing was pulled.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] So maybe we do this. Maybe you pull this back. Let's you just do a roll call vote. So we'll do a roll call vote, and then you can note it later on. So if we could do a roll call vote for 11.2 through 11.10. We've already had a motion and a second.
- ▶ [**Tracey Vackar**] Motion was, it's a confirmation motion. It was by Katherine Jones, seconded by Phuong Nguyen.

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- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Member Thomas? Yes. Member Nguyen? Yes. Member Plancarte absent? Vice President Jones? Yes. President Hill?
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Yes. Okay, motion carries. All right, so moving on to 12 adjournment. So since Mr. Williams is here, we can, we can, there are other topics we could cover if you would like. I'm very good at making that motion. I will make that my statement. All right. So can I get a motion to adjourn the meeting?
- ▶ [**Kat Jones**] I'll make a motion to adjourn the meeting. I'll second that.
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] All right. Vice President Jones moves and Member Thomas seconds. And let's just do a roll call vote.
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Member Thomas? Yes. Member Nguyen?
- ▶ [**Toya Lemus**] Member Plancarte absent, Vice President Jones? Yes. President Hill?
- ▶ [**Aiden Hill**] Yes. Okay, meeting adjourned.