



**Centers for Applied Science & Technology  
Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Yvette Benavides, Shari Albright, Lisa Lewis, Jeanne Russell, Katie Chain, Rene Dominquez, Eric Nieves, Dr. Lyssa Ochoa

**Staff Members Present:** Amanda Sierra, Jen Maestas. Carol Mendenhall, Eddie Rodriguez, Charles Clines

**Principals Present:** Melissa Alcalá (CAST Tech), Kathy Bieser

**Welcome** by Principal Kathy Bieser, principal of ALA

**Student voice:** ALA Euclid (Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup>) students demonstrated an origami folding technique they used on their health fair PBL for mental health

<b>ITEMS RELATED TO CAST Network</b>
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- Welcome New Board Members
- Empathy Interviews:
  - Board members and students from CAST Tech and ALA participated in an “empathy interview” protocol based on Practices used User Experience at CAST Tech and design thinking at ALA
- Report Out—looking for patterns and themes—themes discovered were feeling of community, students have voice, and multiple opportunities for students
- Graduating seniors from ALA and CAST Tech share their stories:
  - Andrew Swindler from CAST Tech shared how what he learned helped him freelance during COVID. He is going to Trinity University to study international business
  - Seven Aquirre from ALA spoke about all the opportunities he’s had at the school because it’s on a campus with other schools—like Mariachi, swimming and AP calculus
- Financials reported out by Charlie Clines and he answered questions from Board members

- Executive committee update: Lisa Lewis talked about the priorities for next year
- Financials—CAST is in good shape
  - Motioned: Yvette Benavides
  - Seconded: Lisa Lewis
  - Everyone Agreed

Student Agency Activity (Raising Blended Learners) with ALA and CAST Tech teachers. Jen Maestas, Community and Education Manager introduced the activity and then the Board participated in a carousel activity talking to the teachers and their work.

<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>
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- Minutes from Feb. 23 meeting
- Motion for accepting consent agenda:**
  - Motioned: Shari Albright
  - Seconded: Dr. Ochoa
  - Everyone agreed

**Close** by CAST Tech Principal Dr. Alcala

**Celebrations**

- Youth Rally (more at next meeting)
- Employer event celebrations
- East Central 1882 partnership, addition of 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Grant Reports
  - Meadows, Catalyze, Gates
- Increased staffing model adopted at CAST Lead and CAST Teach
- Expansion of teacher residency model with Texas A&M San Antonio

**Action/calendar items for board**

- Partnership Thank You event – mark your calendars, April 27, CAST STEM High School, 6 p.m.
- Graduation dates: June 1 (CAST Tech), Alamo Stadium 8 p.m. June 2 (ALA), Alamo Stadium 8 p.m., June 3 (CAST STEM), Alamodome 10 a.m.
- Find one place to tell the CAST story - with our support
- Get the word out about enrollment!