



Minutes

Centers for Applied Science and Technology
Board of Trustees Meeting | August 21, 2025
CAST Med | 4 PM - 5:30 PM

Board Members Present: Dr. Lyssa Ochoa, Lisa Lewis, and Jeanne Russell

Board Members Present Virtually: Erik Nieves, Shari Albright, Leslie Cantu, Katie Chain, and Rene Dominguez

Board Members Absent: Erik Ford

Staff Present: Jen Maestas, Eric Falcon, Heriberto “Eddie” Rodriguez, Al Perez and Amanda Sierra (virtually)

1. Welcome

- a. CAST Imagine Middle School welcomed the board of trustees to their recently remodeled campus and shared updates on enrollment, the student experience, and why students chose to attend CAST Imagine. Presenters included:
 - i. CAST Med and CAST Imagine Principal, Dr. Maricela Alarcón
 - ii. CAST Med and CAST Imagine Partnership Coordinator, Lizeth Chavez Aguiar
 - iii. CAST Imagine Teacher, Colleen Quirk
 - iv. CAST Imagine Students, Jazmine and Alieah

2. Consent Agenda: Lisa Lewis moved to approve items in the consent agenda, Leslie Cantu seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

- a. Approve minutes from the June 19, 2025 Board Meeting
- b. Approve Executive committee minutes

3. Governance: Jeanne Russell requested for the board to review and sign annual Board of Trustees Conflict of Interest Forms, Change of Registered agent form, reviewed approving a Conflict of Interest Disclosure

4. Board shoutouts: Heriberto “Eddie” Rodriguez thanked several board members on behalf of the network for representing the board at various CAST industry events, securing volunteers to support the Advanced Learning Academy and continuing to connect students with opportunities:

- a. Leslie Cantu and Lisa Lewis | CAST Partner Convening
- b. Dr. Lyssa Ochoa and Leslie Cantu | Apprenticeship Convening with Ready to Work
- c. Katie Chain | H-E-B Interns Volunteered at Advanced Learning Academy
- d. Dr. Lyssa Ochoa, Leslie Cantu, and Erik Nieves, | SAISD Board Convening
- e. Leslie Cantu and Katie Chain | TX Fame Signing Day

5. Board committee reports

- a. Dr. Lyssa Ochoa provided the board of trustees with an update from the most recent executive committee meeting. The committee will convene prior to the next board meeting to align on a process for selecting the next Executive Director for the CAST Schools Network
- b. Katie Chain and Heriberto “Eddie” Rodriguez provided the board of trustees with an update from the most recent business development committee meeting to include a partnership gaps analysis and support for upcoming industry events.

6. Strategic Metrics and Outcomes

- a. Jen Maestas presented to the board an overview of TEA Accountability Ratings for CAST Schools, 2024-2025 KPI outcomes, and an analysis on CAST alums prepared by Accenture
- b. Eric Falcon provided the board with an update on current work led by the CAST Alumni Steering Committee, including action items, the development of a committee specifically focusing on alumni

who went straight to work after graduation, and future initiatives.

- c. Heriberto "Eddie" Rodriguez provided an update on CAST School's career-connecting strategy, industry events, and identifying local launch pad jobs.

7. Executive Session: The board convened in Closed Session to review end of year financials, ISD updates and succession planning.

8. Upcoming Events

- a. Review 2025-2026 Calendar of Events
- b. Jen Maestas shared that she will be scheduling one-on-one meetings with board members to review the board matrix and receive feedback the network's strategic direction
- c. Board Meeting and Reception: October 16, 2025 | 4 PM - 6:30 PM | VelocityTX (to include reception with CAST staff and other stakeholders)

9. Adjourn