MINUTES OF THE

DIGITAL ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY GOVERNING COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

May 21, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the DATA Governing Board was called to order on this date at 4:00 p.m. at DATA, 1011 Lamberton Place, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A. Roll Call: quorum present

Board Members Present:
Ms. Jennifer McDonald, Chair
Mr. Omar Durant
Ms. Tara Groneman
Ms. Janet Stephenson

Board Members Excused:

Staff/Faculty Present:
Ms. Alixandra Rael, Principal
Ms. Kristin Reeder, Dean of Students
Dr. Holly Gurule, Instructional Coach / Administrative Team
Ms. Kris Quisenberry, Human Resources Coordinator
Mr. Jesse Gutierrez, School Business Officer

Others Present:
Mike Vigil II, The Vigil Group

B. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Groneman moved approval of the agenda. Ms. Stephenson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- **Declaration of Conflicts**

None declared.

- **Materials Read Prior to Meeting**

Members confirmed that all materials were read prior to the meeting.

C. Approval of Minutes: April 16, 2026, Regular Meeting & May 13, 2026, Special Meeting

Mr. Durant moved approval of the April 16 and May 13 meeting minutes. Chair McDonald seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC FORUM

No speakers.

III. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Administration Report: Alixandra Rael / Kristen Reeder / Holly Gurule

- **Updated School Grading Policy**

Ms. Rael reviewed the upgraded policy, which comes from work that started in the Humanities Department several years ago, in an effort to create a more equitable and transparent, proficiency-based grading system. They found that the traditional 100-point grading system disproportionately failed students by allocating 59 points to failing grades (0-59) and only 10 points to an A grade.

Ms. Rael said this system was informally implemented this year, but now they want to make it official. Teachers are being asked to apply the grading scale and matrix consistently.

Ms. Stephenson moved to accept Updated School Grading Policy. Ms. Groneman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- **Capstone**

Ms. Rael reported that DATA had its first Capstone day last Friday. They started with eighth graders in the morning, moved to tenth graders at midday, and ended with the seniors. It was schoolwide, so they scheduled all of the eighth, tenth and twelfth graders to present in various rooms around the building, and each room had at least two or three staff members to offer feedback. Families were also invited, so parents were in the building all day to see the students' custom presentations. Seventh, ninth and eleventh graders were in those rooms to act as audience members.

Ms. Rael said they also had a reflection meeting that morning with some of the teachers, which was very helpful in terms of discussing what worked and didn't work, etc.

- **Awards & Graduation**

Ms. Rael said the Awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 28, at the Continuing Ed Building at 9:00 AM. They will be honoring the seniors in a lot of ways, but they are also honoring all of the students. Many of them will get scholar awards for different courses they excelled in, and they will be honoring the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, the top ten percent, and giving out other awards. Seniors will also get their caps and gowns so they will be ready for graduation at the KIMO at 11:00 a.m. the next day.

Ms. Reeder said DATA had eight students this year with more than a semester of a dual/college credit. One has 33 credits. Also, one student finished the LPN program at CEC and was pinned two weeks ago. Two other students completed the cosmetology program at CEC.

- **Immersives**

Ms. Rael reported that they will go into the Immersives June 1-4, since DATA still has its seventh through eleventh graders through June 4. Instead of having the students sit in the classroom, the teachers have created workshops in cooking, car maintenance, indoor rock climbing, and hiking. Students have signed up for their Immersives, and teachers are putting the finishing touches on their plans.

- **Looking to 2026-27**

Dr. Gurule said they met with staff on May 18 and dived into their graduate profile and graduate aims. Staff discussed strengths and areas needing improvement and what they need to be more intentional about next year. They plan to revisit this on June 5.

- **Staffing Update**

Ms. Rael reported that one teacher is retiring, and another teacher may be moving out of state; so they may be hiring another Math teacher. DATA will also be hiring a front desk position to replace staff that is leaving and hopes to hire an EA to help support students for IEP accommodations.

- **2 New Laptop Carts for 2026-27**

Ms. Rael said the existing laptop cards are worn out, and they hope to get two new ones next year.

Ms. Reeder said they will repurpose the old laptops into each classroom and mount them on the wall. Also, students will be moving to an electronic hall pass system. This will give teachers good data on how long a student is out of class, etc.

B. <u>Annual Tasks</u>

- **Annual Public Meeting Notice Resolution**

Chair McDonald moved for approval of the resolution. Mr. Durant seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. <u>Financial Report</u>: Jesse Gutierrez / Mike Vigil II

- **FY25 CAP Update**

Mr. Gutierrez reported on discussion and action at the Finance Committee meeting.

- **Disposal of Computer / Electronic Inventory**

Mr. Gutierrez stated that he and Mr. McGuire, I.T. Director, reviewed each item. The items being disposed of are solely DATA property. He said some laptops are 15-20 years old, and a number of them are damaged. In terms of disposal, some items can be given to

scrap collectors in exchange for cash, which could be put into the student fund. Another option is turn them over to Waste Management.

Ms. Groneman moved approval of the disposal of computer and electronic inventory. Mr. Durant seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- **Regular Financial Summary**

Mr. Gutierrez reviewed the April cash balance summary, expenditure report, revenue report, deposits and withdrawals, outstanding checks, disbursements, and general ledger reports. He also reviewed BARs and RFRs.

- **Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs), Requests for Reimbursement (RFRs) & Disbursements**

Ms. Stephenson moved to approve the BARs, RFRs and Disbursements. Mr. Durant seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- **Approval Authority for Last-Minute PED Requirements, If needed**

Mr. Vigil stated that if any adjustments are needed for the budget because of last-minute expenditures, this approval would authorize him and Ms. Myhre to do a BAR. If they do that, they would bring the BAR for secondary approval at the next scheduled meeting of the Governing Council.

Ms. Stephenson moved approval for the Executive Director and the Business Manager to enter and submit any final Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) on behalf of the school to maintain budgetary compliance for audit and other regulatory purposes. This is done knowing that the BARs will not impact actual cash but only address budgets. In addition, any BARs submitted as allowed under this approval will be brought before the Governing Board at the next meeting with review and detailed explanation. Chair McDonald seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Quisenberry stated that board members do not need tickets to attend the Graduation ceremony.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION : 4 :40 p.m.

A. Limited Personnel Matters to discuss the employment of the Executive Director and discuss the administration of the Academy for the remainder of the school year, pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the Open Meetings Act.

Ms. Groneman moved to enter executive session to discuss the employment of the Executive Director and discuss the administration of the Academy for the remainder of the school year, as permitted by the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Stephenson seconded the motion, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

[The Governing Council came out of executive session at 5:15 p.m.]

Ms. Groneman moved to come out of executive session. The only matter discussed was the employment of the Executive Director and the administration of the Academy for the remainder of the school year. No action was taken. Ms. Stephenson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. Tuesday, June 26, 5:00 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: 5:17 p.m.

These minutes were approved unanimously at the 6/18/26 Board Meeting.