

Meeting Minutes

Kids Unlimited Academy a public charter school Board meeting

Date: May 26, 2026

Time: 7:30 a.m.

1. Preliminary Call to order: 7:35 a.m. by Chair Jani Hale

Present: Jani Hale, Pat Barry, Gonzalo Duran, Lisa Hutchins, Larissa Medina, Rocio Mendoza, Ignacio Sanchez

Determination of quorum: quorum

Staff: Tom Cole, Cass Weiland, Lindsay Ochs, Lupita Vargas, Sarah Lemon

Approval of agenda (additions/corrections): Pat Barry moved to approve the agenda, Ignacio Sanchez seconded; the agenda was approved as read unanimously

2. Review and approval of minutes: Rocio Mendoza moved to approve the minutes, Lisa Hutchins seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Business update – Cass Weiland/Pat Barry: Jani Hale thanked both Cass and Pat for their work on the financial report. The finance committee did not meet this month because of the Memorial Day holiday. Budgeting is going OK, Pat said, adding that five times per year, there is a “true-up” from the state. The true-up significantly impacted revenue, more than \$113,000, because there were 10.93 fewer students than reported, and ODE reduced the charter rate by \$32. When we hit the end of June, said Pat, the school will be at \$16,000 before it receives any more payments. “We’re not alone in this financial hardship situation,” said Pat. He referenced schools around the state facing cutbacks. “We’ll be in the black as far as having a cash reserve.” The KUA budget will need to be approved by the end of June. He said he believed there could be an email vote on the budget. Historically, the board has not met with the staff to construct the budget. Pat said the finance committee meeting is open to everyone, so they will send out an email so anyone from the board can attend.

4. KU Executive Director report – Tom Cole: On the heels of the budget conversation, KU is looking at finances and restructuring, and the organization is “knee-deep” in those conversations and taking a close look at what is working and what could be better. The Southern Oregon Open just wrapped up. “Thank God it’s over,” he said, calling it “another success.” As a school group, they will be looking at the potential of adding more kids. The enrollment is looking really solid for what was budgeted. But they also are considering the impacts of getting to 500 students.

5. KUA Principal report – Lindsay Ochs: Students’ end-of-the-year behaviors are a little “crazy,” said Lindsay. Everyone’s feelings are intense around the conclusion of the year, she said. Thursday and Friday this week are KUA Field Days. “This is my last hoo-rah for DIBELS,” she said, preparing to present end-of-the-year data. Everybody grew, reducing the number of students at risk in reading. The school will have to use another assessment under ODE’s mandate. “We are working on integrating typing in this school,” she said, explaining that it takes students a long time to type in their answers for the state’s

English language arts assessment. They are going to flip the schedule for ELA testing before math next year because ELA takes such a long time. Jani asked about the talent show, and Lindsay said it's June 5 and she will be in it. There are lots of entries, Lindsay said, following the art walk and ribbon ceremony. Lisa said she helped plan the first talent show.

Lindsay said the teachers all appreciated the notes that the school board left in their boxes during staff appreciation week. Rocio said she got to see some of the teachers in person the day they handed out the notes and gift cards. Rocio said she "became super emotional" visiting the kitchen staff with Jani, who shared some of her experiences. The staff were in tears as Jani let them know "they were seen." "They form such a great part of what we do here at Kids Unlimited," Rocio said. Jani said she hoped to live in the "house next door" in five years when it's time to do the next RFP. "You have an opportunity to look back on the things in your life, and things make sense," said Jani. She made \$75 per month as a cafeteria monitor at Medford Mid High, and it paid for her daughter's preschool enrollment. She wasn't "seen" in that role and felt the staff's sarcasm. She never thought she'd be an English teacher. "We have an opportunity to tell them we see them." With Rocio next to her, she felt comfortable sharing. She credited Pat for providing the staff appreciation gift cards. She said she's so grateful that Rocio is the board chair of the KU board.

6. Other business: Jani referenced Tom's explanation at the last meeting that outlined, for the first time, for her what a Request For Proposal is. When he was discussing the process, she realized she didn't really understand the weight of the document. She reached out to former board chair Michelle Atkinson who was gracious enough to share all her documents and notes regarding KUA's last RFP. She met with Cass and Tom, who went over more of the process and suggested they ask for an extension of the RFP so more work can be done. She asked Tom for feedback on the proposed extension. If they want it to be a fair process, they have to give organizations time, he said. They wouldn't get any proposals if they gave organizations until July 1. The last timeline was in the fall, giving organizations 60-90 days to respond, he said. If the board did not provide enough time, and KUA was audited that could be a problem, he added.

Jani said she reached out to Lindsay and Lupita and realized she needed to get data points for the RFP. "There's accounting; there's the value of these buildings." Pat asked if the KU board also had to approve the extension because they need to keep providing the service. Gonzalo agreed with Pat that KU needs to agree to continue providing service. Jani moved to present a request for an extension of the current contract to the KU board. Rocio clarified that we need an extension to get enough time to update the contract. "We are going to be asking for a year extension to the current contract." Cass said you actually need the deadline to be November-December to send out the RFP. Pat explained that they expect responses back in March. Tom said all the board is doing now is just voting on the extension.

Jani moved to extend the Kids Unlimited Academy public charter school service contract with Kids Unlimited for a year, contingent upon the KU board's approval. The motion to extend the KUA service contract with KU was approved unanimously.

Jani said this year's KUA fifth grade class is special to her. "Many of them are White City kids, and they hung with us through that move." The "Willy Wonka" play was fantastic, she said. She said she was with a great group of people at Rogue X for this year's Southern Oregon Open. The impact on all of Oregon and northern California "it's impressive." She said it's been an "amazing year."

Consent agenda None

7. Adjournment 8:13 a.m. Next meeting, May 26, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Lemon, Director of Mission Advocacy

Actas de la Reunión

Kids Unlimited Academy una Escuela Pública Autónoma Reunión de la Junta Directiva

Fecha: 28 de abril, 2026

Hora: 7:30 a.m.

1. Preliminar

Sesión abierta a las 7:40 a. m. por la presidenta Jani Hale.

Presente: Jani Hale, Pat Barry, Gonzalo Duran, Lisa Hutchins, Larissa Medina, Rocio Mendoza, Ignacio Sanchez

Determinación del quórum: quórum

Personal: Tom Cole, Cass Weiland, Lindsay Ochs, Lupita Vargas, Sarah Lemon

Aprobación del orden del día (adiciones/correcciones):

2. Revisión y aprobación del acta :

3. Actualización Empresarial – Cass Weiland/Pat Barry:

4. Informe del Director Ejecutivo de KU – Tom Cole:

5. Informe de la Directora de KUA – Lindsay Ochs:

6. Otros Asuntos:

Agenda de Consentimiento

Ninguno

7. **Aplazamiento 8:40 a.m.**

Próxima Reunión, 26 de mayo, 2026