Minutes

Centers for Applied Science and Technology
Board of Trustees Meeting | August 20, 2026 | 4:30 PM - 6 PM
Location:Fairwinds Office | 200 E. Basse Rd., Ste. 201, 78209

Board Members Present: Katie Chain and Jennifer Maestas
Board Members Present Virtually: Dr. Lyssa Ochoa, Rene Dominguez, and Leslie Cantu
Board Members Absent: Lisa Lewis, Erik Ford, Erik Nieves, and Georgina Podjenski
Straff Present: Amanda Sierra, Al Perez, and Heriberto “Eddie” Rodriguez

1. **Welcome:** Jennifer Maestas called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees

2. **Consent Agenda:** Katie Chain moved to approve items in the consent agenda. Leslie Cantu Dr. Lyssa Ochoa seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Items in the consent agenda included:
    a. May 28, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
    b. August 12, 2026 Executive Committee Minutes

3. **Governance:** Heriberto “Eddie” Rodriguez presented two items:
    a. Board Members were asked to review, sign and submit the annual Conflict of Interest Policy. Board members have until September 4, 2026 to submit. These annual disclosures help ensure transparency and allow the organization to identify and appropriately manage any actual or potential conflicts of interest.
    b. Board Members were presented a Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Jennifer Maestas. The board is asked to review the disclosure for approval. Heriberto “Eddie” Rodriguez will send the disclosure electronically for the board's approval.

4. **Board Actions**
    a. Board Giving
        i. Jennifer Maestas led a discussion on board giving. The nonprofit has a goal of 100% board contributions and there are several ways to members can contribute:
            1. Make an annual personal gift or pledge to CAST between now and the end of our fiscal year (June 30, 2027).
            2. Connect NIcole Amri, Development Director at CAST Schools, with individuals responsible for corporate giving, community investment, philanthropy, or sponsorships at their company or an organization that they recommend.
            3. Support the creation of a new ad hoc Board Fundraising work group, The committee will help CAST Schools identify prospects, open doors, strengthen relationships, and think strategically about how to expand the community of people and organizations investing in CAST.
            4. The board was asked to approve establishing an ad hoc Board Fundraising Committee, to be chaired by a member of the Board and supported by the Executive Director and Development team and to reduce the Executive Committee to three members, The Board Chair,

The Board Secretary, and the Executive Director, which would allow other officers and board members to redirect some of that time and energy toward fundraising and other strategic board work. Dr. Lyssa Ochoa moved to approve the proposal, Rene Dominguez seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

b. Strategic Plan
    i. Board members were asked to participate in the development of the strategic plan by either joining one of two facilitated ZOOM sessions or responding to a digital survey. The goal is to make sure every board member has an opportunity to provide input.
    ii. Double Loop consulting will then join the October 15 Board meeting to present the full strategic plan, walk through the board's recommendations, and answer any questions they may have. To do so, the October meeting will be extended by 30 minutes.

5. **Data Updates:** Heriberto “Eddie” Rodriguez provided data updates on CAST Schools Data and KPIs:
    a. State Accountability Snapship: Of the seven (7) schools in the network, one received an A, five (5) received a B, one school received a D rating. For the D-rated school, the board recommended working with the principal to develop and document an action plan to improve the school rating.
    b. Enrollment Update: The board discussed potential strategies to increase enrollment at CAST Tech and CAST Med

6. **Board Shoutouts:** Heriberto “Eddie” Rodriguez thanked members for representing the board at recent events:
    a. Representation at CAST Graduations
    b. Hosting Interns: CPS Energy, Toyotetsu, SAVE Clinic, and H-E-B
    c. H-E-B and Katie Chain - Donation to CAST Lead's Green Learning Spaces

7. **Executive Session:** The board convened in Closed Session to review financials and receive updates on ISD partnerships.

8. **Next Meeting:** The board will convene on Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm at the CAST Offices

9. **Adjourn**