



MEETING MINUTES - Equipo Academy Governing Body

Equipo Academy Governing Body Regular Meeting Agenda

Equipo Academy
4131 E Bonanza Rd
Las Vegas, NV 89110

Members of the Governing Body may participate in the meeting in person or via telephone conference call. Members of the public are invited to attend. All reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting. Please call Estella Spaine at 702-907-0432 at least two business days in advance so that arrangements can be made.

Requests for copies of meeting agendas and/or supporting materials should be made to Estella Spaine at 702-907- 0432 or in person at the Equipo Academy campus at 4131 E Bonanza Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89110, during normal business hours 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Public notice is posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. See attachment for locations.

Meeting

Meeting Date:	Monday, March 2, 2026
Start Time:	6:00 PM
End Time:	7:30 PM
Location:	Equipo Academy
Purpose:	Regular scheduled meeting

Chair Raymond Gonzalez - Present
Vice Chair Abby Habighorst - Present
Secretary Vivian Perdomo - Late (arrived at 6:30)

Members:

Sayra Cordova - Present
Jessica Recarey - Present
Monica Branzuel - Present
Maria Santiago - Present
Lorrie Bamford - Present
Joe Perez - Present

Agenda

1. Opening Items

1.A. Call to Order

1.B. Roll Call

1.C. Approval of the Minutes from the February 2, 2026 meeting (for possible action)

Moved: Habighorst

Seconded: Bamford

Status: Passed

Vote: All in favor

1.D. Adoption of the Agenda for the March 2, 2026 meeting (for possible action)

Moved: Habighorst

Seconded: Perez

Status: Passed

Vote: All in favor

2. Public Comment

Student Jairo Corral Quiroz (12) spoke about the Studio and how he is blessed to be part of it as a senior since he is so focused. Parent Erika Paniagua spoke about the Studio that education is for the students' futures and that families are concerned about the Studio staying or leaving, as well as feeling like two schools. Student Bryan Godoy (11) emphasized that the Studio team worked really hard and built something, and that it feels unfair how they are treated, asking what they are doing wrong. Student Eduardo Guillen (11) shared that the Studio has been eye-opening, particularly with work-based Wednesdays, and that he feels like the wider Equipo community does not like the

Studio. Member of the public Rachel Warbelow shared that the Studio is unique with the rise of Artificial Intelligence and that the model could change the structure of schools.

3. Reports and Presentations

3.A. Academic Progress Update from Principal Emily Bassier on years of growth for students in the lowest quartile (for discussion, 5 minutes)

Objective: The board will review baseline data on the goal of students in the lowest quartile making 1.5 years of growth within one academic year.

Principal Bassier shared Equipo's goal of 1.5 years of growth for students in the bottom quartile, similar to the trajectory-changing schools studied in TNTP's Opportunity Makers. Principal Bassier shared baseline data on how many years of growth students in the bottom quartile have demonstrated since the fall Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). This data indicates that students in the lowest quartile have made a median growth of 1 year in ELA within the first semester, and 1.3 years in math within the first semester.

3.B. Decision on the Studio program for 2026-2027 (for discussion and possible action, 30 minutes)

Objective: The board will review the impact of board support of the Studio, and determine if the Studio will continue to be a program within Equipo for the 2026-2027 school year.

Vice Chair Habighorst shared that the Studio has improved communication with Equipo's administration, has established a grade reporting system, and that the Studio and Equipo's administration both do not feel like one team. Studio Partner Benjamin Salkowe shared that the Studio seeks to re-imagine secondary school, motivated by the violence facing students in the Equipo community and gaps within the traditional Equipo model. This includes a different schedule and integrated mental health support. Mr. Salkowe shared possibilities of expanding the program for 2026-2027. Board Member Lorrie Bamford asked about the gap in communication, and Studio Partner Anna Parra shared that Equipo students do not know enough about the Studio and are relying on hearsay, which makes them feel like they are missing out on opportunities that the Studio students have. When asked how Studio students were selected, Studio Partner Araceli Vivas shared that students applied and designed a solution to a problem affecting east Las Vegas. She added that everyone who completed last year's application was accepted. When asked whether the Studio Partners are certified to provide mental health support, Mr. Salkowe shared their work with Miracle Minds, an external partner, highlighting that nine Studio students attend therapy with Miracle Minds. Board Member Joe Perez asked what else is measured, and the Studio

Partners emphasized contingency management for support with substances, Work-Based Wednesdays for career exposure, and high family turnout at meetings.

Principal Bassier shared a timeline of accountability from the Studio in which the Studio Partners missed key deadlines for communication with the state and student grade data. Grade data, for example, was submitted 17 days late. She also shared ACT data comparing 11th grade students in the Studio with other Equipo 11th graders, and showing that Equipo 11th graders are showing more growth than their Studio peers on the ACT. Principal Bassier shared concerns about the impact on student culture when the Studio decided not to participate in an annual schoolwide event (the Color Wars) and when Equipo students spoke at the February board meeting.

Board Member Bamford made a motion for more time to consider the decision about the Studio for 2026-2027.

Moved: Bamford

Seconded: Perez

Status: Failed

Vote: 4 in support of more time, 5 against

Board Chair Raymond Gonzalez provided context on the board's previous work with the Studio, including additional meetings between board members and the Studio after December. Board Member Jessica Recarey shared that the board has spent hours discussing the Studio, that the Studio Partners are not meeting deadlines, and that 900 other students could be impacted by 36 in the Studio. Vice Chair Habighorst shared that Equipo has a different vision, and that she does not see how the hybrid of two programs works in terms of culture and transparency. Board Member Monica Branzuel shared that the Studio Partners have put in more effort since December, but it feels like the last minute to come through. Board Member Maria Santiago shared that time is of the essence so that the Studio, if necessary, has time to find a new home and for the team to discuss how to unite. Board Member Sayra Cordova asked when the Studio could open as their own school, and the Studio Partners shared that it might be possible in the fall of 2027. Board Member Bamford asked what will happen if the Studio does not stay at Equipo, and Principal Bassier shared that the Studio students all have a space to return to Equipo. The Studio Partners shared that they are working to find another location, but are concerned about transportation.

Board Member Santiago made a motion to discontinue the Studio for 2026-2027.

Moved: Santiago

Seconded: Recarey

Status: Passed

Vote: 6 agreeing to discontinue, 3 against

Votes in favor of discontinuing: Habighorst, Perdomo, Recarey, Branzuel, Santiago, Gonzalez

Votes against: Cordova, Bamford, Perez

4. Financial Items

4.A. CSP Grant Closeout and Approval of Narrative (for discussion and possible action, 5 minutes)

Objective: The board will review and approve the narrative to close out the CSP grant.

Vice Chair Habighorst made a motion to table the financial and governance items until the April meeting.

Moved: Habighorst

Seconded: Perez

Status: Passed

Vote: All in favor

5. Governance Items

5.A. Finalize date for board retreat (for discussion and possible action, 5 minutes)

Objective: The board will determine the best date to meet.

This item was tabled.

6. Public Comment

Studio Partner Salkowe shared that he was heartbroken by the board's decision to say no to something that is good for kids, and added that, if the Studio missed a deadline, it is because they were with students. Community member Yolanda De La Rosa shared that she has seen the impact of the Studio on students, and that she remembers the challenge of finding a location when Equipo opened. Parent Tiffany Bishop emphasized that the Studio partners work day and night, and that Equipo did not engage with the Studio. Ms. Bishop also pointed out that it is hard to see if the Studio is working in one year. Student Michael Pedro-Amaya (12) agreed that the teachers are always there for the Studio students, including with personal challenges, and that his MAP scores have grown 20 points. Community member Warbelow shared that the Studio is the first time some of the students involved have felt seen and celebrated rather than cast away. She added that the world is changing and scoring 1 point higher on an ACT is not how education is measured. Studio Partner Vivas spoke about the support from families and

students, and wished that all the board members were present to see the passion in the room. She asked for another opportunity to bridge the gaps. Student Jonathan Juarez-Galeana (11) shared that this is about their futures and that he is focused on what he is trying to do alongside the Studio, which feels like a family. Student Zeineth Escobar (11) said that she was devastated and hopes that the Studio can keep going since it has so much to offer. Student Santiago Medina Gamino (12) added that he is shocked and that the Studio has helped with so many things, including the opportunity to participate in Work Based Wednesdays. Parent Javier Sanchez expressed his sadness and asked the board to imagine how the students are feeling and to reconsider. Student Bryan Godoy (11) pointed out that there has been a lot of miscommunication, that all of the families came out to support the Studio, and that Mr. Salkowe has been really impactful. Student Jennifer Salmeron Moncayo (12) shared that she was heartbroken and that the Studio changed her academically and personally. Parent Viridiana Morales said that the board should see the faces of the students, and that the three Studio teachers have made a refuge for the 36 students involved. She added that this is the first year of a grand project.

7. Adjournment at 8:33 p.m.

Prior to adjournment, Board Member Bamford moved to reconsider the Studio decision at the April meeting.

Moved: Bamford

Seconded: Perez

Status: Passed

Vote: 8 in favor, one abstention

Board Member Perez then made a motion to adjourn.

Moved: Perez

Seconded: Habighorst

Status: Passed

Vote: All in favor