



Management Board

- Tom Boone, Chairman/CEO
- Mike Barragan, Vice-Chairman
- Jim DiCello, Secretary
- Bill Maas, Treasurer
- Jill Barragan, Member
- Heather Mock, Member
- Dale Ponder, Member
- Marcie Rodriguez, Member

VALLEY SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 29, 2026

1. Tom Boone, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

2. Board Members Present:

- Tom Boone, Chairman/CEO
- Mike Barragan, Vice-Chairman
- Jim DiCello, Secretary
- Bill Maas, Treasurer
- Jill Barragan, Member
- Heather Mock, Member
- Dale Ponder, Member
- Marcie Rodriguez, Member (arrived at 11:50 a.m.)

Staff Present:

- Elvis Becerra, Director Account Management Services
- Lisa Dessenberger, Executive Assistant
- Laura Felten, Chief Financial Officer
- Raquel Flores, Administrative Assistant
- Ken Hicks, Executive Director Member Services
- Jodi Jerich, General Counsel
- Leigh Steele, Marketing Director
- Kendall Taylor, Executive Director, Health and Wellness Services

Guests Present:

Meghaen Dell'Artino, Lobbyist, Public Policy Partners

3. Approval of the VSMG Board meeting minutes held on February 25, 2026.

MOTION: Mike Barragan

SECOND: Jim DiCello

VOTE: 7-0-0-1

Tom Boone – yes

Mike Barragan – yes

Jill Barragan – yes

Jim DiCello – yes

Bill Maas – yes

Heather Mock – yes

Dale Ponder – yes

Marcie Rodriguez – absent

4. Legislative update – Mike Barragan/Meghaen Dell’Artino/Gretchen Jacobs.

Mike Barragan introduced Meghaen Dell’Artino and gave her the floor. She provided an overview of key issues at the Capitol and discussed the K-12 budget. She also shared details of conversations she has had with the Governor’s office on the matter. Prop 123 was discussed, and she shared opinions she was aware of among prominent members of the education community. She reviewed specific bills currently in the House of Representatives. The Board asked questions, and further discussion followed. She provided an update on SB1497, sharing specifics about conversations she has had with some State Senators and Representatives regarding the negotiation process for this bill. Jill Barragan asked questions about a couple of other bills, and Meghaen provided answers.

5. Approval of the Valley Schools Insurance Group ("VSIG"), Valley Schools Workers' Group ("VSWCG"), Valley Schools Employee Benefits Group ("VSEBG"), and Valley Schools Management Group ("VSMG") financial statements for the month of February 2026 and March 2026 – Laura Felten.

Laura Felten discussed the Valley Schools' investments and the current state of the market. In addition, she discussed the US economy and its impact on the market.

VSIG— Laura Felten reviewed the VSIG financial statements. She reviewed some larger claims cases that recently settled and discussed line items reflecting that data.

VSWCG – Laura Felten reviewed the VSWCG financial statements. She stated that the Workers' Compensation Group continues to operate well and discussed some claims data.

VSEBG— Laura Felten reviewed the VSEBG financial statements and addressed the paid claims, providing some details.

VSMG— Laura Felten reviewed the VSMG financial statements.

MOTION: <u>Jill Barragan</u>	SECOND: <u>Mike Barragan</u>	VOTE: <u>8-0-0-0</u>
Tom Boone – <u>yes</u>	Mike Barragan – <u>yes</u>	Jill Barragan – <u>yes</u>
Jim DiCello – <u>yes</u>	Bill Maas - <u>yes</u>	Heather Mock – <u>yes</u>
Dale Ponder – <u>yes</u>	Marcie Rodríguez – <u>yes</u>	

6. Discussion relating to preliminary budgets for FY 2026-2027 – Laura Felten.

Tom Boone acknowledged Laura Felten, stating that this is the first time the preliminary budget has been included in the printed Board packet before the Board meeting. He noted that AON provided the actuarial information in a timely manner, and she worked diligently to obtain it in time for inclusion in the packet rather than handing it out at the meeting. Laura Felten acknowledged Scott McCleary and Bill Mesa and commended their assistance in obtaining the information needed from AON.

Ms. Felten added that she has met with all member districts to discuss claims budgeting for contributions that need to be paid. She answered questions and provided data to support the process. She then provided a brief explanation of the preliminary budget paperwork and the process taken to reach the final budget for the newest Board Members.

VSIG— Laura Felten reviewed the VSIG preliminary budget in detail. She explained changes to the budget process, specific budget line items, and how contributions will be recorded going forward. Laura stated that we use a 55% confidence level when setting the budget, consistent with industry standards. She noted that anyone who wanted a copy of the full Aon report could obtain one. She also stated that the largest change to this budget is the property. Tom Boone discussed reinsurance and SIR, sharing details from a relevant meeting with various carrier representatives. Discussion took place among the Board.

VSWCG— Laura Felten reviewed the VSWCG preliminary budget in detail. She discussed new Members who will join the Workers' Compensation Group beginning July 1, 2026. She also discussed budget adjustments and explained that they were due to the new Members' joining. Insurance rates are expected to remain constant next year. Paid claims were discussed, including an estimate of onboarding Member claims.

VSEBG— Laura Felten reviewed the VSEBG preliminary budget in detail, highlighting specific budget adjustments and explaining them. Tom Boone added details and provided an update on the renewals. Marcie Rodriguez asked what the percentage increase was for our Members. Ken Hicks provided details. Jim DiCello shared information about a new member, followed by a brief discussion.

VSMG— Laura Felten reviewed the VSMG preliminary budget in detail. She discussed some of the recommended line increases and provided explanations. Ms. Rodriguez asked a question about the consultant's line item and requested clarification. Tom Boone and Laura Felten answered. Tom Boone also provided additional explanation about some of the other numbers in the budget. Ken Hicks and Mike Barragan shared information about the Valley Schools EBG staff, noting their commitment to excellence and expressing gratitude for their customer service. Mr. Barragan stated that he consistently receives positive feedback about the service Valley Schools provides. Heather Mock thanked Laura Felten for the work she put into these preliminary budgets and expressed her appreciation.

7. Review/approve the VSMG Board meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2026-27 -- Tom Boone.

MOTION: Jim DiCello

SECOND: Mike Barragan

VOTE: 8-0-0-0

Tom Boone – yes

Mike Barragan – yes

Jill Barragan – yes

Jim DiCello – yes

Bill Maas – yes

Heather Mock – yes

Dale Ponder – yes

Marcie Rodriguez – yes

8. Review/approve the VSMG calendar for Fiscal Year 2026-27 – Tom Boone.

MOTION: Jim DiCello

SECOND: Mike Barragan

VOTE: 8-0-0-0

Tom Boone – yes

Mike Barragan – yes

Jill Barragan – yes

Jim DiCello – yes

Bill Maas - yes

Heather Mock – yes

Dale Ponder – yes

Marcie Rodríguez – yes

9. Chairman/CEO summary report and update – Tom Boone.

Tom Boone reviewed the next Board meeting date and some future conference dates.

10. Board Member comments.

Mike Barragan stated that he and Bill Maas attended several conferences together, including the Laveen ESD event, and that he received a lot of positive feedback while there. Jim DiCello stated that he would be attending ASBO International and is looking forward to interacting with some of the Valley Schools members. Jill Barragan gave an update on the PVUSD Golf tournament and thanked the Valley Schools staff for their work in preparing for this meeting. Marcie Rodriguez extended her thanks to the entire Board and Valley Schools staff for their support, specifically highlighting the VSEBG team. Bill Maas expressed his appreciation to the Valley Schools staff, and Dale Ponder echoed the same, specifically acknowledging the VSEBG team.

11. The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jim DiCello

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim DiCello, Secretary

JD/fad