

J. JACOB MARTINEZ, Ed.D., MBA, M.Eng., PMP

Chief Operations and Facilities Executive

Capital Programs | School Safety | Enterprise Operations

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cabinet-level operations and facilities executive and U.S. Marine Corps veteran with 20 years of leadership across K-12 public education, commercial nuclear generation, and construction. Stewarded \$810M in voter-approved general obligation bond authority across three California measures, led the facilities needs assessment and project list behind a \$360M measure approved by 61 percent of voters, and directed a capital portfolio exceeding \$230M, delivering its new construction and solar program 100 percent on time and within budget. Currently leads eight departments for a Virginia school division, advancing the city's first new school since 1974 through PPEA design-build procurement while producing measurable gains in campus safety, service reliability, and public accountability. Doctorate in Educational Leadership with research on active shooter preparedness. Known for candid Board reporting, data-driven performance systems, and connecting every facility and service investment to student outcomes.

SIGNATURE RESULTS

- \$810M in voter-approved general obligation bond authority stewarded across Measures VV, M, and AA.
- \$230M+ capital portfolio directed; \$160M in new schools, a transportation center, and solar delivered 100 percent on time and within budget.
- \$32M solar and microgrid program across every school site, reducing district energy costs 40 percent.
- School incidents reduced 55 percent at the high school and 90 percent at the middle school (February 2026 versus February 2025).
- First new school construction in Petersburg, VA since 1974 advanced from PPEA Design Build proposals to design kickoff in one school year.
- Network compromise recovered in 15 days with zero data compromised and zero net cost to the division.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) | GO Bond Governance | Facilities Master Planning | Facility Condition Assessments
Design-Build, Design-Bid-Build, CM Multi-Prime, CM at Risk, PPEA | Construction Management | DSA, CEQA, ADA
School Safety and Emergency Management | Risk Management and Insurance | Nuclear Safety Culture | Human Performance
Multi-Departmental Budgets (\$210M) | Procurement and Contracts | Grants | Preventive Maintenance Programs
Transportation and Fleet | School Nutrition (USDA, CEP) | Technology Infrastructure and Cybersecurity | Lean Six Sigma
Board, City, and Intergovernmental Relations | Strategic Planning, KPIs, OKRs | Change Management | Cabinet Leadership

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS (Chief Operations Officer)

Mar 2025 to Present

Petersburg City Public Schools | Petersburg, VA

Superintendent's Cabinet | 8 departments | Capital, Facilities, Transportation and Fleet, Security and Emergency Management, Technology, School Nutrition, Athletics, Operations Support Services

Capital Program and Intergovernmental Leadership

- Serve as Project Executive for the Walnut Hill Elementary School replacement, the city's first new school construction since 1974; led PPEA procurement from three unsolicited proposals through public hearing, Board selection of design-build firm and a negotiated Interim Agreement, reaching design kickoff within one school year (112,000 SF target; approximately \$60M).
- As the lead executive for the Walnut Hill program, structured its financing plan pairing a \$25M Virginia Literary Fund loan with School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) funding and local funding.
- Re-baselined the five-year capital program to \$68.6M with documented escalation, delivered \$2.99M in FY2025 capital projects, and converted a \$2.74M audited fund balance into a Board-approved plan for life-safety and modernization priorities, supporting a Board capital goal rated Met.
- Presented the capital strategy to the School Board and City Council, including a joint work session; escalated funding and swing-space risk to the Superintendent and City leadership in writing; and commissioned a contingency analysis that produced a committee-endorsed swing-space plan.

Facilities and Technology Infrastructure

- Led district-wide facility condition assessments and master planning across 9 schools and approximately 765,000 SF, launched the division's first preventive maintenance program, and directed resolution of five major utility emergencies.

- Modernized technology infrastructure: VoIP live at all 11 locations, a new WAN contract and E-Rate filing, Dell PowerEdge servers, Hybrid Active Directory with Google/AD sync, Microsoft Intune device management, and a CrowdStrike and Abnormal AI security stack.

Safety, Risk, and Emergency Management

- Led division security strategy informed by doctoral research on active shooter preparedness; incidents fell 55 percent at Petersburg High School and 90 percent at Vernon Johns Middle School (February 2026 versus February 2025), and the high school recorded zero fights in December 2025.
- Executed a \$241,000 Security Equipment Grant for perimeter fencing at three campuses, three AI-assisted X-ray screening systems, AEDs, radios, and window film; supported five added School Security Officer positions.
- Completed Crisis Management Plans for every school and the division, convened the Superintendent's Safety Committee, and directed recovery from a network compromise, restoring core systems in 15 days with zero data compromised and all costs covered by the division's risk pool.
- Serve as Cabinet escalation point for incidents and claims, and manage insurance, indemnification, and builder's risk across division operations and capital projects with legal counsel.

Performance Systems and Governance

- Chair the Operations Advisory Committee of School Board members and Cabinet leaders; publish quarterly operations reports and an annual Year in Review that give the Board a transparent, data-based account of every department.
- Built a weekly reporting system feeding a 136-indicator KPI framework and objectives and key results for all eight departments; serve as executive lead for Operational Excellence and Infrastructure in the division's five-year strategic plan.
- Restructured the office from seven to eight departments, hired Directors of Transportation, Nutrition, Assistant Director of Athletics, multiple head coaches, formalized Operations Support Services, and secured Board approval of a dedicated capital Project Manager.

Student and Community Impact

- Raised average daily meal participation (lunch up 2.8 percent, breakfast up 2.5 percent) on fewer service days, cut non-reimbursable lunches 51 percent, and confirmed \$0 student meal debt with VDOE.
- Oversaw an athletics program that won the VHSL Class 3 State Championship in boys' basketball, produced 14 state-level qualifiers, launched an elementary pipeline at every elementary school, and earned the VHSL Stay in the Game Award.

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Jun 2022 to Mar 2025

Chula Vista Elementary School District | Chula Vista, CA

Superintendent's Cabinet | Facilities Maintenance and Operations, Construction and Planning, Nutrition Services, Transportation | 50 schools | 30,000 students | \$210M departmental budgets | \$810M bond authority

Bond Program Governance

- Stewarded \$810M in voter-approved general obligation bond authority across Measures VV (\$150M), M (\$300M), and AA (\$360M) under Proposition 39, with audit-ready documentation, annual performance audits, and service as executive liaison to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee.
- Led the facilities needs assessment, developed the project list, and presented to the Board of Education for Measure AA, a \$360M bond approved by 61 percent of voters in November 2024 that also positions the district for state matching funds.
- Delivered monthly Board presentations on capital status, budget performance, and compliance to a diverse, multilingual community.

Capital Delivery

- Directed a capital portfolio exceeding \$230M. Delivered \$160M 100 percent on schedule and within budget: two new elementary schools (\$77M and 97,000 SF; \$35.1M and 68,000 SF), a \$16M transportation center and fleet maintenance facility, and a \$32M solar and microgrid program.
- Provided direct construction management across multiple delivery methods, overseeing RFP and RFQ procurement, contract compliance, change orders, and outside architectural and engineering firms.
- Directed five major school modernizations (\$15M to \$20M each; \$75M to \$100M combined) at campuses meeting state modernization eligibility, roof and HVAC modernizations at 27 schools, installation of 20 modular classroom buildings, modular HVAC (Bard unit) replacements, emergency repairs, and DSA project closeouts.
- Led a \$32M solar and microgrid program installing 18,050 panels at every school site and district support facilities, reducing district energy costs 40 percent.

Enterprise Operations and Risk

- Developed emergency preparedness and crisis response protocols with public safety agencies, and managed insurance, indemnification, and builder's risk across the bond portfolio with legal counsel.
- Led bond-funded ADA accessibility, life-safety, security, and technology modernization across 47 school sites.

DIRECTOR, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS

Jun 2015 to Jun 2022

Cal Burton Inc. | San Diego, CA

- As a partner in the firm, directed business development focused on federal contracts and projects on military installations, including solicitation strategy, proposal development, and compliance with federal contracting requirements.
- Led logistics and cross-functional construction teams for commercial and institutional projects; delivered 15 percent cost savings through strategic resource management and vendor negotiation.
- Oversaw procurement, contract compliance, and change order controls across the project portfolio.

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Oct 2007 to May 2013

Southern California Edison, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) | San Clemente, CA

- Member of the Nuclear Construction and Maintenance leadership team; led a \$100M annual portfolio of critical infrastructure and maintenance projects under Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) oversight, with unescorted plant access.
- Supported refueling outages and the steam generator replacement project, improving operational efficiency 20 percent through workflow optimization and technology integration.
- Managed department KPIs and data analytics, the corrective action program, continuous improvement, and safety programs including scaffold safety and Human Performance review boards, sustaining a procedure-adherence, zero-defect safety culture.

SERGEANT OF MARINES, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE

Jul 1995 to Aug 2003

United States Marine Corps | 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MAG-39, HMLA-267 | Camp Pendleton, CA

- Avionics technician (MOS 6324) maintained electronics, communication, and navigation systems on attack and utility helicopters under aviation quality assurance and inspection standards; deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.
- Managed weapons range operations at Wilcox Range, Camp Pendleton; led a 300-person team and managed a \$50M annual budget, logistics, and operational readiness.
- Held secret security clearances; held multiple secondary MOSs; completed multiple Marine Corps leadership schools.
- Honorable discharge.

EDUCATION

Ed.D., Doctoral in Educational Leadership, San Diego State University (2026)

Dissertation: [Analyzing Active Shooter Preparedness in California Schools: A Critical Examination of School Safety Plans and Their Alignment with State Guidelines](#)

M.Eng., Master's Degree in Civil Construction Engineering and Management, University of Alabama at Birmingham (2020)

MBA, Master's Degree in Business Administration; Finance and Operations, Liberty University (2015)

B.A., Bachelor of Arts Degree; Organizational Management, University of Arizona (2007)

CERTIFICATIONS

Project Management Professional (PMP), PMI | Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, University of San Diego | CASH School Facilities Leadership Academy, Cohort 13

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP ARTICLES

[Operations Is Leadership: Redefining the Executive Table in Public Education](#)

[The Invisible Backbone of School Districts: Why Operations Leadership Matters](#)

[From the Boiler Room to the Board Room: Reframing the Role of School Operations Leaders](#)

[Equity Is Operational: Why School Systems Must Align Resources Before They Can Close Gaps](#)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) | Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), CCM pending | Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) | Project Management Institute (PMI) | Virginia Association of School Business Officials (VASBO) | Marine Corps Association | Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. | Morehouse College and University of San Diego Football Alumni