



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

March 11, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Board Room
1300 17th Street, City CENTRE – Bakersfield, CA 93301

Any materials required by law to be made available to the public prior to a meeting of the Kern County Board of Education can be inspected during normal business hours at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, located at 1300 17th Street, Seventh Floor, Bakersfield, California 93301.

An individual who requires disability related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and service, in order to participate in the board meeting should contact the Superintendent's Office at (661) 636-4617 (Government Code 54954.2).

This meeting is being held in an in-person format. Members of the public wishing to provide comments to the Board can attend the meeting in person. Correspondence sent by mail or email to kcboe@kern.org before noon on the date of the board meeting on subjects within the Board's jurisdiction will be provided to the Board at the meeting and made available for public inspection. Members of the public may also observe the meeting via livestream at the following link: [\(1\) Kern County Board of Education – YouTube.](#)

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to order time _____ p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

| 1.3 Roll Call | Present | Absent |
|--|---------|--------|
| Julie A. Beechinor, <i>Area 1</i> | _____ | _____ |
| Joe L. Marcano, <i>Area 2</i> | _____ | _____ |
| Mary M. Little, <i>Area 3</i> | _____ | _____ |
| Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr., <i>Area 4</i> | _____ | _____ |
| Lori Eskew, <i>Area 5</i> | _____ | _____ |
| James V. Robinson, <i>Area 6</i> | _____ | _____ |
| Lori J. Cisneros, <i>Area 7</i> | _____ | _____ |
| Anai Valencia, <i>Student Representative</i> | _____ | _____ |
| Dr. John G. Mendiburu, <i>Superintendent</i> | _____ | _____ |

1.4 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

1.5 Approval of the Minutes from February 11, 2025.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board of Education appreciates comments from members of the public who have the opportunity to address the Board on agenda items (before the Board's consideration of the item) and on other matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

To move the meeting business along efficiently, individual speakers are allotted up to three minutes each, and the total time for comment on each agenda or other topic within the Board's jurisdiction will be limited to 20 minutes. All requests for public comment must be submitted prior to the start of the meeting. In exceptional circumstances, the Board President may, with Board consent, reduce or increase the amount of time allowed for public input and/or the time allotted for each speaker, when such adjustment is necessary to ensure full opportunity for public input within the time allotted. Any such adjustments shall be done in an equitable manner, so as to allow a diversity of viewpoints. The President may also ask members of the public with the same viewpoint to select a few individuals to address the Board regarding that viewpoint.

To allow the Board to organize the public comments, persons wishing to speak will need to complete a form before the board meeting begins, providing their name, contact information, and the agenda item or other topic on the Board's jurisdiction on which they wish to speak. Items not appearing on the agenda cannot, by law, be the subject of board action.

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 Student Wellness Program Presentation.

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

All consent agenda items for the Kern County Board of Education are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item. Approval is recommended on all items listed.

- 4.1 Consent Agenda

- 4.1.1 Approval of Graduation Diplomas.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

- 4.2 General Business

- 4.2.1 Report of Staff Findings and Recommendation regarding the REALMS Charter Renewal Petition.

Informational Item Only

- 4.2.2 Approval of the REALMS Charter Renewal Petition.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

- 4.2.3 Adopt Resolution for National and Global Youth Service Days.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

- 4.2.4 Adopt Resolution for School Bus Driver Day.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

- 4.2.5 Accept and File Second Interim Report.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

5.1 Members of the Board will report on various topics.

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

6.1 The County Superintendent will report on various topics.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

7.1 Items to be considered for the next agenda.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 8, 2025.

8.2 Time of adjournment _____ p.m.



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1.5

February 11, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Board Room
1300 17th Street, City CENTRE – Bakersfield, CA 93301

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

- 1.1 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present

Julie A. Beechinor
Lori J. Cisneros
Lori Eskew
Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.
Mary M. Little
Joe L. Marcano
James V. Robinson
Anai Valencia

KCSOS Employees Present

Dr. John G. Mendiburu, *Superintendent*
Christian Shannon, *Deputy Superintendent*
Steve Sanders, *Chief of Staff*
Merril Clanton, *Senior Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent*

- 1.4 It was moved by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the agenda.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 1.5 It was moved by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the Minutes from January 14, 2025.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Wayne Wong
- Dennis McLean
- Matthew Garrett
- Tonya Holt
- Glenn Clayton
- Jan Lundy
- Paula Bray

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

3.1 Mock Trial Presentation.

3.2 Leaders in Life Presentation.

3.3 Child Trafficking Awareness Presentation.

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Consent Agenda

4.1.1 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Ms. Cisneros to approve the Graduation Diplomas.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Public hearing regarding the REALMS Charter Renewal Petition.
No Action Taken

4.2.2 Accept and File the Mid-Year 2024-25 LCAP Update.
No Action Taken

4.2.3 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the 2023-2024 Annual Audit Report.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4.2.4 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the 2023-2024 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Court and Community Schools.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4.2.5 California School Boards Association 2025 Delegate Assembly Ballot
No Action Taken

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

- 5.1 Trustee Marcano praised the students involved in the Mock Trial Presentation, noting their impressive skills, talent, and professionalism. He expressed hope that the students would continue their path and pursue law school. Additionally, he shared that he had recently finished a trial, where he successfully worked on behalf of “the people,” resulting in taking one less murderer off the streets.
- 5.2 Trustee Eskew shared that she was impressed by the Mock Trial Presentation and found it to be very engaging. She reflected on the human trafficking discussion, noting how it brought back memories of her work in institutions and how perspectives on victims have changed over the years. She expressed her support for efforts to combat human trafficking and mentioned participating in related workshops and outreach events. Trustee Eskew also shared some personal experiences, such as attending the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and was pleased to discover their affiliation with KCSOS. Additionally, she visited a Holocaust Memorial at Chabad, which she found extremely moving.
- 5.3 Trustee Cisneros welcomed the new Student Representative, Anai Valencia, encouraging her to participate when she feels ready. She thanked the staff for setting up online access to curriculum, which she is exploring and promised a future update on her thoughts. Trustee Cisneros expressed her appreciation for being invited to the Bakersfield Prayer Breakfast, where prayers for wisdom and strength were offered for those involved in education, and expressed gratitude for such community support. She mentioned a question about the President’s Executive Order related to dissolving the United States Department of Education and its potential effects on Kern County, indicating a desire for more information on this matter. Finally, she expressed enthusiasm for a potential spring barbecue event, volunteering to help with planning and inviting participation from fellow trustees and the Anai.
- 5.4 Trustee Robinson expressed disappointment that there was no press present for such an important topic as human trafficking, especially after other topics, like the Ten Commandments, had garnered more attention. He acknowledged the importance and emotional impact of the presentation on human trafficking and thanked the speakers for their hard-hitting discussion. He emphasized the need for awareness and fundraising for organizations like the Kern Coalition against Human Trafficking (KCAT) and encouraged the board to engage in efforts to support such initiatives. He also extended a warm welcome to student trustee Anai Valencia and advised her to keep an open mind as she engages in her new role.

- 5.5 Trustee Little expressed that attending the Prayer Breakfast was an honor and a privilege, highlighting that Dr. Mendiburu humbly sat at the Dais. She stated that she felt very proud of him for representing the KCBOE and KCSOS.
- 5.6 Student Representative Valencia commented that she appreciated Ms. Perkins sharing her brave story.

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu attended the Bakersfield Prayer Breakfast, serving as a representative of Kern County educators. His presence at the event highlighted the dedication and commitment of educators to the community. During the meeting, he provided updates on several educational topics, including the potential impacts of recent executive orders, such as those related to the United States Department of Education and school sports participation policies. Dr. Mendiburu emphasized the importance of staying informed and assured the board that more information would be communicated as it becomes available. He also discussed ongoing efforts to address issues related to immigrant student attendance following a statewide initiative that impacted school participation.

7.0 CLOSED SESSION

- 7.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9)
Name of case: C.T. v. Kern County Board of Education; Case No. BCV-23-100890

8.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 There were no recommendations for item consideration for the next board meeting.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 9.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 11, 2025.
- 9.2 The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Superintendent

OFFICE OF JOHN G. MENDIBURU
 Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Advocates for Children...

Charter School Office
 Summary of REALMS Renewal Petition Findings

| GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: Not applicable for renewals | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Item # | Requirements: | | Petition Page # | Can finding be addressed in MOU? If yes, describe |
| | Met | Not Met | | |
| I-A | N/A | | | |
| I-B | N/A | | | |
| I-C | N/A | | | |
| REASONABLY COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTIONS | | | | |
| Item # | Requirements: | | Petition Page # | Can finding be addressed in MOU? If yes, describe |
| | Met | Not Met | | |
| II-1 | X | | Pgs. 29-31 | <p>Yes. The charter can ensure in the MOU that it will revise its EL identification procedures to fully align with California Education Code. The process for identification of English Learners should include:</p> <p>Step 1, a) The Home Language Survey (HLS) should only be administered to students upon <i>initial</i> enrollment in a California public school (20 U.S.C. 6823[b][2]; 5 CCR Section 11518.5[a]). The charter must establish a procedure to ensure that students who have already completed an HLS at a different California public school are not required to complete another upon enrollment at REALMS. The charter will also ensure that Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students are not administered the Initial ELPAC until they enter Kindergarten as described in Assembly Bill 2268.</p> <p>In regard to dually-identified students (ELs with IEPs) the charter will ensure that the California Alternate Assessment (ELPAC) will be administered to SWDs who cannot participate in the Initial or Summative ELPAC.</p> |

4.2.1

REASONABLY COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTIONS

| Requirements: | | Petition | | Can finding be addressed in MOU? | |
|---------------|-----|--|--------|--|------------------|
| Item # | Met | Not Met | Page # | If Yes, describe | If Yes, describe |
| | | b. The process outlined in the renewal petition for reclassification of English Learners does not fully align with California Education Code for reclassification. | Pg 31 | Yes. The charter can ensure in the MOU that it will be fully compliant with CDE's reclassification criteria: ELPAC minimum overall score of 4, with minimum scores of 3 in Oral Language and Written Language; Basic Skills Relative to English-Proficient Students i.e. "students must read within one and a half years of grade level and they must score a 2 out of 4 on a cold write, based on a common, SBAC-aligned writing rubric;" parent consultation, and teacher recommendation. | |
| | | c. The renewal petition does not include SELPA Assurances and is missing other language related to serving students with disabilities. | Pg 34 | Yes. The charter can provide SELPA assurances in the MOU that would include the following: REALMS shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws in serving students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, Section 504, the ADA and the IDEA. All LEA members of the Kern County Consortium SELPA, make the following assurances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Appropriate Public Education -Schools will assure that a free appropriate public education shall be provided to all enrolled students including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school. • Child Find -Schools will assure that all students with disabilities are identified. • Full Educational Opportunity -Schools will assure that all students with disabilities have access to the full range of programs available to non-disabled students. • Least Restrictive Environment -Schools will assure that students with disabilities are educated with students who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. This will be addressed through the use of supplementary aids and services in the general education environment. • Individualized Education Program -Schools will assure that an Individualized Education Plan is developed, reviewed and revised for each child who is eligible. • Assessments -Schools will assure that an IEP review shall be conducted on an annual basis at a minimum. In | |
| 11-1 | | | | | |

addition, a reassessment shall be conducted at least once every three years, and more often if conditions warrant or requested by the student's parents or teacher.

REASONABLY COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTIONS

| Item # | Requirements: | | If Not Met: Factual Findings | Petition Page # | Can finding be addressed in MOU? If yes, describe |
|--------|---------------|---------|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| | Met | Not Met | | | |
| II-2 | X | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidentiality and Procedural Safeguards -Schools will assure that the confidentiality of identifiable data shall be protected at collection, storage, disclosure and destruction. In addition, students and their parents shall be provided with safeguards through the identification, evaluation, and placement process and provisions for a free appropriate public education. Personnel Standards -Schools will assure that good faith efforts will be made to attract, recruit and hire appropriately trained and credentialed personnel to provide special education services to children with disabilities. State Assessments -Schools will assure that students with disabilities are included in State assessment programs with appropriate accommodations and modifications when necessary and appropriate. The Charter School shall be solely responsible for its compliance with Section 504 and the ADA. The facilities to be utilized by the Charter School shall be accessible for all students with disabilities. |
| II-3 | X | | | | |
| II-4 | X | | | | |
| II-5 | X | | | | |
| II-6 | X | | | | |
| II-7 | X | | | | |
| II-8 | X | | | | |
| II-9 | X | | | | |
| II-10 | X | | | | |
| II-11 | X | | | | |
| II-12 | X | | | | |
| II-13 | X | | | | |
| II-14 | X | | | | |
| II-15 | X | | | | |

SUPPLEMENTAL CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL REVIEW

| Item # | Requirements: | | Factual Findings | Petition Page # | Can finding be addressed in MOU? If yes, describe |
|--------|---------------|---------|---|-----------------|---|
| | Met | Not Met | | | |
| III-1 | N/A | N/A | <p>Unsound Educational Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely to successfully implement program: • The budget presented in the renewal petition indicates that the charter will be in deficit spending by more than \$700,000 annually, indicating a structural deficit exists. • REALMS has been relying on its reserves to fully fund its educational program since 2019. • The Charter's budget was initially established based upon an enrollment that ranged from 420 in 2019 to 439 in 2022. The Charter's actual enrollment has ranged from 159 in 2019 to 237 as of Feb. 2025. However, the budget has not been sufficiently revised to reflect the significant differences from projected enrollment to actuals. • Unless the Charter revises its current and future budgets, it will not be able to fully fund its current educational program after July 1, 2028. | Budget Reports | <p>Yes. The Charter can agree to the following in an MOU that KCSOS staff believe will address and cure the fiscal findings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Charter will create and submit to KCSOS a board-approved Fiscal Stabilization Plan within 60 days of signing the MOU. If it does not abide by these actions, it will voluntarily close the school by June 30, 2025. The Charter will budget for and maintain a minimum general fund reserve of 5% in fiscal years 2027-30 or it will voluntarily close the school by June 30, 2028. |
| III-2 | | X | | | |
| III-3 | N/A | N/A | Signatures: | | |
| III-4 | X | | Affirmations/Assurances: | | |
| III-5 | | | | | |
| IV-1 | N/A | N/A | Supplemental Criteria for Denial: Serving the interests of the Community | | |
| IV-2 | N/A | N/A | Fiscal Impact on District | | |
| IV-3 | N/A | N/A | Private School Conversion | | |
| IV-4 | X | | Charter School Identification | | |
| IV-5 | X | | Proposed Operation and Potential Effects: | | |
| IV-6 | | X | Budget and Financial Statements: See above information under "Unlikely to Successfully Implement" | | |
| IV-7 | X | | Charter Term | | |
| IV-8 | X | | Material Revisions and Authorizer Limitations | | |
| | | | Other: | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Office of John G. Mendiburu
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Advocates for Children...

Charter Petition Review
REALMS Charter

Petition Analysis and Staff Recommendation

Key Information Regarding the REALMS Renewal Petition:

REALMS Charter was originally approved by the KCBE in 2019 for a two-year term, after the Sierra Sands School District denied that petition. In 2020, the KCBE approved a one-year extension due to extenuating circumstances related to the Ridgecrest earthquake and the COVID Pandemic. Subsequently, the SBE then extended the terms of all charters for three additional years due to the lack of assessment data.

Initially, the Charter was identified as being in the low performance tier in 2024. However, the CDE revised its language related to performance tier criteria, and REALMS was then determined to be in the middle performance tier.

The Charter submitted its Renewal Petition on January 10, 2025 and a public hearing was held on February 11th.

Petition Analysis

KCSOS staff with expertise in the various components of the Petition, reviewed the submission based upon the requirements outlined in Education Codes 47605 and 47607.

The staff found that the Petition principally met all requirements with the exception of the following items which staff believe can be addressed through a mutually agreed-upon Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

1. Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of the Educational Program:

- The process outlined in the petition for identification and reclassification of English Learners does not fully align with California Education Code.
- The renewal petition does not specify that English Learner (EL) students will receive 30 minutes of Designated English Language Development (ELD) instruction daily, as required.
- The petition does not include SELPA Assurances and is missing other language related to serving students with disabilities.

2. The charter's ability to successfully implement the educational program outlined in the Renewal Petition due to budget and fiscal issues:

- A solvent budget is an essential requirement for the operation of the school. Currently, the Charter School's projected budget (see Petition Appendices) reflects various issues including Deficit of Revenues over Expenditures, Net Decrease in Fund Balance and Fund Balance Reserves. These issues result in fiscal deficits that threaten the fiscal sustainability of the Charter School.
- The Charter has consistently relied on its reserve funds to balance its budget every year.
- The Charter's budget was established based on enrollment figures ranging from 420 students in 2019 to 439 students in 2022. However, actual enrollment has ranged from 159 in 2019 to 237 as of February, 2025. The budget projections have not been revised to address the enrollment differences.

All other requirements outlined in Education Code for renewal petitions were met.

Staff Recommendation:

KCSOS staff recommend that the County Board approve the REALMS Renewal Petition for five years beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030 contingent upon the execution of a mutually-agreed upon MOU addressing the findings in the staff report. The rationale for this recommendation is as follows:

1. Compliance with Education Code 47607

Education Code (47607) requires that charters in the middle performance tier be renewed for five years unless the authorizer has factual findings that:

- a. The charter is not serving all students who wish to attend, and/or
- b. The school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors.

2. Fiscal Oversight and Risk Mitigation

Following a diligent review of REALMS' fiscal condition and with ongoing collaboration with the Charter, KCSOS staff believe that the Charter's administration and board are committed to addressing all aspects of their financial management. However, KCSOS must ensure that charters under its authorization operate in a fiscally-responsible manner, not only for the benefit of students and staff, but also to protect the authorizer from potential liabilities arising from fiscal collapse and school closure.

To ensure that REALMS addresses its fiscal issues, KCSOS recommends the inclusion of specific fiscal management provisions in the MOU. Although the above fiscal issues represent serious concerns, KCSOS staff believe that the Charter can remedy them through a mutually-agreed upon MOU that would include the following requirements:

- a. Within sixty (60) calendar days of the effective date of the MOU, the Charter School will develop and present to the KCSOS Superintendent, a Fiscal Stabilization Plan that addresses all of the budgetary issues and fiscal deficits identified in the Petition's budget.
- b. In the event the Charter School does not timely submit an approvable Fiscal Stabilization Plan that removes the issues noted above, the Charter School board will agree to voluntarily close the school and terminate the charter by June 30, 2025.
- c. In the event the Charter School does not project to maintain a minimum general fund reserves of 5% in the fiscal years 2027-28, 2028-29, and 2029-30 by December 31, 2027, the Charter School board agrees to voluntarily close the school and terminate the charter by June 30, 2028.

A.2.3

**RESOLUTION
of the
KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the perpetuation of our democracy, freedom, way of life, and competitive marketplace is dependent on preparing each successive generation of our youth for the reins of leadership in our community, state, and nation; and,

WHEREAS, National and Global Youth Service Days reach out to our youth and work with them toward addressing the needs of our communities through hands-on volunteer efforts that, in turn, improve the quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, through service-learning activities, our youth learn about problems and potential solutions that they can take with them into adulthood and communicate to others in their home communities; and,

WHEREAS, such volunteer service learning activities do much to promote awareness and education to children, adults, the media, along with local, state, and national policymakers; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Kern County Board of Education recognizes April 25-27, 2025 as National and Global Youth Service Days and urges our community members to continue their long-running efforts to support our youth as they evolve into our leaders of tomorrow.

BY ORDER OF THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: March 11, 2025

*John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D.
Ex Officio Secretary
Kern County Superintendent of Schools*

4.2.4

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, in recognition of school bus drivers throughout California, the State Assembly has designated the fourth Tuesday in April, or April 22, 2025, as School Bus Driver Day; and

WHEREAS, before an individual can qualify to operate a school bus, they must successfully pass examinations administered by the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Highway Patrol, which includes demonstrating a knowledge of first aid as well as competency to operate a school bus; and

WHEREAS, the county superintendent has a staff of 61 professional school bus drivers who collectively drive more than two million miles each year transporting students with special needs; and

WHEREAS, these special students are transported throughout Kern County often in challenging terrain, road and weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, many children we transport are medically fragile and drivers have at times had to administer emergency aid until medical personnel arrived; and

WHEREAS, despite these considerable challenges, many of the bus drivers we employ have transported children for hundreds of thousands of miles without a preventable accident, including one former driver who logged more than one million accident-free miles; and

WHEREAS, many of our transportation staff participate in annual "School Bus Rodeos" which test their skills in making difficult turns, parallel parking a 40-foot bus and other challenging maneuvers; and

WHEREAS, a considerable number of our drivers have developed relationships with families of these special children and even provide food baskets to those in need during the holiday season each year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Kern County Board of Education takes extreme pleasure in commending these dedicated drivers on "School Bus Driver Day" and know that the safe transport of our children always is their highest priority.

BY ORDER OF THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dated: March 11, 2025

*John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D.
Ex Officio Secretary
Kern County Superintendent of Schools*