



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2025  
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Board Room  
1300 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Ms. Beechinor, 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 Ms. Beechinor to approve the Minutes from March 11, 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:**

- Greg Andoin
- Lisa Kerr
- Natasha Mitchell
- Sandi Coleman
- Dakota Cameron
- Saffron Villaryo
- Irene Montoya
- Christian Mollene
- Stephen Moffett
- Tara Bratcher
- Niomi Meledez
- Kim Kartiner
- Elizabeth Palencia
- Jessie Trevino
- Janelie Gonzalez
- Paislee Coble
- Karina Mendoza
- Brandon Butler
- Susan Pellerin
- Bianca Tapia
- Edwardo Hernandez

## **3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN**

### **3.1 School Bus ROAD-E-O Video.**

### **3.2 Curriculum and Instruction Support Presentation.**

## **4.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **4.1 Consent Agenda**

#### **4.1.1 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve 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 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Robinson to issue a formal Notice of Violation under Education Code 47607 to Central Academy of Arts and Technology Charter School.**

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 4.2.2 It was motioned by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Ms. Eskew to approve the Resolution for Day of the Teacher.
- Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson.
- Nayes: None
- Abstain: None
- Absent: None
- 4.2.3 It was motioned by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Ms. Eskew to approve the Resolution for Classified School Employee Week.
- 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 motioned by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Ms. Eskew to approve the Resolution for School Health Month.
- Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Cisneros, Ms. Eskew, Mr. Gonzalez, Jr., Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano, and Mr. Robinson.
- Nayes: None
- Abstain: None
- Absent: None
- 4.2.5 Williams Act Uniform Quarterly Reports.  
*No Findings*

## **5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS**

- 5.1 Trustee Eskew attended an event at Greenfield School District, where a new gym was dedicated at Greenfield Middle School. Trustee Eskew stated that it was an enjoyable day, made especially meaningful by a personal connection with a friend on the school board. Trustee Eskew raised questions about understanding various budget details provided in reports, expressing a desire for more in-depth information regarding how budgets are structured and how funds are spent. Additionally, Trustee Eskew expressed concerns about executive orders signed by President Trump regarding gender participation in sports. She stated that current California law allows students to play sports according to their gender identity, and there are ongoing discussions in Sacramento about potential changes. She acknowledged the complexity of these issues and the standstill state of current regulations.
- 5.2 Trustee Beechinor expressed empathy for the difficult situation affecting students and acknowledged CAAT Charter's efforts. She emphasized that the board's responsibility is to ensure students are supported, including making difficult financial decisions like addressing payroll issues. Trustee Beechinor clarified the importance of proper procedure—making motions, discussing them, and voting—stressing that even the person proposing a motion can vote against it. She also highlighted her participation in the Kern County Career STEM Expo, praising its success in connecting over 500 students with industries and commending the collaboration between Bakersfield College, KCSOS, and the Kern High School District. Towards the later part of the meeting, Trustee Beechinor requested a future presentation by Foothill High School's national winning parliamentary

procedure team. Trustee Beechinor contacted the team's advisor to potentially bring their freshman, or novice, students to conduct an eight-minute parliamentary procedure round. She suggested the presentation could take place in May or June.

- 5.3 Trustee Cisneros discussed submitting a resolution to the state in support of Assembly Bill 89 and requested that this matter be added to the May agenda as a resolution. She mentioned how much she enjoyed attending the Bus Driver ROAD-E-O and expressed concern over salaries being competitive, appreciating the amazing job each driver does in transporting Kern County's most precious cargo. Trustee Cisneros commented on executive orders from President Trump regarding CRT and DEI curriculum. She stated that currently, the curriculum provided to students does not include materials explicitly labeled as Critical Race Theory (CRT) or Diversity and Inclusion (DI). Future curriculums might incorporate these elements, but this remains uncertain as it depends on forthcoming state directives and responses to executive orders. The requirements for high school starting in 2025-2026 could influence these potential changes. Trustee Cisneros expressed how proud she was of her niece, Claire Armstrong, and the entire Downtown Elementary School Middle School's girls' robotics team and invited them to attend and present at the May board meeting. In conclusion, she reminded everyone that the Alt Ed Spring Barbecue will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025, encouraging all Trustees to attend the event, and thanked Anai Valencia for her willingness to help with decorations.
- 5.4 Trustee Robinson shared his experience working with students from Leaders in Life and expressed how impressed he was by their interest in attending conservative political meetings. He also noted his admiration for the nearly 1,300 enthusiastic middle school students who helped make Leaders in Life an inspiring and energetic event. Trustee Robinson shifted the conversation to the Ten Commandments and requested that the topic be formally voted on. He stated that he would like Pastor Angelo Fraizer to present the necessary evidence and guidance to the board.
- 5.5 Student Representative Valencia stated she was empathetic towards the families that spoke on behalf of CAAT Charter School. However, she understood that the decision was made for the best reasons. She recognized that the best option available was provided. Student Representative Valencia was pleased that job responsibilities were prioritized over the difficulty of the decision, as it's essential to do what's best for the students. Although the stories were sad, she was glad the decision was made and fully supported it. The situation isn't over, but she is hopeful for a good comeback since there is still plenty of time to recover.
- 5.6 Trustee Little proposed adding a motion to the agenda to oppose Assembly Bill AB 84, which she believes threatens the existence of charter schools in California by cutting funding for non-classroom-based schools, banning customized learning plans, and increasing bureaucracy. She expressed concern about the impact on hundreds of homeschool charter schools and families' access to effective programs. Trustee Little supports accountability but feels AB 84 goes too far. She also mentioned SB 414 as a more balanced alternative that protects students and strengthens oversight. She suggested writing both an opposition letter for AB 84 and a support resolution for SB 414. Additionally, Trustee Little highlighted challenges with current California laws that restrict the disclosure of a child's gender identity without consent, referencing potential federal conflicts as the U.S. Department of Education investigates alleged violations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). She stressed the need to prepare for potential clashes between California and federal regulations and to defend parental rights according to FERPA, mentioning AB 1955 as related legislation prohibiting unauthorized disclosures of students' gender-related information. Trustee Little stated that federal laws

should take precedence over state laws, though there is uncertainty about whether this is always followed. Trustee Little stated that Governor Newsom signed a law intended to protect student privacy and ensure teachers do not interfere with parent-child relationships. However, there is controversy over his stance on the participation of transgender athletes in sports, as he finds it unfair for biological males to compete against females but has not condemned specific instances in his state. Trustee Little emphasized the need to protect students within federally mandated spaces, like bathrooms, reinforcing that these protections are crucial even if the district doesn't have sports programs. She expressed concern about tampon machines in boys' bathrooms, considering it inappropriate and emphasizing that these spaces should be federally protected for men. Trustee Little mentioned recognition by the state Superintendent of Public Instruction, listing four schools—Norris Elementary, Ronald Reagan Elementary, Golden Oak, and West Park Elementary—as Distinguished Schools, highlighting it as a significant achievement for Kern County. Additionally, she provided an update on Mississippi's consideration of Bill 594 to display the Ten Commandments in schools, noting that Texas has recently passed similar legislation.

## **6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu reported that the Department of Education will continue funding to states, reallocating funds to other departments or directly to schools, aiming to reduce overhead costs and address the national deficit. He stated that Governor Newsom's stance on AB 1955 is clear: schools cannot mandate policies to "out" a child without their consent, but they can notify parents about changes like name preferences immediately, ensuring compliance with confidentiality laws. In Kern County, Superintendents are advised accordingly, and dual records are not maintained within programs. Dr. Mendiburu reported that renovations at Bell Tower Plaza are underway, and that the facility's new kitchen will aim to enhance the student culinary program through College and Career Tech funding, with plans to televise classes to other sites and promote a safe and collaborative culture for students interested in a career in the culinary field. He announced that a dedication ceremony will take place at Aurora Learning Center on May 2, 2025, to honor Dr. Mary Barlow, who played a key role in its opening and provided a brief history of the impact Dr. Barlow made in her instrumental role at the Aurora Learning Center. He encouraged all Trustees to attend the celebration.

## **7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- 7.1 Resolutions in support of AB 89 and AB 414.
- 7.2 Resolution in opposition to AB 84.

## **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 15, 2025.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.