



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 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
Mary M. Little
Joe L. Marcano
James V. Robinson
Anabell Werner, *Student Representative*

Board Members Absent

Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.

KCSOS Employees Present

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

- 1.4 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the agenda with the addition of Item 4.2.7.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

- 1.5 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Eskew to approve the Minutes from July 8, 2025.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Paul Linfesty
- Jes Sanders
- Dennis McLean
- Lori Braschler
- Terry Maxwell
- Reyna Olaguez
- Allysa Jones
- Michelle Oja
- Brittny Brinn
- Erike Hawkyald

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

3.1 Presentation by Erin Rogers from the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center.

3.2 Update on AB 84.

3.3 Williams Act Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report.
Informational Item Only

3.4 DELAC Minutes
Informational Item Only

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Consent Agenda

4.1.1 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Beechinor to approve Graduation Diplomas.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little,
Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to adopt a Resolution in Opposition of AB 495.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little,
Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nayes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.2 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Beechinor to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kern County Board of Education and Ridgecrest Elementary Academy for Language, Music and Science for charter renewal.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.3 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to approve a Resolution in Support of Title IX.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.4 It was moved by Trustee Beechinor, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve a Resolution designating September as School Attendance Awareness Month.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.5 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Beechinor to approve the Consolidated Application.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.6 It was moved by Trustee Eskew, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the Loan and Security Agreement with Semitropic School District.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

4.2.7 It was moved by Trustee Eskew, seconded by Trustee Beechinor to approve the nomination of Lori Cisneros as the selected Delegate to AAECB.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

- 5.1 Trustee Cisneros reported on her attendance at the Community Learning Center Junior High Summer Pro Showcase held on July 11, 2025. She noted that students participated in workshops such as baking, welding, woodworking, sewing, swimming, and CPR certification, and highlighted the culminating red-carpet ceremony where students received certificates and shared their experiences. She expressed appreciation for KCSOS staff support of the program. Trustee Cisneros requested that the KCSOS website include a button to provide public access to board resolutions, in addition to the existing policies button. Dr. Mendiburu confirmed that this update is in progress. She announced the grand opening of a new Christian library on Rosedale Highway and the “See You at the Library” event on August 16, noting that community leaders will participate in reading books to children. Trustee Cisneros provided legislative updates, including AB 379, the Survivor Support and Demand Reduction Act, which establishes increased penalties for offenders and creates a survivor support fund, and AB 727, which requires beginning July 2026 that student identification cards for grades 7–12 and higher education institutions include the Trevor Project Suicide Prevention Hotline. While acknowledging the intent of the legislation, she expressed concern regarding the Trevor Project’s approach to gender identity. Lastly, Trustee Cisneros referenced the *Mohammad v. Taylor* case, which affirms parental rights to opt out of lessons conflicting with religious beliefs, and inquired whether KCSOS has an opt-out template available for parents.
- 5.2 Trustee Robinson announced that he will also be participating in the August 16, 2025, “See You at the Library” event by reading to children and expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity. He emphasized the importance of the four domains of communication—reading, writing, speaking, and listening—as foundational skills that should begin developing in kindergarten to help reduce confusion and strengthen student learning. He addressed recent discussions regarding student vulnerabilities, stressing that children are the youngest and most vulnerable in society and should not be used as political tools. He affirmed that trustees serve with integrity and with the intention of protecting and supporting students, expressed pride in that responsibility, and encouraged robust debate while reiterating that the board’s focus must remain on serving students with grace and in compliance with the law.
- 5.3 Trustee Eskew reported on attending the July 11, 2025, Community Learning Center Summer Program Showcase, noting that 15 students participated in the six-week, non-mandatory program. She highlighted the dedication of one student who commuted daily from Rosamond without missing a day and earned an early return to his district school, as well as student achievements such as CPR certification and swimming. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend and asked about trustees participating in alternative school events such as back-to-school nights and open houses. She shared that she and her husband recently attended the graduation of a close family member from the Sheriff’s Academy, which was meaningful given their law enforcement background. Trustee Eskew also announced that she and her husband will appear as Santa and Mrs. Claus at the August 16, 2025, “See You at the Library” event, where she will

read a Christmas book and encouraged families to attend. Additionally, she promoted the upcoming “CALM with Ice Cream” event, which she has supported for many years, and expressed continued enthusiasm for CALM. Lastly, she noted receiving questions from the community about the budget and asked Dr. Mendenhall for additional information.

- 5.4 Trustee Beechinor apologized for recent absences due to schedule conflicts and fire-related responsibilities. She expressed appreciation for the resolutions presented and emphasized the importance of focusing on improving student outcomes in math, reading, and writing to ensure graduation success. She concluded by wishing teachers, students, and families a happy first day of school.
- 5.5 Trustee Little announced upcoming ACCBE events, including the County Board Effective Governance Practice on September 22, 2025, and the Court and Community School Deep Dive on October 9, 2025, both held via Zoom, and encouraged participation. She noted the availability of the ACCBE handbook for download and reminded trustees to sign the resolution before leaving the meeting. Trustee Little also introduced the new county board shirts featuring the county emblem and flag, emphasizing their distinction from the Superintendent’s office and expressing enthusiasm for trustees to wear them at public events.

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu reported on the hiring of Odessa Perkins, a former counselor with the Kern High School District, as a Prevention Specialist in the Alternative Education program to support students affected by human trafficking. Ms. Perkins will provide direct support to students, conduct training and workshops for parents and families, and offer countywide sessions in partnership with districts seeking additional resources. Dr. Mendiburu also noted that once all Alternative Education sites finalize their schedules, the board will receive a calendar of events, including open houses, to allow trustees the opportunity to attend. He further reported that most school districts in Kern County are opening this week, with enrollment fluctuating as families complete last-minute registrations.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 7.1 There were no recommendations for agenda items for the next meeting.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 9, 2025.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.