



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 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

Lori J. Cisneros

Lori Eskew

Mary M. Little

Joe L. Marcano

James V. Robinson

Board Members Absent

Julie A. Beechinor

KCSOS Employees Present

Dr. John G. Mendiburu, *Superintendent*

Steve Sanders, *Chief of Staff*

Merril Clanton, *Senior Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent*

KCSOS Employees Absent

Christian Shannon, *Deputy Superintendent*

1.4 It was moved by Trustee Eskew, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the agenda.

Ayes: Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Beechinor

1.5 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the Minutes from June 10, 2025.

Ayes: Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Beechinor

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Dennis McLean
- Jes Sanders

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

3.1 Discussion regarding Association of California School Board of Education (ACCBE) Organization.

3.2 Discussion of possible Title IX Resolution.

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Consent Agenda

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

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

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Marcano to open the Public Hearing and approve the adoption of the Resolution for Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials.

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

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

5.1 Trustee Eskew shared that although she missed last month's meeting, she watched it online and received a phone call afterward informing her that the county board's resolution in support of AB 84 helped influence 23 people to change their stance. She expressed pride in the resolution being read and considered, calling it a meaningful achievement. Trustee Eskew also encouraged the public to stay informed and engaged in educational issues, emphasizing the importance of speaking up, signing petitions, and contacting legislators. She concluded by underscoring the shared responsibility to protect children and the power of collective advocacy.

5.2 Trustee Cisneros shared that she attended a Blessings Tea hosted by the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center on June 27, 2025, highlighting it as a meaningful event for those in ministry and public service. She mentioned Otilia Curiel from the center expressed interest in presenting an informational item at the August meeting about the center's services for teens and students.

Trustee Cisneros also stated she was looking forward to attending the Community Learning Center Junior High Summer Program Showcase and mentioned a new Christian library in Bakersfield at 3671 Rosedale Highway. The library will host an event on August 16, 2025, called "See You at the Library," featuring Kirk Cameron and Brave Books, which promote patriotic and moral values. She briefly updated the board that AB 84 is still under consideration in the assembly and referenced a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (June 27, 2025), affirming parents' rights to opt their children out of LGBTQ+ materials in public schools based on religious beliefs.

- 5.3 Trustee Robinson reflected on a recent event at Hodels featuring Sonya Shaw, a candidate for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, emphasizing her opposition to AB 84 and AB 89. He praised the event for highlighting the ongoing challenges in California's education system. He also mentioned attending the New California State Convention, where representatives from across the state discussed educational reform and opposition to current state-level control by organizations like the California Teachers Association and the California Department of Education. Trustee Robinson expressed strong support for restoring "normalcy" in education by eliminating confusion and what he described as the undue influence of powerful organizations. He encouraged open dialogue about AB 84, urging people to stay informed and engaged.
- 5.4 Trustee Little shared legislative updates and voiced support for several bills aimed at increasing school safety, transparency, and parental rights. She highlighted that AB 84 will be heard as a special order by the Senate Education Committee on July 16, 2025, with potential for further Assembly review if amended. She supported SB 848 (enhanced safeguards against child abuse in schools), SB 339 (greater transparency in interdistrict transfer decisions), and AB 844 (protection of sex-segregated spaces in schools). She also supported a bill allowing parents to opt their children out of specific instructional content. Trustee Little strongly opposed AB 495, which she described as dangerous, warning it could allow individuals to claim guardianship of children with minimal oversight, effectively enabling "legal kidnapping."

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu provided updates on recent budget changes, highlighting a \$1.9 billion deferral in funding for the 2025-26 school year that will be paid out in 2026-27, helping districts stay financially whole while easing the state's cash flow. The budget now includes a full 2.3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all districts and county offices. Additionally, \$1.7 billion has been restored to the discretionary block grant to assist districts, particularly with costs related to ongoing sexual abuse litigation. Changes to the Expanded Opportunities Program (EOP) were noted, lowering the unduplicated student percentage threshold from 75% to 55% for funding eligibility and increasing the minimum grant to \$100,000 to better support small districts. He also updated the board on CAAT Charter's leadership: Greg West, former Administrator of the Kern Integrated Data System, started as CEO on July 1, 2025, while Joanna Kendrick continues to focus on curriculum. Both report directly to the board president, and ongoing oversight is in progress.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 7.1 The following items were recommended by Trustee Cisneros for the August 12, 2025, board meeting:
- Presentation by the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center
 - Discussion and possible Title IX Resolution

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 12, 2025.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Superintendent