



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 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 – Foothill High School FFA – Novice Parliamentary Procedure Team – California 3<sup>rd</sup> High State FFA Team 2025.
- 1.3 Roll Call

### Board Members Present

Julie A. Beechinor  
Lori J. Cisneros  
Mary M. Little  
Joe L. Marcano  
James V. Robinson

### Board Members Absent

Lori Eskew  
Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.

### 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 Trustee Beechinor, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the agenda.

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

- 1.5 It was moved by Trustee Beechinor, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to approve the Minutes from May 15, 2025, with the correction of item 4.2.6.

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

## **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Jes Sanders

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

3.1 Foothill High School FFA – Novice Parliamentary Procedure Team – California 3<sup>rd</sup> High State FFA Team 2025.

3.2 Presentation – COE Annual Summary Report

## **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 Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Eskew and Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the MOU between the Kern County Board of Education and the Wonderful College Prep Academy – Lost Hills regarding renewal of charter petition.

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Eskew and Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

4.2.2 It was motioned by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the 2025-26 LCAP Budget Overview for Parents and the 2025-26 Local Accountability Plan (LCAP).

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Eskew and Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

4.2.3 It was motioned by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Beechinor to approve the 2024-25 Local Indicator Data.

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Eskew and Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

- 4.2.4 It was motioned by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Beechinor to adopt a K-2 Assessment for Risk of Reading Difficulties.

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

- 4.2.5 It was motioned by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the Court and Community Schools Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) Annual Evaluations.

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

- 4.2.6 It was motioned by Trustee Beechinor, seconded by Trustee Marcano to adopt the 2025-26 County School Service Fund (CSSF).

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

- 4.2.7 It was motioned by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the Resolution - Establish Education Protection Account.

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

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

- 5.1 Trustee Beechinor reported that she attended the Alternative Education graduation, held at Valley Oaks Charter School, which she stated was incredibly uplifting and moving. It was an honor to see each student cross the stage, knowing the challenges they've overcome. Two student speakers were especially emotional, bringing me to tears. I'm grateful to have been part of such a special event.
- 5.2 Trustee Robinson has recently focused on energy issues through his involvement in a focus group. He noted that Area 6 has significant oil and energy production but are unsure how many local technical schools offer related programs. He questioned whether Cal State Bakersfield has a petroleum engineering department and sees it as a potential opportunity for expanding education and training in energy-related fields, particularly in southern Kern County. While not a central issue for them as a school board member, he

plans to continue researching and collaborating with other organizations to gather relevant data to share with the board and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. Trustee Robinson also noted recent hot weather in Area 6 with a lighthearted forecast of “dark” for the evening.

- 5.3 Trustee Cisneros shared her experiences attending both the Alternative Education and Valley Oaks Charter School graduations, describing them as moving and meaningful events. She expressed pride in the students for overcoming challenges and highlighted special moments, such as handing out diplomas and recognizing former student trustees who graduated. Trustee Cisneros then shifted focus to recent developments in education policy, particularly regarding gender identity and Title IX. She noted Texas legislation (SB12) now bans social transitioning of students in public schools. Trustee Cisneros also discussed a recent U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) letter declaring CIF bylaw 300D unconstitutional, arguing it compromises opportunities for biological girls in sports. Districts were required to disavow enforcement of the bylaw or face legal consequences. Trustee Cisneros cited actions taken by other school districts, including Atascadero and Chino Valley, which publicly supported the DOJ’s stance. The Chino Valley resolution affirmed June as Title IX Month, rejected gender identity policies that conflict with biological definitions of sex, and aligned with a January 2025 federal executive order directing agencies to uphold sex as a biological reality. Concluding, Trustee Cisneros emphasized the importance of the board staying informed and proactive about legal and political changes affecting education. She acknowledged the current polarized climate and expressed confidence in the Kern County Superintendent of Schools and legal counsel to guide the board through upcoming decisions, asserting the need for the board to eventually take a clear stand on these issues.
- 5.4 Trustee Little expressed that she anticipates a legal conflict between the governor and schools over Title IX, expecting lawsuits to arise. Trustee Little stated that while it may not directly impact the Kern County Board of Education, it will significantly affect many schools in Kern County.

## **6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu stated that AB 84, originally opposed by the board, has undergone significant amendments as it moves through the legislative process. The bill, focused on charter school accountability—especially for non-classroom-based programs—passed the Assembly with an unusual 25 bipartisan “no” votes, raising uncertainty about whether the Governor will ultimately sign it. Key changes include reinstating existing funding determination processes and oversight fees, eliminating proposed requirements for charter school administrators and PPS providers who hold credentials, and expanding audit requirements to include charter schools and Joint Powers Authorities. Auditors will now have stricter training standards, deadlines, and must consult with authorizers, who in turn must verify charter school attendance and finances. Charter schools must now use the same financial reporting forms as traditional school districts, and new rules have been introduced around contracts, ADA reporting, staff ratios, and the prohibition of parent discretionary funds. The bill also establishes a new office within the California Department of Education to investigate charter operations and fraud. While Valley Oaks Charter falls under the non-classroom-based category, the bill does not propose cutting state funding but introduces compliance costs that may strain charter resources. Charter schools will now face the same credential monitoring as traditional public schools, though vendor and enrichment programs were not specifically addressed. Dr. Mendiburu stated the board’s prior resolution against the original version of the bill was acknowledged by the bill’s author, suggesting it had an impact.

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

- 7.1 There were no recommendations for agenda items.

## **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on July 8, 2025.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Superintendent