



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 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

Mary M. Little

Joe L. Marcano

James V. Robinson

Anai Valencia

Board Members Absent

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 Mr. Marcano, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the agenda.

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Jr.

- 1.5 It was moved by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Beechinor to approve the Minutes from February 11, 2025.

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

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Glenn Clayton
- Claire Saenz
- Dennis McLean

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 Student Wellness Program Presentation.

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 4.1 Consent Agenda

- 4.1.1 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the Graduation Diplomas.

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

- 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 It was moved by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Ms. Cisneros to accept and adopt as its own findings, the report of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools regarding the proposed renewal of the REALMS Charter, and the approval be for a five-year term from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030 contingent upon signing of a mutually-agreed upon MOU between the Kern County Board of Education and the Charter School.

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

4.2.3 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the Resolution for National Global Youth Service Days.

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

4.2.4 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Ms. Eskew to approve the Resolution for School Bus Driver Day.

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

4.2.5 It was motioned by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Mr. Robinson to Accept and File the Second Interim Report.

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

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

5.1 Trustee Cisneros raised concerns about students transitioning between regular high school and Alt Ed programs, reporting that at a recent speaking engagement for the Sons of the Revolution, a teacher noted that students returning from Alt Ed programs were often off-track due to differences in curriculum pacing. Dr. Mendiburu clarified that students enter Alt Ed programs for various reasons, including credit recovery or disciplinary action, and that their coursework aligns with district guidelines. Additionally, a new KiDS platform is being implemented to improve communication and provide real-time academic data for returning students. Trustee Cisneros also provided an update on a court ruling in favor of parental notification policies in California, specifically regarding the Chino Valley Unified School District. She further mentioned a new federal policy from the Trump administration that penalizes schools for failing to inform parents of a child's gender transition. Trustee Cisneros inquired whether policies could be enacted to ensure parents are always informed of identity-related requests. Dr. Mendiburu responded that parental notification is already common practice. Finally, Trustee Cisneros announced that she was excited to partner with Trustee Little on the upcoming spring barbecue and encouraged student representative, Anai Valencia to assist with the planning process and to attend if available.

5.2 Trustee Robinson expressed excitement for the upcoming Leaders in Life Conference and emphasized the importance of engaging young people in civic and community matters without indoctrination. He noted concerns about political instability and stressed the need for principled leadership. Additionally, Trustee Robinson discussed constitutional interpretation, arguing that the First Amendment does not mandate a strict separation of church and state. He defended the

inclusion of the Ten Commandments in public school spaces—but not classrooms—as a reflection of foundational values. He further criticized media misrepresentations and advocated for moral and ethical education to address societal issues like drug use.

- 5.3 Trustee Eskew expressed deep concern over the lack of Narcan in classrooms, emphasizing the urgency of quick access to overdose treatment on large campuses where trained staff may not reach a student in time. Trustee Eskew shared a personal connection to the issue and questioned why Narcan and CPR trainings are not mandatory in schools. Additionally, she acknowledged uncertainty about whether the board has the authority to address these policies but strongly supported efforts to make life-saving measures more accessible.
- 5.4 Trustee Beechinor thanked Dr. Mendiburu and the KCSOS staff for working with the REALMS program, but expressed concerns about its financial impact, particularly in light of budget constraints and potential teacher layoffs. Trustee Beechinor emphasized the importance of reviewing the final memorandum of understanding and staying informed about the program's financial projections. Additionally, Trustee Beechinor highlighted two upcoming community events: Farm Day in the City on March 19-20 at the Kern County Fairgrounds, where agricultural organizations will provide hands-on education for 6,000 elementary students, and Garden Fest at Bakersfield College on April 26, a free event featuring plant sales and showcasing the college's new horticulture and agriculture facilities. Trustee Beechinor encouraged attendance to both events and praised the improvements made to the Bakersfield College campus through Measure J funding.
- 5.5 Trustee Little reflected on the spring Trustee's dinner and applauded the students from Delano High School for their outstanding musical performance. Trustee Little commented that the dinner included a budget update but stated that she does not agree with the update and fears there will be future issues with the budget.
- 5.6 Student Representative Valencia stated that she appreciated the Student Wellness Program Presentation.

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu addressed budget oversight, suggesting that charter school finances could be reviewed during interim budget report rather than waiting for annual updates. Dr. Mendiburu highlighted upcoming events, including the Alt Ed Spring barbecue hosted by the Kern County Board of Education and encouraged trustees who are interested in helping to attend the upcoming planning meeting. He also invited all Trustees to attend the Leaders in Life Conference on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. at Mechanics Bank Arena. Dr. Mendiburu provided an update on fire-related student displacement in Los Angeles County, noting that decreased enrollment from the previous year has aided in students attending school in alternative locations. Lastly, he congratulated and announced that several Kern County schools won at History Day and will compete in the state competition from May 1-4 in Sacramento. Schools representing the county include Panama Buena Vista Union School District, Norris School District, Rio Bravo-Greely Union School District, Wasco High School, Bakersfield City School District, and three Kern High School District Schools.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

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

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 8, 2025.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Superintendent