



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 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 – Downtown Elementary School Robotics Team 2037C
- 1.3 Downtown Elementary School Robotics Team 2037C Presentation.  
*Claire Armstrong, Arianna Carmona, Skyler Marshall, Hollie Rossiter, and Leah Schultz.*
- 1.4 Roll Call

### Board Members Present

Lori J. Cisneros  
Lori Eskew  
Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.  
Mary M. Little  
Joe L. Marcano  
James V. Robinson  
Anai Valencia

### 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*

- 1.5 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to approve the agenda.

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

- 1.6 It was moved by Trustee Eskew, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the Minutes from April 8, 2025.

Ayes: Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., 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:

- Peter Lango
- Mary Johnson
- Cassidy Sheppard

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

- 3.1 Downtown Elementary School Robotics Team 2037C Presentation.  
*Claire Armstrong, Arianna Carmona, Skyler Marshall, Hollie Rossiter, and Leah Schultz.*  
*Item was moved to General Functions – Item 1.3*

## **4.0 ACTION ITEMS**

- 4.1 Consent Agenda

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

Ayes: Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., 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 approve the rescission of formal Notice of Violation under Education Code 47607 to Central Academy of Arts and Technology Charter School.

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

- 4.2.2 Public Hearing for 2025-2026 Local Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents.

- 4.2.3 Public Hearing for 2025-2026 County School Service Fund (CSSF) Budget.

- 4.2.4 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to approve the Resolution of the Kern County Board of Education in Support of Assembly Bill 89 (2025-2026 Legislative Session)

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

- 4.2.5 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the Resolution of the Kern County Board of Education in Support of Senate Bill 414 (2025-2026 Legislative Session)

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

- 4.2.6 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to approve the Resolution of the Kern County Board of Education in Opposition to Assembly Bill 84 (2025-2026 Legislative Session)

Ayes: Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.  
Nayes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Trustee Beechinor  
Trustee Cisneros briefly stepped out of the meeting.

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

- 5.1 Trustee Cisneros began her remarks by asking Dr. Mendiburu how academic goals are set for students referred to an Alternative Education program. Dr. Mendiburu explained that academic goals depend on the nature of the referral. For example, for expelled students, the district's expulsion team sets criteria that must be met for reentry, with final approval by the school board. If a student is referred by parent request, the goals are determined collaboratively with the school, typically focusing on credit recovery. Students placed through probation have their goals established based on their academic needs, often in coordination with their school of residence. Schools assess students' credit status and reading levels prior to placement to help guide instruction. Trustee Cisneros also provided an update on legislation regarding the Ten Commandments in schools: Louisiana and Arkansas have mandated their display, while Texas is considering similar legislation. She concluded by offering encouragement to school communities as the academic year comes to a close and highlighted that May is designated as Staff Appreciation Month, thanking all employees for the tremendous work they do for KCSOS.
- 5.2 Trustee Robinson asked Dr. Mendiburu whether he would address the reported \$8.9 million cut to the California education budget by Governor Gavin Newsom in his upcoming report. Aside from that concern, Trustee Robinson shared a personal update about spending time in the mountains last week, where they played praise music for a former

employer. He described the experience as refreshing and uplifting, recommending a visit to the high country for spiritual renewal.

- 5.3 Trustee Marcano thanked Anai Valencia for her contributions during her time as a Student Representative for the Kern County Board of Education.
- 5.4 Trustee Eskew shared that she and her husband recently had the opportunity to serve as "Cinco de Mayo Santas" for special education students in Wasco through a KCSOS program. She enjoyed the experience, which involved reading, dancing, and interacting with the students. She and her husband also assist with events such as the school's Christmas formal and prom, noting how touching these moments can be. Overall, she expressed how meaningful and enjoyable these experiences are for both them and the students.
- 5.5 Trustee Little shared highlights from a recent Stacker report listing the top public schools in the Metro Bakersfield area, ranked based on academics, culture, sports, clubs, resources, and parental involvement. The top five schools included Wonderful College Prep Academy (#5), Centennial High School (#4), Valley Oaks (#3), Liberty High School (#2), and Stockdale High School (#1), with pride noted for Valley Oaks, which is operated by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS). Trustee Little also proudly shared that her granddaughter, Brooke, a student at Discovery Elementary School, had a story selected for publication and illustrated by a high school student as a graphic piece. She reminded board members about the upcoming CSBA County Board Conference in Monterey, scheduled for September 5–7. Additionally, Trustee Little celebrated Veterans Elementary School for raising \$29,000 to send 19 veterans on an Honor Flight. She also mentioned attending a successful KCSOS barbecue event alongside Trustee Cisneros and student representative Anai Valencia. Reflecting on the success of their first annual Alternative Education barbecue, Trustee Little noted that while many students enjoyed it, some were initially apprehensive due to their backgrounds. She described the event as a healing and unifying experience that helped build bridges within the community. Looking ahead, she hopes to present on the event at the CSBA Conference in December and shared that a detailed video highlighting both the Thanksgiving dinner and this recent event is being produced. Trustee Little expressed pride in serving at-risk students and emphasized the importance of collaboration among families, staff, probation, and the kitchen team to show students how much the community cares. She ended with heartfelt thanks to all who participated and extended special appreciation to Anai Valencia for her service and commitment to the Kern County Board of Education.

## **6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu gave an update on the recently released state budget projections. He explained that the budget development process begins each January with the Governor's Budget, followed by the May Revise, and is finalized in mid-June. The Governor's initial January budget projected a \$386 million surplus, but the May Revise now projects a \$12 billion deficit, signaling a major financial shift. State revenues are \$8 billion higher than previously expected for 2024-25, but projections reduce overall state funding by \$20.6 billion over the next several years. Education funding remains protected under Proposition 98, which guarantees minimum funding for K-14 education; however, there are concerns about a possible suspension in the future, though not immediately. Higher education faces notable cuts since it is not covered by Prop 98. The Governor's discretionary block grant proposal was slightly reduced but still aims to provide flexible funds to districts for salaries, benefits, litigation costs, professional development, and more. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools received a \$30 million grant to lead math framework adoption and training across 11 counties. Additional funding is proposed for literacy instruction,

early childhood education (TK), teacher recruitment and retention, and student teacher stipends, with KCSOS potentially administering a statewide student teacher stipend program in the future. Other highlights include investments in multilingual learner screening, kitchen infrastructure improvements, literacy and math coaches, and Special Olympics support. Dr. Mendiburu's presentation emphasized ongoing budget monitoring and upcoming updates to be presented at the June meeting. Lastly, Dr. Mendiburu expressed appreciation to Anai Valencia for her dedicated service as a student representative on the board. He stated her commitment, insight, and leadership have been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed. The board and community deeply thank her for the time and passion she invested in representing the student voice.

## **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 June 10, 2025.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Superintendent