



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

September 9, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Board Room
1300 17th Street, City CENTRE – Bakersfield, CA 93301

Any materials required by law to be made available to the public prior to a meeting of the Kern County Board of Education can be inspected during normal business hours at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, located at 1300 17th Street, Seventh Floor, Bakersfield, California 93301.

An individual who requires disability related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and service, in order to participate in the board meeting should contact the Superintendent's Office at (661) 636-4617 (Government Code 54954.2).

This meeting is being held in an in-person format. Members of the public wishing to provide comments to the Board can attend the meeting in person. Correspondence sent by mail or email to kcboe@kern.org before noon on the date of the board meeting on subjects within the Board's jurisdiction will be provided to the Board at the meeting and made available for public inspection. Members of the public may also observe the meeting via livestream at the following link: (1) Kern County Board of Education – YouTube.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to order time _____ p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call	Present	Absent
Julie Beechinor Towse, <i>Area 1</i>	_____	_____
Joe L. Marciano, <i>Area 2</i>	_____	_____
Mary M. Little, <i>Area 3</i>	_____	_____
Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr., <i>Area 4</i>	_____	_____
Lori Eskew, <i>Area 5</i>	_____	_____
James V. Robinson, <i>Area 6</i>	_____	_____
Lori J. Cisneros, <i>Area 7</i>	_____	_____
Anabell Werner, <i>Student Representative</i>	_____	_____
Dr. John G. Mendiburu, <i>Superintendent</i>	_____	_____

1.4 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

1.5 Approval of the Minutes from August 12, 2025.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board of Education appreciates comments from members of the public who have the opportunity to address the Board on agenda items (before the Board's consideration of the item) and on other matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

To move the meeting business along efficiently, individual speakers are allotted up to three minutes each, and the total time for comment on each agenda or other topic within the Board's jurisdiction will be limited to 20 minutes. All requests for public comment must be submitted prior to the start of the meeting. In exceptional circumstances, the Board President may, with Board consent, reduce or increase the amount of time allowed for public input and/or the time allotted for each speaker, when such adjustment is necessary to ensure full opportunity for public input within the time allotted. Any such adjustments shall be done in an equitable manner, so as to allow a diversity of viewpoints. The President may also ask members of the public with the same viewpoint to select a few individuals to address the Board regarding that viewpoint.

To allow the Board to organize the public comments, persons wishing to speak will need to complete a form before the board meeting begins, providing their name, contact information, and the agenda item or other topic on the Board's jurisdiction on which they wish to speak. Items not appearing on the agenda cannot, by law, be the subject of board action.

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 CTE Culinary Program.
- 3.2 KCSOS Services Overview.
- 3.3 Charter School Annual Review Presentation and Reports.

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

All consent agenda items for the Kern County Board of Education are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item. Approval is recommended on all items listed.

4.1 Consent Agenda

4.1.1 Approval of Graduation Diplomas.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Presentation and approval of Prop 28 Report.

Motion _____ Second _____ Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

- 5.1 Members of the Board will report on various topics.

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

- 6.1 The County Superintendent will report on various topics.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 7.1 Items to be considered for the next agenda.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
- 8.2 Time of adjournment _____ p.m.



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2025
6:30 p.m.

1.5

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. Marciano

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 Marciano to approve the agenda with the addition of Item 4.2.7.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marciano, and Trustee Robinson.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

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

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Little, Trustee Marciano, 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
- Brittney 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.
Nays: 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.
Nays: 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 Marciano, and Trustee Robinson.

Nayes: 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.

4.2.1

Proposition 28: Arts and Music in Schools Funding

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024-25

Name: Kern Co. Office of Education
 CDS Code: 1510157-0000000
 Allocation Year: 2024-25, 2023-24

1. Narrative description of the Prop 28 arts education program(s) funded. (2500 character limit).

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools' Alternative Education Division began building capacity for an Arts Program utilizing Prop 28 funds in the spring of 2025, focusing on linking arts education with entrepreneurship skills. A Glowforge laser printer, two large Cricut vinyl cutters and mug presses, subscriptions for the equipment, a mobile cart to transport equipment to the classrooms, and a substantial amount of art supplies were purchased to support the anticipated programming. Five schools were served throughout the county this spring, including CLC Tech, North Kern Community School, Erwin Owen High School, CLC Jr. High, and Jamison Center. 131 students participated in a variety of activities including beanie making, soap making, mug making, heat-pressed art, and string art. The Alternative Education program is in the process of contracting with the Kern Arts Council to bring additional creative opportunities to our students in 2025–26, utilizing the equipment we have secured. A highlight this year was a service project where CLC Tech high school students undertook knitting beanies to donate to the neonatal unit at Kern Medical Center. Prop 28 funding made this project possible. We also operate arts education programs in Special Education and Child Development. However, those programs did not expend Proposition 28 funds in FY 2024–25. Remaining allocations will be carried forward and are planned for use in FY 2025–26 to expand Arts and Music in School programs.

2. Number of full-time equivalent teachers (certificated).	0.0
3. Number of full-time equivalent personnel (classified).	0.0
4. Number of full-time equivalent teaching aides.	0.0
5. Number of students served.	131
6. Number of school sites providing arts education.	5
Date of Approval by Governing Board/Body	9/9/2025 12:00:00 AM
Annual Report Data URL	
https://kern.org	
Submission Date	9/4/2025 12:12:07 PM