



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

October 14, 2025  
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Board Room  
1300 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. Marcano, <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 the Regular Board Meeting held on September 9, 2025.

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

1.6 Approval of the minutes from the Special Board Meeting held on September 10, 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 Presentation: Historical Documents Display – Mariah Gonderio, Litigation Counsel, Liberty Counsel.
- 3.2 Presentation: CALM Master Plan Update – Steve Sanders, Chief of Staff and Meg Maitland, Senior Director.

## **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 General Business**

#### **4.1.1 Adoption of the GANN Limitation Resolution.**

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.1.2 Accept and File Williams Act Uniform Complaint Quarterly Reports.**

## **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 Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
- 8.2 Time of adjournment \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 1.5

September 9, 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
- 1.3 Roll Call

### Board Members Present

Julie Beechinor Towse  
Lori J. Cisneros  
Lori Eskew  
Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.  
Mary M. Little  
Joe L. Marcano  
James V. Robinson  
Anabell Werner, *Student Representative*

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

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 1.5 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the Minutes from August 12, 2025.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson.

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Dr. Angelo Frazier

## **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**

4.1 Consent Agenda

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

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

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the Prop 28 Report.

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

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

5.1 Trustee Cisneros provided a detailed report with several key updates. She noted that on September 2, 2025, House Joint Resolution 118 was introduced by Representative Michael Cloud and sponsored by Representative Glenn Thompson to designate September 12, 2025, as “Day of the Bible,” recognizing the 1782 congressional approval of the first English-language Bible printed in America, the Aitken Bible. If passed, the resolution would encourage schools and civic organizations to offer educational programming and call on the president to issue an annual proclamation. She also highlighted the September 8 U.S. Department of Justice Religious Liberty Commission hearing on religious freedom in public schools, where testimonies from students and parents described cases of censorship related to religious expression, such as wearing Christian messages, refusing certain books, or including references to God in speeches. President Trump and Attorney General Pam Bondi both emphasized strengthening parental rights and student religious expression, with Trump promising new Department of Education guidance to explicitly protect prayer in public schools. Trustee Cisneros then shared that the California State Board of Education is seeking a student board member for the 2026–27 school year, encouraging

local students to apply by September 19, 2025. She offered words of encouragement to teachers, comparing the hectic start of the school year to a space shuttle reentering the atmosphere chaotic at first, but soon becoming smooth and steady and thanked educators for their critical role in preparing students for the future. Finally, she proposed that the board extend the availability of its meeting recordings on the district website beyond the current one-year limit, ideally archiving them indefinitely with linked agendas and minutes to allow easy public access to past meetings.

- 5.2 Trustee Robinson shared that the recent trip to Sacramento on the 19th was a great experience, with nearly 4,000 people in attendance and strong representation from Bakersfield and Kern County. He explained that after his visit, several bills (AB 84, AB 495, and AB 727) that had been placed in the suspend file were unexpectedly moved forward to appropriations and then to the floor for a vote. He expressed confidence, based on updates from Dr. Mendiburu, that there is positive news regarding AB 495 and that no additional trips to Sacramento will be necessary. He also highlighted a visit to the Christian Library next to Tastries Bakery on Rosedale Highway, describing it as a wonderful community resource with over 144,000 books and religious texts from around the world. He encouraged citizens to visit, check out books, and support the library, praising it as a labor of love led by Pastor Tom. Trustee Robinson emphasized the importance of supporting both the library and Tastries Bakery, which is currently facing legal challenges, and expressed how much he and the other trustees enjoyed reading to the children there. He concluded by saying that this was all good news and a very positive experience overall.
- 5.3 Trustee Marcano praised the CTE Culinary Program, highlighting the high quality of the students' work (specifically mentioning the brownie he enjoyed)! He encouraged the students to use their skills, noting they have a bright future if they pursue a career in the culinary industry. He also complimented a KETN video about the Alternative Education luncheons, calling it professional and well-produced, and gave kudos to John Lenko for producing it.
- 5.4 Trustee Eskew shared reflections on recent school visits and personal experiences, including attending open houses in Greenfield School District, specifically at Granite Point, noting Greenfield's remodeling efforts and praising the schools. She also mentioned participating in recent reading activities, dressing as Mrs. Claus, and enjoying the experience. She expressed admiration for the CTE Culinary Program, highlighting the students' progress and the leadership of Mr. Gomez, who she knew from her previous work at probation. She mentioned personal anecdotes about her past experiences in the kitchen and concluded with appreciation for the program and the students' accomplishments.
- 5.5 Trustee Beechinor Towse highlighted her participation in Kern County College Night, praising KCSOS and its partners for organizing a successful event attended by 4,000 eager high school students exploring college and career opportunities. She reflected on the evolution of education over her 25-year career, noting the renewed emphasis on Career Technical Education (CTE) and hands-on workforce skills, which she believes engages students and improves outcomes in math, science, and reading. She shared examples of impactful programs in probation and court schools and underscored the importance of career-driven learning. Additionally, she encouraged attendance at the upcoming Bakersfield College Rodeo on November 8–9, emphasizing its career, academic, athletic, and community-driven components, with student volunteers gaining valuable experience in event planning and fundraising. She concluded by expressing appreciation for CTE programs and their role in preparing students for the future.

- 5.6 Trustee Little began by reflecting on the nationwide recognition the board received after approving the Title IX resolution, describing the response as overwhelmingly positive from both sides of the political spectrum and noting personal emails she had received, which she shared with the board. She emphasized the significance of the board's action, including a public acknowledgment from the Secretary of State, and expressed pride in the board's leadership on this issue. Using a personal anecdote about her grandson, she highlighted the broader implications of gender-related sports policies, noting that decisions in this area affect both girls and boys and underscoring the need to consider the impact on all students. She provided updates on district leadership and standards, including a new interim Superintendent at Standard School District and progress on academic programs. Trustee Little then discussed the purpose of a special board meeting she had called to consider joining a federal lawsuit supporting the enforcement of Title IX. She explained that the charter school involved, along with other states, is challenging cases regarding male students seeking to participate in girls' sports, and that the lawsuit has reached the Ninth Circuit and is moving toward the Supreme Court. She clarified that the board's potential participation would be limited to signing on as a supporter, with no financial or legal liability, but would allow a district to stand firmly behind federal Title IX protections. Finally, she addressed logistical matters for the special meeting, including documentation and agenda items, ensuring board members were prepared for discussion and consideration.

## **6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

- 6.1 Superintendent Mendiburu provided a detailed update on key California legislative bills affecting local schools. He reported that AB 84 has been placed on a two-year cycle and will not advance during the current legislative session, which was welcomed by county education officials. AB 727, concerning student ID cards, successfully passed the Senate with a vote of 29–9 and now awaits the Governor's signature; this bill would require student ID cards to include specific information, with potential implications for local behavioral health protocols currently in place. He also discussed AB 495, which addresses caregiver affidavits, noting that it has been amended to clarify that "extended family" includes relatives by blood, adoption, or marriage up to the fifth degree, step- and half-siblings, and spouses of qualifying relatives, while still ensuring that parental approval remains central. Superintendent Mendiburu highlighted that the bill's precise implementation and the Governor's decision remain uncertain due to ongoing controversy surrounding the measure. Additionally, he provided an update on county enrollment, noting a nearly 4,000-student decline compared with the previous year, marking the largest drop on record. He observed that this trend contrasts with high home sales in the area, indicating that many new residents are not bringing children with them. He noted that enrollment numbers sometimes experience post–Labor Day adjustments, and while most charter schools have remained stable, CAAT has shown growth. Superintendent Mendiburu concluded by committing to keep the board informed as further developments occur regarding AB 495, enrollment trends, and any additional legislative updates.

## **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 October 14, 2025.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.



# BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2025  
5:30 p.m.

1.6

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 5:34 p.m.
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Roll Call

### Board Members Present

Julie Beechinor Towse  
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*  
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 Marcano, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the agenda.

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

## 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 2.1 There were no public comments.

### 3.0 ACTION ITEMS

#### 3.1 General Business

- 3.1.1 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to approve the attorney engagement agreement for the preparation of an amicus brief, contingent upon further review and possible revisions, including strikes, stipulations, and amendments.

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr.

### 4.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 4.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 14, 2025.

- 4.2 The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Ex-Officio Secretary to the Board of Education

KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

4.1.1

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING )  
APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT UNDER )  
GOVERNMENT CODE §§ 7900, ET SEQ. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

Recitals

1. Government Code §§7900, et seq., require local jurisdictions, including school districts, to establish each year the appropriations limit applicable to that entity.
2. Government Code §7902.1 provides that where the proceeds of taxes for a school district exceed the preliminarily calculated appropriations limit, the district may by resolution increase its appropriations limit.
3. As shown in the attached staff report, an adjustment to our appropriations limit would be appropriate for the current fiscal year.

Action Taken

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD RESOLVES THAT:

1. **Recitals Approved.** The above recitals are approved and found to be correct.
2. **Appropriations Limit for Current Fiscal Year Established.** The appropriations limit applicable to the district for the current fiscal year is established as \$26,302,145.64, an amount equal to the estimated amount of proceeds of taxes as calculated by staff.
3. **Appropriations Limit Recalculated for Prior Fiscal Year.** As required by Education Code §42132, the recalculated appropriations limit for the prior fiscal year is \$25,365,401.59.
4. **Periodic Readjustments.** The Superintendent or designee is authorized to act on behalf of the Board in adjusting our appropriations limit if and when there may be an update in reported proceeds of taxes.

October 14, 2025

BY ORDER OF THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D.  
Ex Officio Secretary  
County Superintendent of Schools

4.1.2

**Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints**  
**[Education Code § 35186]**

District / Program KCSOS / Alternative Education

Person completing this form: Molly Mier Title: Director

Quarterly Report Submission Date: ☒ Oct 1, 2025 (for period Jul 1 – Sep 30)  
 (check one) ☐ Jan 1, 2026 (for period Oct 1 – Dec 31)  
☐ April 1, 2026 (for period Jan 1 – Mar 31)  
☐ July 1, 2026 (for period Apr 1 – Jun 30)

Date for information to be reported publicly at governing board meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Please check the box that applies:

- ☒ No complaints were filed with any school in the district during the quarter indicated above
- ☐ Complaints were filed with schools in the district during the quarter indicated above. The following chart summarizes the nature and resolution of these complaints.

| General Subject Area                  | Total # of Complaints | # Resolved | # Unresolved |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Textbooks and Instructional Materials | 0                     | 0          | 0            |
| Teacher Vacancy or Mis-assignment     | 0                     | 0          | 0            |
| Facilities Conditions                 | 0                     | 0          | 0            |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                         | 0                     | 0          | 0            |

Dr. John G. Mendiburu / Molly Mier  
 Print Name of District Superintendent / Program Administrator

  
 Signature of District Superintendent / Program Administrator

Once completed, send copy to District Advisory Services, KCSOS, 1300 17<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bakersfield (Fax# 661-636-4121)