



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**March 10, 2026  
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

	Present	Absent
Julie Beechinor Towse, Area 1	_____	_____
Joe L. Marcano, Area 2	_____	_____
Mary M. Little, Area 3	_____	_____
Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr., Area 4	_____	_____
Lori Eskew, Area 5	_____	_____
James V. Robinson, Area 6	_____	_____
Lori J. Cisneros, Area 7	_____	_____
Lajaya Austin Turner, Student Representative	_____	_____
Dr. John G. Mendiburu, Superintendent	_____	_____

1.4 Adoption of the Agenda

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

1.5 Approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on February 10, 2026.

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

1.6 Approval of the minutes from the Board Study Session held on February 24, 2026.

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 CLOSED SESSION

### 3.1 Expulsion Hearing – Appeal by Student A

*Pursuant to the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, it may be necessary for the Board to adjourn to closed session in order to prevent the disclosure of student records or personally identifiable information unless the student or representative consents to public session.*

## 4.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

### 4.1 Presentation: STEAM Yard, Cole Sampson, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction.

## 5.0 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.

### 5.1 Consent Agenda

#### 5.1.1 Approval of Graduation Diplomas.

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

### 5.2 General Business

#### 5.2.1 Accept and File Second Interim Report.

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

#### 5.2.2 Adopt Resolution for School Bus Driver Day.

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

#### 5.2.3 Consideration and Possible Adoption of Revised Board Policy 9250.

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

**6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS**

6.1 Members of the Board will report on various topics.

**7.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

7.1 The County Superintendent will report on various topics.

**8.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

8.1 Items to be considered for the next agenda.

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

9.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

9.2 Time of adjournment \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2026  
6:30 p.m.

1.5

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 6:32 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 Little  
Joe L. Marcano  
James V. Robinson

### Board Members Absent

Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

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

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

- 1.5 It was moved by Trustee Eskew, seconded by Trustee Beechinor Towse to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on January 10, 2026.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

## 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

### 3.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- John Harte
- Helen Acosta
- Ellen Schafhauser
- Lori Braschler
- Kaleb Tuttle

## 3.0 INFORMATION ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 Presentation: Leaders in Life - Russell Sentes, Deputy Superintendent – Local Initiatives and Innovation and Lourdes Bucher, Assistant Superintendent – Student Support.

## 4.0 ACTION ITEMS

### 4.1 Consent Agenda

- 4.1.1 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Trustee Robinson 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: Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

### 4.2 General Business

- 4.2.1 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Gonzalez, Jr. to approve the 2024-2025 Annual Audit Report.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

- 4.2.2 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Trustee Eskew to approve the 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) – Court School.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

4.2.3 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Eskew to approve the 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) – Community School.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

4.2.4 Accept and File the Mid-Year 2025-26 LCAP Update.  
*No Action Taken*

4.2.5 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Trustee Eskew to vote for Antonio Rodriguez and approve the California School Boards Association 2026 Delegate Assembly Ballot.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

4.2.6 It was moved by Trustee Cisneros, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the Resolution Celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Inspiring RISE Students through Civic Education.

Ayes: Trustee Beechinor Towse, Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

4.2.7 Consideration and Possible Approval of Increased Monthly Board Member Compensation Pursuant to Education Code 35120 as amended by AB 1390.  
*No action was taken on this matter.*

## 5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

- 5.1 Trustee Cisneros shared that spring is approaching and noted that it has already been feeling like spring lately. She expressed enthusiasm about planning the upcoming spring barbecue and highlighted the importance of students in the community.
- 5.2 Trustee Little inquired whether there had been any parental notifications calls to the office and was reassured by Dr. Mendiburu that there were no calls at this time. She expressed appreciation for the Leaders in Life participants attending the meeting and voiced her support for continuing the program. She also commended the resolution presented, describing it as outstanding, and supported moving forward with its adoption.
- 5.3 Trustee Eskew shared her positive experience attending the prayer breakfast and expressed appreciation for the sense of unity and prayer within the community. She also praised the resolution, thanked Lori for her work, and noted her own sense of patriotism. She suggested the possibility of inviting Turning Point to participate in a future presentation, proposing April rather than March to allow time for coordination, and asked for feedback from the Board President on

the idea. Additionally, she addressed concerns regarding ICE, stating that after researching the issue, she confirmed that ICE is not allowed on school properties and has not been permitted since the issue first arose. She wanted to ensure the Board was aware of this policy.

- 5.4 Trustee Robinson asked for clarification regarding the Kern County Superintendent of Schools policies on artificial intelligence, particularly concerning student use of AI tools such as ChatGPT. In response to information shared about ongoing training, policy development, and collaboration with districts—including guidance on platforms like Copilot and Gemini as described by Dr. Mendiburu, Trustee Robinson acknowledged that AI is already embedded in educational systems but expressed concern about how extensively it should be integrated into K–12 classrooms. Drawing from a recent presentation he attended, Trustee Robinson referenced concerns about the rapid advancement of AI, its potential societal and economic impact, and studies suggesting that overreliance on AI by students could negatively affect critical thinking skills. He emphasized the need for caution, careful oversight, and strong buy-in from teachers, parents, and students before allowing widespread student use. While agreeing that AI must be understood and managed, he described the technology as powerful and potentially unsettling if not properly controlled. Additionally, Trustee Robinson spoke about the role of elected officials, emphasizing that board members were chosen by voters to exercise independent judgment. He referenced the concept of “lesser magistrates,” stating that elected representatives have the authority to question or object to higher-level governmental decisions when necessary. He reaffirmed his commitment to expressing his views, including on First Amendment matters, while acknowledging and appreciating public feedback.

## **6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu addressed the recent fog delays and school closures across the county, noting that the severity of this year’s fog conditions is unusual and something he has not experienced in over 20 years. He explained that the office has been working closely with school districts to navigate these disruptions, including pursuing an ADA waiver (J-13) to provide districts with attendance forgiveness for days affected by closures or extended delays. He clarified that individual school districts are responsible for calling their own fog delays or closures, which are then communicated through district alerts and posted online. He described the wide variation in how districts have responded—some implementing delays, others closing entirely, and in some cases even returning students home after conditions worsened. On one particularly challenging day, 34 districts were on delay or closed. Dr. Mendiburu also reminded trustees about the upcoming Trustee Dinner on February 25th at CTEC and encouraged their attendance. Finally, he expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Board for their understanding and support following his father’s passing, thanking them for their flexibility and kindness during that time.

## **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 March 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



# BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDY SESSION MINUTES

February 24, 2026  
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 5:31 p.m.
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Roll Call

### Board Members Present

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

### Board Members Absent

Julie Beechinor Towse  
Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

### 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 Little, seconded by Robinson to approve the agenda.

Ayes: Trustee Cisneros, Trustee Eskew, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Trustee Beechinor Towse and Lajaya Austin Turner, *Student Representative*

## 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 3.1 No public comments were received.

## 3.0 INFORMATION ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 Study Session Regarding Amended Education Code 1090 Resulting from AB 1390.  
*No Action Taken*

## 4.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 4.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- 4.2 The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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

5.2.2

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*WHEREAS, in recognition of school bus drivers throughout California, the State Assembly has designated the fourth Tuesday in April, or April 28, 2026, as School Bus Driver Day; and*

*WHEREAS, before an individual can qualify to operate a school bus, they must successfully pass examinations administered by the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Highway Patrol, which includes demonstrating a knowledge of first aid as well as competency to operate a school bus; and*

*WHEREAS, the county superintendent has a staff of 57 professional school bus drivers who collectively drive more than two million miles each year transporting students with special needs; and*

*WHEREAS, these special students are transported throughout Kern County often in challenging terrain, road and weather conditions; and*

*WHEREAS, many children we transport are medically fragile and drivers have at times had to administer emergency aid until medical personnel arrived; and*

*WHEREAS, despite these considerable challenges, many of the bus drivers we employ have transported children for hundreds of thousands of miles without a preventable accident, including one former driver who logged more than one million accident-free miles; and*

*WHEREAS, many of our transportation staff participate in annual "School Bus Rodeos" which test their skills in making difficult turns, parallel parking a 40-foot bus and other challenging maneuvers; and*

*WHEREAS, a considerable number of our drivers have developed relationships with families of these special children and even provide food baskets to those in need during the holiday season each year; now therefore be it*

*RESOLVED, that the Kern County Board of Education takes extreme pleasure in commending these dedicated drivers on "School Bus Driver Day" and know that the safe transport of our children always is their highest priority.*

**BY ORDER OF THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Dated: March 10, 2026

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John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D.  
Ex Officio Secretary  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools

5.2.3

BP 9250

**KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**BOARD BYLAWS**

**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

**MEETING STIPEND**

Each member of the Governing Board may receive the maximum monthly compensation as provided for in Education Code 1090. Any member not desiring to receive the full compensation shall file a written statement to that effect with the ex-officio secretary of the board.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS**

Members of the Board are eligible for benefits to include dental and vision at the same level as unrepresented employees. Members who retired when benefits were made available to them may continue to receive them in accordance Government Code 53201.