



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2026
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 6:32 p.m.
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Julie Beechinor Towse
Lori Eskew

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 *Dr. John G. Mendiburu addressed the recent and tragic event that occurred on June 2, 2026, involving Kern County Superintendent of Schools employees at the CLF location. He expressed his heartfelt concern and continued support for those directly and indirectly affected by this tragic incident, acknowledging the lasting impact such events can have on individuals, families, and the broader community. Dr. Mendiburu also conveyed his sincere appreciation and admiration for the local, state, and federal agencies and personnel who responded during the incident, recognizing their extraordinary professionalism, compassion, coordination, and unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of all involved throughout the harrowing experience.*
- 1.5 It was moved by Trustee Marciano, seconded by Trustee Gonzalez, Jr. to approve the agenda.

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

- 1.6 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on May 12, 2026.

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Beechinor Towse and Trustee Eskew

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 2.1 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Ellen Schafhauser
- Sandra Fry
- Angelo Frazier
- Dennis McLean
- John Harte
- Michael Ten Broeke
- Sylvia Contreras
- RouMony Sanchez
- Christina Chambers
- Cynthia Engle
- Juliana McGaugh
- Hector Azpitcuetce
- Daya Khun Khun
- Jes Sanders

3.0 INFORMATION ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 Presentation: COE Annual Summary Report, Kimberly Graham, Assistant Superintendent.
- 3.2 Report of Staff Findings and Recommendation regarding the CAAT Charter Material Revision.

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 Cisneros, Trustee Gonzalez, Jr., Trustee Little, Trustee Marcano, and Trustee Robinson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Beechinor Towse and Trustee Eskew

- 4.2 General Business

- 4.2.1 It was moved by Trustee Marcano, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the material revision to the charter of Central Academy of Arts and Technology to add additional sites at 1705 17th Street, Bakersfield, California 93301, 824 18th Street, Bakersfield, California 93301, and 826 18th Street, Bakersfield, California 93301, subject to the Charter School's satisfaction of the conditions set forth in the staff report dated

June 9, 2026. Failure to satisfy any condition within the applicable timeline identified in the staff report is grounds for termination of approval of the material revision.

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

- 4.2.2 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the 2026-27 LCAP Budget Overview for Parents and the 2026-27 Local Accountability Plan (LCAP).

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

- 4.2.3 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the 2025-26 Local Indicator Data.

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

- 4.2.4 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the Court and Community Schools Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) Annual Evaluations.

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

- 4.2.5 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the Kern County Plan for Providing Educational Services to Expelled Students: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027.

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

- 4.2.6 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the adoption of the 2026-27 County School Service Fund Budget (CSSF).

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

4.2.7 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Cisneros to approve the resolution to establish the education protection account.

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Beechinor Towse and Trustee Eskew

4.2.8 It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Gonzalez, Jr. to approve the resolution to Request to Consolidate a County Board Member Election with November 3, 2026, General Election in Ventura County.

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Trustee Beechinor Towse and Trustee Eskew

5.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

5.1 Trustee Robinson expressed his appreciation for the proposed America 250 presentation, particularly the concept of sharing daily historical facts and educational content recognizing the nation's 250th anniversary. He indicated interest in reviewing the proposed materials and encouraged consideration of a future board discussion regarding the project. Trustee Robinson reflected positively on the bicentennial presentations held in 1976, noting their educational value and impact.

5.2 Trustee Little addressed comments made about her by Mr. Harte in publicly distributed videos and social media content. She stated that she does not consider herself a journalist or reporter and explained that the purpose of her Facebook page is to share information and articles she believes may be of interest to the public. Trustee Little emphasized that she encourages individuals to review information independently and form their own conclusions. Trustee Little disputed several statements made by Mr. Harte regarding her views and social media activity. She stated that she has not made negative statements about the transgender community and objected to characterizations of her political beliefs, asserting that assumptions had been made without direct communication with her. She also disagreed with claims regarding her social media posts related to vaccines. Trustee Little further responded to criticism regarding certain posts that had been challenged for accuracy, stating that individuals are free to question or dispute information and that she welcomes differing perspectives. Trustee Little also addressed statements regarding her communications with members of the public, clarifying that she remains accessible, responds to constituent correspondence, and has encouraged individuals to share differing viewpoints publicly so that others may benefit from the discussion. Trustee Little also shared information on behalf of Trustee Beechinor Towse regarding Frontier High School's summer Parent Bridge program. She noted that the program provides resources and support for students and families, including assistance related to mental health, attendance, and technology. Trustee Little encouraged interested families to visit the school's website for additional information.

- 5.3 Trustee Cisneros commented on a recent Pride month social media post published by Kern County Superintendent of Schools. While acknowledging that KCSOS and the Kern County Board of Education are separate entities, she expressed concern that the placement of the post immediately following content highlighting a board-attended event could create the perception that the Board endorsed or agreed with the message. Trustee Cisneros stated that she sought clarification from legal counsel regarding whether the post constituted political speech and was advised that the post did not violate California law. While acknowledging that legal opinion, she noted that she personally disagreed with the interpretation and expressed her preference that educational organizations remain focused on student achievement and educational accomplishments. Trustee Cisneros reported attending the Student Voice Ambassador Awards Ceremony at Bell Tower Plaza, where students presented projects addressing issues such as stress, loneliness, depression, and other campus concerns. She commended the students for their leadership and the solutions they developed to support their peers. Trustee Cisneros also attended the CAAT Showcase and expressed appreciation for the wide variety of student talents on display, including art, music, poetry, robotics, and other presentations. Additionally, Trustee Cisneros attended the State School Bus ROADEO competition, where she had the opportunity to meet and thank school bus drivers for their dedication to students. She acknowledged the important role transportation staff play in creating a positive start to students' school days. Trustee Cisneros also attended the Alternative Education graduation ceremony, where she was invited to speak and congratulate graduates on their accomplishments. She shared that she recognized several students she had previously met through board-sponsored student engagement activities and expressed pride in seeing their educational journeys culminate in graduation.
- 5.4 Trustee Marcano expressed his appreciation for the Board's approval of the material revision request for the CAAT Charter, noting his support for the action taken by the Board. Trustee Marcano reported attending the CAAT Spring Showcase, where he spent time at the STARS Theater observing student performances. He commended the students for their exceptional talent and noted that the event was very well attended by families and community members. Trustee Marcano shared that he was impressed by both the quality of the performances and the strong level of community support demonstrated throughout the event. Trustee Marcano also attended the RISE graduation ceremony. He spoke highly of the student speakers, noting that their remarks were both meaningful and inspiring. He reflected on the significant challenges many of the graduates had overcome and expressed pride in their perseverance and success in reaching graduation. Additionally, Trustee Marcano attended the Student Voice Ambassador Awards Ceremony, where he observed students being recognized for their leadership and contributions. He commended the event and expressed appreciation for the Bell Tower Plaza venue, noting that the facility provided an impressive setting for student recognition and community engagement activities.

6.0 REPORT OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

- 6.1 Superintendent Mendiburu expressed his appreciation to the trustees who attended recent student-focused events throughout the county, noting that their presence demonstrates support for students and reinforces the Board's shared commitment to serving children. Superintendent Mendiburu highlighted the RISE graduation ceremony, describing it as an outstanding event. He commended the graduates for their accomplishments and noted that the student speakers delivered particularly meaningful and impactful remarks. He expressed pride in the students' achievements and the success of the program. Superintendent Mendiburu also attended the CAAT Charter Showcase and shared his appreciation for the event. He noted the exceptional talent demonstrated by students and highlighted the opportunity to interact with students, staff, and families throughout the evening. Superintendent Mendiburu praised the quality of the

programming and educational opportunities being provided through the school and remarked on the excitement and positive atmosphere surrounding the event. In closing, Superintendent Mendiburu thanked the Board for its continued service and dedication throughout the year. He encouraged trustees and staff to take time during the summer to rest, recharge, and spend time with their families before reconvening for the July Board meeting.

7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 7.1 There was a request from Ellen Schafhauser made during public comments requesting a 20-minute presentation at the July 14, 2026, meeting.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

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