BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2026
6:30 p.m.

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

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION
Kerr McGee Community Center – Ridgecrest Room
100 W California Avenue, Ridgecrest, California 93555

The teleconference location will be open and accessible to the public throughout the meeting. Members of the public may attend and provide public comment from either this location or the Bakersfield location listed above.

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present
Julie Beechinor Towse
Joe L. Marcano
Lori J. Cisneros - *Participated via Teleconference Location*
Lori Eskew
Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.
Mary Little
James V. Robinson

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 Beechinor Towse, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the agenda with the removal of closed session item 3.2.

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 Eskew to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on September 8, 2026.

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 General Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Sal Arias

3.0 CLOSED SESSION

3.1 HEARING TO CONSIDER INTER-DISTRICT TRANSFER APPEAL
(Education Code section 46601)
Case No. Student A
Hearing will be held in closed session to prevent disclosure of confidential student record information unless timely request for open session is received on pupil's behalf.

3.2 HEARING TO CONSIDER INTER-DISTRICT TRANSFER APPEAL - REMOVED
(Education Code section 46601)
Case No. Student B
Hearing will be held in closed session to prevent disclosure of confidential student record information unless timely request for open session is received on pupil's behalf.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

4.1 There were no informational items.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.1.1 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Robinson to approve Graduation Diplomas.

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

5.2 General Business

5.2.1 Accept and File Williams Act Uniform Complaint Quarterly Reports.

5.2.2 Accept and File Proposition 28: Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Report.

5.2.3 It was moved by Trustee Eskew, seconded by Trustee Beechinor Towse to approve the GANN Limitation Resolution.

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

5.2.4 It was moved by Trustee Beechinor Towse, seconded by Trustee Robinson to approve the Apportionment of Tulare County Forest Reserve Funds.

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

5.2.5 It was moved by Trustee Eskew, seconded by Trustee Gonzalez, Jr. to approve to move the December KCBOE meeting date and location to Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. to the Bell Tower Plaza Kern Room, located at 1200 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93301.

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

5.2.6 Public Comments were heard from the following:

- Terry Maxwell
- Dusti McDavis
- Ellen Schafhauser
- Lori Braschler
- Anastasia Hopper
- Thomas Johnson
- Nicolle Young
- Allysa Jones
- Dennis McLean
- Jes Sanders
- Mary Buckles
- Johanna Morales
- Ryan Buckles
- Emily Wingle
- Nakysha Cummings

It was moved by Trustee Beechinor Towse, seconded by Trustee Marcano to deny the Countywide Charter School Petition for Education Outside the Box. Following discussion, the motion was amended to deny the petition without adopting or making findings of fact regarding the proposed findings. The amendment was accepted by Trustee Beechinor Towse and seconded by Trustee Marcano.

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

5.2.7 It was moved by Trustee Little, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the Resolution Authorizing Fiscal Assistance to Buttonwillow Union School District and Approval of related Master Fiscal Assistance and Repayment Agreement.

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

5.2.8 It was moved by Trustee Beechinor Towse, seconded by Trustee Marcano to approve the Resolution for 180-Day Waiting Period Exception.

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

6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

6.1 Trustee Robinson reflected on his recent attendance at a fall event, praising the beautiful setting. He also commended the PURPOSE Awards banquet, describing it as one of the most inspiring events he has attended in education. He emphasized that the evening was a meaningful celebration of accomplishments and recognition of individuals whose contributions were deserving of acknowledgment. He highlighted the inspiring story of a young individual who overcame personal challenges and, through the support and encouragement of others, developed valuable skills and pursued a promising career as an electric bus mechanic with KCSOS. Trustee Robinson praised the positive impact of mentorship and the opportunities available to individuals throughout Kern County.

6.2 Trustee Eskew reported attending the Richardson Center ribbon-cutting ceremony, describing it as an impressive and memorable event. She also shared her appreciation for the opportunity to receive a private tour of Portrait of a Warrior, arranged through a representative of Turning Point, noting the emotional significance of the experience. Trustee Eskew commended the PURPOSE Awards ceremony and the inspiring individuals recognized during the event. She also provided clarification regarding a previously highlighted award recipient, noting his participation in the APEX program.

6.3 Trustee Beechinor Towse expressed her regret for being unable to attend the October 8, 2026, PURPOSE Awards ceremony due to scheduling conflicts. She also shared information regarding the upcoming Bakersfield College Rodeo, scheduled for November 14–15, and provided fellow trustees with event flyers and tickets made available through a sponsorship. She encouraged trustees to reach out if additional tickets were needed and clarified that the tickets were provided by a sponsor.

6.4 Trustee Little reported receiving concerns from constituents regarding student vaping on school buses and the handling of a separate school board-related matter. She shared that she had reviewed varying district policies regarding vaping and discussed the issue with Dr. Mendiburu, who confirmed that disciplinary measures are in place to address such incidents. She also assisted another constituent by providing guidance on the appropriate complaint process and emphasized her commitment to addressing constituent concerns and seeking guidance from Dr. Mendiburu when necessary. Trustee Little highlighted recent legislative developments, including California Senate Bill 1082, which aims to simplify the interdistrict transfer process for families, and a federal scholarship tax credit program scheduled to take effect January 1, 2027, noting that state participation would be required. She also praised the PURPOSE Awards ceremony as an uplifting celebration of the positive accomplishments taking place throughout Kern County schools. Additionally, Trustee Little reflected on her attendance at the Richardson Center ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour, expressing appreciation for the facility improvements and the welcoming environment created for students and staff. She commended the dedication of the Richardson Center team and their continued commitment to serving some of the county's most vulnerable students.

6.5 Trustee Cisneros expressed her appreciation for the Board's collaboration and thoughtful consideration of the Education Outside the Box Countywide Charter School Petition. She acknowledged the difficulty of the decision to deny the petition while emphasizing the Board's recognition of its potential value and shared desire to see the petitioners succeed. She encouraged the petitioners to address the identified concerns and consider resubmitting an improved petition for future consideration. Trustee Cisneros also reported that preliminary planning is underway for the upcoming Thanksgiving luncheon at Blanton, noting her enthusiasm for the event and the opportunity to participate in its coordination.

6.6 Trustee Marcano reported attending the PURPOSE Awards ceremony, describing the event as inspirational and uplifting. He highlighted the success story of a young individual who overcame challenges within the system and went on to establish a promising career. Trustee Marcano emphasized the importance of recognizing such accomplishments, particularly given the challenges many at-risk youth face, and expressed appreciation for the positive outcomes made possible through opportunities for personal and professional growth.

7.0 REPORT OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

7.1 Dr. Mendiburu expressed his appreciation to the trustees for attending the PURPOSE Awards ceremony and supporting the recognition of outstanding accomplishments throughout Kern County. He confirmed that the annual Thanksgiving luncheon at Blanton is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2026, with additional details to follow. Dr. Mendiburu also announced that a teacher, Ned Maino, from Tehachapi School District, had been named a California Teacher of the Year and would be recognized at an upcoming Board meeting. He noted that this marks the second consecutive year a Kern County educator has received this distinction. Dr. Mendiburu emphasized that the achievements celebrated through the PURPOSE Awards and the recognition of exceptional educators reflect the positive work being done on behalf of students throughout Kern County.

8.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

8.1 Trustee Eskew requested a Veteran's Day Presentation at the November 10, 2026, Board Meeting.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

9.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

9.2 The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

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