



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**August 13, 2024  
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 A. Beechinor, <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>	_____	_____
Paula E. Bray, <i>Area 5</i>	_____	_____
Daniel R. Giordano, <i>Area 6</i>	_____	_____
Lori J. Cisneros, <i>Area 7</i>	_____	_____
Violetamarysol Morales, <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 July 9, 2024.

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 There are no Informational Items for this meeting.

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_ Nayes \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Adoption of the Resolution designating September as School Attendance Awareness Month.

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nayes \_\_\_\_\_ 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 CLOSED SESSION**

- 8.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)  
Kern County Superior Court Case Number BCV-23-103771

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

- 9.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
- 9.2 Time of adjournment \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.



# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2024  
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 A. Beechinor  
Paula E. Bray  
Lori J. Cisneros  
Daniel R. Giordano  
Mary M. Little  
Joe L. Marcano

### Board Members Absent

Jose E. Gonzalez, Jr.

### KCSOS Employees Present

Dr. John G. Mendiburu, *Superintendent*  
Christian Shannon, *Deputy Superintendent*  
Jonathon Medina, *Assistant Superintendent*  
Steve Sanders, *Chief of Staff*  
Merril Clanton, *Senior Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent*

- 1.4 It was moved by Ms. Bray, seconded by Ms. Beechinor to approve the agenda with the removal of the closed session regarding a pending expulsion.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Bray, Ms. Cisneros, Mr. Giordano, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez

- 1.5 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the minutes from June 6, 2024, with the addition of listing the names of each presenter under Informational Items.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Bray, Ms. Cisneros, Mr. Giordano, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez

## 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Michael Pollack
- Jeanine Adams
- Emma De La Rosa
- Lara Steinke
- Runa Lemminn
- Samhaine Night
- Taylor Middleton
- Gail Purdy
- Terry Maxwell
- Siona Harper
- Hortencia Cabral
- Jes Sanders
- Ellen Schafhauser
- Dennis McLean
- Tiffany King
- Abby Lehnig
- Bowen Parker
- Belen Carrasco
- Andrea Montero

## 3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION TAKEN

### 3.1 Williams Act Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report. *Informational Item Only – No Findings*

### 3.2 Trustee Cisneros presented information regarding a proposed policy. Following a discussion, the board decided not to pursue the proposed policy at this time.

## 4.0 ACTION ITEMS

### 4.1 Consent Agenda

#### 4.1.1 It was moved by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Ms. Bray to approve the list of graduation diplomas.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Bray, Ms. Cisneros, Mr. Giordano, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez

### 4.2 General Business

#### 4.2.1 It was moved by Mr. Marcano, seconded by Ms. Bray to approve the Apportionment of Tulare County Forest Reserve Funds.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Bray, Ms. Cisneros, Mr. Giordano, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Gonzalez

4.2.2 It was moved by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Ms. Bray to approve the Consolidated Application.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Bray, Ms. Cisneros, Mr. Giordano, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mr. Gonzalez

4.2.3 It was motioned by Ms. Beechinor, seconded by Mr. Marcano to approve the Public Hearing and Adoption of the Resolution for Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials.

Ayes: Ms. Beechinor, Ms. Bray, Ms. Cisneros, Mr. Giordano, Ms. Little, Mr. Marcano

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mr. Gonzalez

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

5.1 Ms. Cisneros announced that the Tehachapi Mountain Festival is happening on August 17-18 and has a lot of fun activities to offer. Ms. Cisneros requested an update on REALMS Charter School from Dr. Mendiburu and expressed concerns regarding test scores brought to her attention at a meeting with constituents. Ms. Cisneros brought up that Title IX is being discussed at various levels of the government and wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of the proposed changes by the Biden Administration.

5.2 Based on a public comment referring to the lifestyle of some community members as evil, Ms. Bray expressed concern that our youth understand that some feel that way, possibly leading to the fear that students may be hiding things from their parents. Ms. Bray discussed how some young people who have experienced trauma or abuse are often calculating ongoing risk assessments and detailed who a young person might be most likely to divulge volatile information to.

5.3 Ms. Beechinor thanked members of the audience for their public comments and encouraged those in attendance to get involved in local government and their schools. Ms. Beechinor encouraged getting involved in things where you can make a difference and be a leader within your community.

5.4 Ms. Little echoed Ms. Beechinor's sentiment and encouraged those in attendance to become more involved in local government. In response to the California Department of Education guidance, Ms. Little detailed some things discussed in the Parental Notification Policy. Ms. Little stated that she is fighting the state Legislature for making unethical laws. She offered those in attendance an opportunity to discuss AB 1955 further with her.

5.5 Mr. Giordano touched on the probability of Title IX becoming a political issue. He stated that whether you agree with the details or not, Kern County isn't a majority in the state and encouraged those seeking change to vote appropriately.

## **6.0 REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

- 6.1 Dr. Mendiburu provided a state legislative update from Carlos Rojas regarding the adopted budget for the 2024-25 school year. Dr. Mendiburu detailed two upcoming legislative updates, AB 247 and AB 2357, and the impacts of these actions on local education.

## **7.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- 7.1 There were no items recommended for consideration for the August 13, 2024, board meeting.

## **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

- 8.1 Unless otherwise posted, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D., Superintendent

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*This Proclamation designates September 2024 as School Attendance Awareness Month, and would encourage public officials, educators, and community members throughout Kern County to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.*

*WHEREAS, good school attendance is essential to pupil achievement and graduation, and systemic approaches are needed to reduce chronic absenteeism rates in Kern County, with a focus starting as early as pre-kindergarten; and*

*WHEREAS, chronic absence, missing 10 percent or more of school, which can be just two or three days a month, for any reason, including both excused and unexcused absences, is a proven predictor of academic difficulty; and*

*WHEREAS, a pupil's chronic absence is a predictor of below-grade-level reading proficiency by the third grade and course failure and eventual dropout later in that pupil's career, and chronic absence thereby weakens our communities and our local economies; and*

*WHEREAS, the impact of chronic absence affects low-income pupils and children of color particularly hard if they do not have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom. Low-income pupils and children of color are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school, such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, unstable or unaffordable housing, and even unfair disciplinary policies; and*

*WHEREAS, chronic absence exacerbates the achievement gap that separates low-income pupils from their peers, since pupils from low-income families are both more likely to be chronically absent and more likely to be affected academically by missing school. Absenteeism also undermines efforts to improve struggling schools, since it is hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if pupils are not in class to benefit from the improvement efforts; and*

*WHEREAS, improving school attendance and reducing chronic absence take commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to address particular challenges and strengths in each community; and*

*WHEREAS, all pupils, even those who show up regularly, are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing for pupils who missed lessons; and*



*WHEREAS, school attendance can be improved, and chronic absence significantly reduced, when schools, parents, and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school; now, therefore, be it*

*RESOLVED by the Kern County Board of Education thereof concurring, that the Board designate September 2024 as School Attendance Awareness Month in Kern County, and encourage public officials, educators, and community members to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.*

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

*Dated: August 13, 2024*

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