

BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS BOARD OF
EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

MAY 12, 2026 MINUTES

Board Members Present: Jim Danner, Board President (TEAMS)
Ralph Fernandez, Board Vice President
Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary
Aubrey E. Tucker, Board Member
Joanne Silva, Board Member

Administrators Present: Lawrence A. Sanchez, Superintendent
Annette A. Torrez, Chief Financial Officer
E. Renee Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent Academics
Ben Kingsolver, Technology Coordinator
Deborah Baca, Director Health Services
Rhett Burt, Principal Belen High School
James Collins, Athletic Coordinator

Others Present: Julia Dendinger, Valencia County News Bulletin
Approximately (187) individual(s) in attendance
Approximately (18) individuals watched via streaming

- A. CALL TO ORDER**-Mr. Fernandez called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO**-Mr. Fernandez led the pledges.
- C. MODIFICATIONS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**-Superintendent recommends adoption of the agenda as is. Motion to adopt the agenda made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 4(5)-0, motion passes.
- D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**-Superintendent recommends approval consent items. Motion to approve consent items made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Motion passes with all members saying "aye".
(Discussion/Action) (Indicates Items for Consideration by Consent. There will be no discussion of these items unless a Board member so requests, in which event the item may be placed on the regular agenda.)*
AP Report: 04/23/2026-05/06/2026
Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes: 04/28/2026
*Memorandum of Agreement with Central New Mexico Community College for Dual Credit BARs

Budget Belen Consolidated Schools 2025-2026			
Fund Code	Fund Name	Bar	Adjustment Total
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0173-I	\$4,521.00
24106	Entitlement IDEA-B	087-000-2526-0174-I	\$107,435.11
24109	Preschool IDEA-B	087-000-2526-0175-I	\$3,671.76
24174	Carl D Perkins Secondary - Current	087-000-2526-0176-M	\$0.00
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0178-I	\$644.75
27149	PreK Initiative	087-000-2526-0179-T	\$0.00

E. OPEN FORUM –Public comments/observations regarding non-agenda items will be considered at this time. Action will not be taken on items presented but may be referred to staff/others. Derogatory comments regarding personnel or matters under litigation will not be allowed. Any person or persons addressing the Board are liable for their own statements NOT the Board **YES- Melodie Good spoke about renaming the BHS tennis complex after Regina Elkins.**

F. RECOGNITION-State Powerlifting Champions – Coach Collins introduced Coach Peralta. Coach Peralta spoke about his team and the three athlete champions.

Girls Division-

Kendra Sims Sophomore 198 lbs Weight Class = State Champion

*First ever Girls Powerlifting Champion for Belen High

Boys Division-

Manny Valdez Senior 132 lbs Weight Class = State Champion

Nehemiah Sanchez Senior 181 lbs Weight Class = State Champion

Governor's Mansion Mural Art Students – Mr. Burt introduced Mr. Ulbricht. Mr. Ulbricht introduced his students and talked about how they came to do the mural at the Governor's Mansion.

Genevieve Sanchez, 11th Belen High School

Audrey Rodriguez Chaves, 12th Belen High School

Allen Jion Hernandez, 12th Belen High School

Jennifer Mendoza, 11th Belen High School

Isis Vallo, 11th Belen High School

Ryleigh "RJ" Dodson, 9th Belen High School

Concepcion Torres, 11th Infinity High School

G. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

1. D.A.R.E. Program-Deborah Baca and Pauline Vallejos gave some background information about the D.A.R.E program, what it took to bring it to our schools, what they are doing, and five students read their essays and what the program means to them. Ten weeks of the program with six classes a week: four 6th grade classes and two 3rd grade classes. Out of the 92 students eight winners were picked for their speeches taken in Ruidoso and will be put into a pool of other essays written for awards. The program has been revamped and it is not just say no to drugs. It covers stress management, peer pressure, bullying, vaping, drugs and alcohol and is all fact based. It is a pre-k to high school program. Five students read their essays. The board thanked the students for sharing.
2. NHS Program-Jeanette Carroll-Sanchez introduced her students that presented. The students went over the four pillars of NHS; Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Some of the activities they participated in this year include extended lunch, basketball, toys for tots, hot chocolate parade, CTE volunteers BMS, along with extending their assistance to other clubs. What they hope to do in the future is more fundraising opportunities, create work/employment connection, and getting students in touch with community members.
3. STATERS-Tanya Moya gave some background information. 60 Staters this school year and have 80 students signed up for the 26-27 school year. Staters students went over some of

the activities they did this year. School wide event homecoming food drive and was able to donate to three separate churches and another food drive was helping out the Pilot Club of Belen for Thanksgiving. They were able to have an overnight trip to shadow the Legislators at the Roundhouse. They run the Eagles Essential free store with donations from Amazon. Hoping for more participation from students and staff and hope to move to relocate to a bigger area and a storage closet. For the Eagle Expo fun day they came up with ten games for the students could participate in. They also came up with color wars during spirit week. How they help at BHS and the BCS Community; volunteer to help with the Belen Hall of Fame, Track, Powerlifting, Gil Sanchez and La Promesa Field Day. They also treated Rio Grande to hot chocolate, cookies and movie after MOY testing. They played Bingo at the Genesis Healthcare and helped community members with storage and cleaning needs. Plans for the future include more community service projects, fun Friday's at BHS, help to improve the atmosphere at BHS and work with more elementary schools.

4. MESA-Kelly Bell introduced her students. The students presented how they participated in Envirothon, a hands-on environmental science competition for high school students that challenges participants in ecology, forestry, soils, wildlife, and current environmental issues. Two teams from the school competed, featuring students including Madison Mead, Yasmin Fernandez, Daniel Chavez, Luke Gallegos, David Sedillo, Iriana Mangallens, Diego Rimorin, Donnaven Theodore, Dante Sanchez, and Daniel Garcia, along with chaperones Mr. and Mrs. Oskins. Students engaged in real field skills and data collection across five areas of study: aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils, and a special topic focusing on non-point source pollution. On Friday, students conducted hands-on field work testing, measuring and analyzing environmental data from diverse job fields. On Saturday, the teams spent six hours developing comprehensive solutions to an environmental challenge, creating a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation to present their findings. Despite it being their first year competing, Belen High School's first team placed third overall—a significant accomplishment. Beyond the competition results, students gained valuable experience in teamwork and problem-solving while disconnecting from technology, a refreshing experience for many. The event inspired students who were initially hesitant, and several are now highly motivated to compete again next year with aspirations of reaching the national level. The program was made possible through the support of Jeff Sanders and Valencia Soil & Water Conservation, advisors Ms. Bell and Ms. Johnson, Belen High School staff, and chaperones Mr. and Mrs. Oskins.
5. Summer Lunch Program-Taira Chavira stated the summer program will be starting on June 2nd and end July 17th. Schools open will be BHS-breakfast (8:00-9:00) and lunch (11:30-1:00), RGE, LPE, and CE will also be getting breakfast (8:30-9:30) and lunch (11:30-12:30). Lunch will also be served at Anna Becker Park. There will be restricted lunch served at LME, DCE and GSE for the students participating in the summer reading program only. June 19th and July 3rd will be off days due to holidays. There will also be dinner served at St. Mary's (5:00-6:00).

H. BOARD REPORTS

1. Board Workshop-Budget April 29, 2026-Mr. Tucker stated it was put together well. It was pragmatic and understandable; showing us where we are and how the budget works. Mr. Garley stated he learned a lot and appreciate what is done. Mr. Danner stated it was very informative. We are in a position of real stress in regard to the school budget. We have worked at trying to make instruction drive our budget.
2. Board Workshop-DCE and Booster Clubs May 6, 2026-Mr. Danner stated DCE is a beautiful school. A lot of hiccups but the construction people have done a fine job. Very informative and will try to be in there in January. The booster club was equally informative. People talked to us with what is happening in the clubs and with 501c and have given to Mr. Sanchez to look into. Ms. Silva thanked Mr. Sanchez for the booster presentation and reminding all about policy and following guidelines, it was informative and appreciated. Mr. Garley stated it was nice listening to those who were doing all the work. The flyovers are great. Looking forward to it completed and open. Mr. Tucker asked if it had been announced when it would be open. Mr. Sanchez stated January.

3. Policy Committee Meeting April 22, 2026-Mr. Tucker did second reads on the policy with the changes.
 - a) Second Read Policy D3300-Cash in School Buildings with changes
 - b) Second Read Policy J-3400 Student Search with changes
 - c) Second Read Policy I-3000 Homebound Instruction with changes

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of approval: Policy D3300-Cash in School Buildings with changes-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 5-0, motion passes.
2. Consideration of approval: Policy J-3400 Student Search with changes-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Fernandez and seconded by Mr. Garley. Individual votes 5-0, motion passes.
3. Consideration of approval: Policy I-3000 Homebound Instruction with changes-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 5-0, motion passes.
4. *Consideration of approval: Memorandum of Agreement with Central New Mexico Community College for Dual Credit

As allowed by the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, on occasion a quorum of board members will attend the same function, including those held at school sites, at the district level, as well as sports functions, conferences, workshops, trainings, and community events. Members agree to refrain from discussing and/or acting upon board issues in those settings.

J. ADVANCED PLANNING

1. BHS Graduation May 19, 2026 7:00 pm
2. IHS Graduation May 20, 2026 6:00 pm
3. Budget Committee Meeting (quorum) May 20, 2026 9:00 am
4. Construction Committee Meeting May 20, 2026 10:00 am
5. Policy Committee Meeting May 20, 2026 11:00 am
6. Regular Board Meeting May 26, 2026 5:00 pm

- K. BOARD COMMENTS**-Mr. Sanchez gave a shout out. We approved an MOU with CNM for Dual Credit tonight. Mr. Smith and Mr. Rodgers did the leg work and wanting to build up the opportunities for our students and through the hard work and Mr. Burt's support, for the first time we have an MOA with CNM.

L. ADJOURNMENT-7:26

Jim Danner, Board President

Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary

Respectfully submitted:

Cyndi Shawver, Recording Secretary