

BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 28, 2026 MINUTES

Board Members Present: Jim Danner, Board President
Ralph Fernandez, Board Vice President (Arrived 3:40 pm)
Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary
Aubrey E. Tucker, Board Member

Board Members Absent: 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
David Marquez, Principal Dennis Chavez Elementary
David Ryan, Principal La Merced Elementary
Cheri Montoya, Principal La Promesa Elementary
David Jimenez, Principal Infinity High School

Others Present: Julia Dendinger, Valencia County News Bulletin
Approximately (67) individual(s) in attendance
Approximately (9) individuals watched via streaming

- A. CALL TO ORDER-** Mr. Danner called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm Mr. Garley did roll call Mr. Tucker here, Mr. Danner here, Mr. Garley here.
- B. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION-**For the purpose of discussing Superintendent evaluation pursuant to §10-15-1(H)(2) and discussion of the possible disposal of real property (HTJ) pursuant to §10-15-1(H)(8). Motion required to go into, and motion required to come out of Closed Executive Session pursuant to §10-15-1(J). Motion to go into Closed Executive Session made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Garley. Motion passes with all members saying “aye”. Motion to come out of closed executive session made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Garley. Motion passes with all members saying “aye”.
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO-** Mr. Danner had LME students lead the pledges.
- D. MODIFICATIONS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA-**Superintendent recommends adopting the agenda as. Motion to adopt the agenda made by Mr. Fernandez and seconded by Mr. Garley. Motion passes with all members saying “aye”.
- E. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS-**Superintendent recommends approval of consent items. Motion to approve consent items made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Fernandez. 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: 04/09/2026-04/22/2026

Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes: 04/14/2026

*out of state travel for Mariah Johnson to El Reno, OK for the National Range Evaluation Contest on 5/5/26-5/8/26 in the amount of \$1,135.00 fund 23009 (FFA Alumni covering costs for flights, meals, and hotel)

*out of state travel for Mariah Johnson to Washington DC, MD for the Washington Leadership Conference on 6/9/26-6/13/26. FFA Alumni to cover all expenses

BARs

Fund	Fund Name	Bar	Adjustment
21000	Food Services	087-000-2526-0133-M	\$0.00
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0134-M	\$0.00
25157	Child Care Block Grant CYFD	087-000-2526-0135-I	\$8,045.85
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0136-M	\$0.00
24101	Title I Part A - ESEA	087-000-2526-0137-M	\$0.00
24106	Entitlement IDEA-B	087-000-2526-0138-M	\$0.00
24109	Preschool IDEA-B	087-000-2526-0139-M	\$0.00
24174	Carl D Perkins Secondary - Current	087-000-2526-0140-M	\$0.00
27502	Career Technical Education	087-000-2526-0141-M	\$0.00
29102	Meta/Facebook	087-000-2526-0142-I	\$1,100.00
23000	Activity	087-000-2526-0143-M	\$0.00
24113	Education for Homeless	087-000-2526-0144-M	\$0.00
28190	GRADS - Instruction	087-000-2526-0169-M	\$0.00
28189	GRADS - Child Care	087-000-2526-0170-M	\$0.00
28190	GRADS - Instruction	087-000-2526-0171-T	\$0.00
15200	Local Revenue Operational	087-000-2526-0172-I	\$2,415.02

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

F. RECOGNITION-NMSBA Student Achievement Recognition – Mr. Garley presented awards to Raquel Silva and Jennifer Herschberger for the part they play in student achievement.

G. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

1. Student Council

- a. DCE-David Marquez introduced Joleen Avita and her students who presented. Dennis Chavez Elementary Student Leadership Members operate under the core values of being Responsible, Respectful, Ready, and Safe. Their mission is to create a welcoming and positive environment for students to interact with one another and teachers while engaging students through promoting interactions, serving as a student voice, and helping the school community. Members are expected to maintain good grades, serve as peer role models, actively participate, and volunteer. They build relationships with one another and develop leadership, communication, presentation, and public speaking skills while collaborating as a team on fundraisers, prizes, and community involvement opportunities. The group manages several school responsibilities, including the Flag Duty Program, which involves the daily raising and lowering of flags with proper etiquette instruction, and daily morning announcements that include the U.S. Pledge, New Mexico Pledge, DCE Pledge, birthdays, lunch information, and important daily announcements.

Student Leadership participates in significant community involvement activities, including the DCE Tree Topping Ceremony, an annual Taco Dinner Night family service event where members prepare and serve food, and monthly themed fundraisers such as popcorn sales, Boo Grams, Valentine Grams, and raffle baskets. The group also created the yearbook with new student-led pages and collaborated on grade level content. Additionally, they initiate Testing Buddies for annual testing, build school spirit and unity, sponsor school site events, provide prizes for fundraiser participants, and support attendance motivation initiatives.

- b. LME-David Ryan introduced Sharon Sena and her students who presented. La Merced Elementary Student Council had a busy and impactful year filled with community engagement and school spirit activities. The year began with preparations for the Pumpkin Patch, which featured hayrides and trunk-or-treating, along with a Halloween costume parade and pumpkin carving contest. Throughout the year, Student Council organized several community service initiatives, including a Thanksgiving canned food drive to help the local community. They also established recognition programs such as Scholar of the Month and Perfect Attendance assemblies to honor outstanding students. Special parent lunches celebrated these achievements while helping to make attendance matter to all La Merced scholars. Student Council focused on building school spirit through various activities, including a trip to Santa Fe to visit the state capital. They organized a Holiday Fair and Read Across America family nights, which were made possible through year-long fundraising efforts including Popcorn and Pickle Fridays and chocolate candy bar sales. The year culminated with the organization of Field Day for all LME students. Though the council said goodbye to their sixth-grade members, the 2025-2026 school year was filled with hard work, fun, and meaningful contributions to the La Merced school community.
- c. LPE-Cheri Montoya introduced Andrew Salas and his students who introduced themselves, their parents and then went on to present. La Promesa Elementary, serving 205 students in Pre-K through 6th grade, is the gem of Belen Consolidated Schools. As a community school, it seeks out and acts upon the voice of staff, parents, students, and community members under the motto "One Team, Many Voices – all United for Student Success." The school maintains a culture of safety, belonging, and care while focusing on high-achieving academics, social-emotional strength, core values, and critical thinking skills. Student Leadership is open to 4th through 6th graders who campaign for elected positions including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant at Arms/Parliamentarian, as well as deputies and class representatives. The election process includes ten days of campaigning and an election assembly with speeches overseen by the Socorro County Clerk. Student leaders take an oath committing to respect parents and teachers, attend school daily, do their best academically, follow the Golden Rule, be kind and truthful, and seek opportunities to help others daily. Their fundamental duty is to set an example and serve as the student voice on the Promise Keepers Site Based Leadership Team. Student leaders support numerous school initiatives, including displaying the district's monthly themes on bulletin boards, promoting the SOAR expectations (Safety, Ownership, Accountability, Respect), briefing classes on behavioral expectations across all school areas, supporting annual attendance fairs, managing the student store with "Montoya Money," and leading achievement assemblies recognizing core values of kindness, gratitude, and respect. They also serve as career day ambassadors and support the instructional model through the three guiding categories of feedback, content, and context. Additionally, student leaders participate in legislative field trips. Benefits of student leadership include developing self-discipline, listening skills, respectful dialogue, consideration for others, problem-solving abilities, and preparation for success in middle school.

Student leaders embody a mindset of being part of the solution rather than complaining, focusing on the Golden Rule and serving others.

2. **Work-Based Learning and Internships Update**-Cleveland Smith presented. Career and Technical Education (CTE) is grounded in established psychological and educational research emphasizing experiential learning, career exploration, and self-efficacy development. The program integrates hands-on instruction, social learning, and real-world application to prepare students for immediate employment and long-term success in secondary education, postsecondary education, and the workforce. Holland's Theory of Vocational Personalities supports aligning career pathways with students' interests and strengths, particularly for hands-on learners. Vygotsky's Social Constructivist Theory emphasizes learning through guided practice, collaboration, and mentorship, highlighting how industry partnerships and apprenticeship-style instruction provide a strong foundation for CTE. Common Formative Assessment data from January-March 2026 at Infinity High School showed strong performance across professional worksite behavior skills, with students scoring predominantly at Level 4 (highest proficiency). Teamwork and Collaboration (88%) and Adaptability and Willingness to Learn (88%) were among the strongest areas, while Initiative and Work Ethic (59%) showed the most room for growth. Belen High School data from February-March 2026 demonstrated even stronger results, with Teamwork and Collaboration at 100% Level 4 proficiency and most other skills ranging from 75-88% at the highest level. Student internship surveys revealed highly positive outcomes, with 76% rating their overall experience as excellent and 24% as good. Students reported strong skill development, with 52% strongly agreeing and 48% agreeing that their internship improved professional communication skills. Similarly, 55% strongly agreed and 45% agreed that they developed stronger problem-solving skills. Students indicated improvement in time management (79%), teamwork (69%), responsibility (93%), technical/job-specific skills (72%), and professional behavior (79%), with 45% feeling more prepared for the workforce and 41% more confident about their career path. The CTE program offers diverse pathways including construction (with OSHA 10 and NCCER certification), lineman training through PNM Pros, welding, and allied health careers. Students participate in career exploration field trips to companies including Arcosa Wind Tower, Belen Superior, Sisneros Brothers, Albuquerque Water Authorities, Wagner Equipment CAT, and CNM Albuquerque Campus. Internship placements span multiple community partners including Sisneros Brothers Manufacturing, AC Disposal, Tierra Grande Improvement Association, ACE Hardware, Belen Public Library, and various BCS departments. Student achievements include winning Valencia County Career Video Challenge 2026 and Pinto Weld Off Competition, with employers awarding excellence commendations. Several photos were shared of the students and their internships and receiving certificates. Several inters spoke about the experience they have had during this years internships.

H. BOARD REPORTS

1. **Finance Committee Meeting April 22, 2026, 9am** Mr. Fernandez went over what was discussed. Third quarter actuals ending report March 21, 2026, operating budget management system revenue report: operational fund 3rd qtr. \$12,925,786.44 YTD \$38,538,353.07, SB9 3rd qtr. \$541,323.27 YTD \$840,206.53, ED Tech fund 3rd qtr. \$588,479.87 YTD \$876,648.68. Ms. Torrez stated these are revenues, so the first number is what we have received for the quarter (Jan, Feb, Mar) and the year to date are the revenues from July 1st to current. Actual expenditure report operational fund 11000 3rd qtr. \$11,568,407.94 YTD \$33,686,338.19, SB-9 Fund 31701 – 3rd qtr. \$593,497.54 YTD \$1,325,243.23, ED Tech fund 43000 3rd qtr. \$5,884.74 YTD \$1,508,767.21. Mr. Danner stated he wanted to commend the Board. We have made a real important step when we decided to go to ED Tech. it was a big step for us and for providing money for our students for technology. Mr. Fernandez continued; third qtr. cash report bank reconciliation as of March

31, 2026, for general funds US Bank and Bonds NMFA. Final FY26 910-B5 adjustment \$51,004,356.01. Mr. Danner stated it was also important to mention that where we are now compared to where we were is night and day. It is so good where we are at, and we just have to keep moving on. Mr. Sanchez stated it starts off with the finance department-Ms. Torrez and her team; of course, it can't be done alone. He thanked Mr. Danner for recognizing that.

2. Construction Committee Meeting April 22, 2026, 10am Mr. Garley went over what was discussed. Recently completed projects: BHS Gym Hot Water Heaters: Installation of high efficiency water heaters completed, and final inspection approved on April 9. Application for PNM's Energy Efficiency Rebate Program in progress. RGE Secure Vestibule completed Wednesday, March 25. BHS Secure Vestibule installation complete. Access control integration to be completed by proprietary licensed vendor. In progress projects: BHS Gym HVAC Controls-Installation currently in progress. Estimated 2 weeks for completion. Owner training to be scheduled upon completion. BHS Football Fieldhouse ADA Restroom Upgrades-Home side restroom renovations complete and final walkthrough completed Tuesday, April 21. Visitor's side restroom renovations in progress. Estimated to be completed during the first week of May. BHS Interactive Projector Project-Installation of (9) short throw projectors began on Monday, April 20 and is estimated to be completed in mid-May. Upcoming projects: LPE Flooring Replacement: Preconstruction walkthrough completed Monday, April 20. Carpet and LVT installation in Admin Suite and Classrooms scheduled to be completed during the weeks of May 4 and May 18. Central Elementary Cafeteria Flooring: Removal of existing VCT and installation of epoxy flooring system in Cafeteria to be scheduled during summer break. BHS Career Academy Exterior Paint: Painting of all exterior metal windows, doors and bollards to be scheduled upon completion of BHS Football Fieldhouse ADA restroom upgrades .Camera Upgrades: Audit of camera systems at La Promesa and Infinity High School in progress to address growing deficiencies at each site.
3. Policy Committee Meeting March 25, 2026-Mr. Tucker gave second reads with changes.
 - a. Second Read Policy J-4050 Student Fund-Raising Activities with changes
 - b. Second Read Policy J-4100 Student Activities Funds with changes
4. Policy Committee Meeting April 22, 2026, 11am-Mr. Tucker went over first reads and the changes.
 - a. First Read Policy D3300-Cash in School Buildings with changes
 - b. First Read Policy J-3400 Student Search with changes
 - c. First Read Policy I-3000 Homebound Instruction with changes
 - d. First and Second Read Policy J-1050 Open Enrollment with changes – Mr. Danner stated it was critical we talk about OE as a policy. It has caused some possible financial problems in the past, so we need to address that. We are a board that is policy orientated and we only operate on policy, not on what we want but what our constituents want.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of approval: Policy J-4050 Student Fund-Raising Activities with changes-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Mr. Fernandez. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
2. Consideration of approval: Policy J-4100 Student Activities Funds with changes-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Fernandez and seconded by Mr. Tucker. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
3. Consideration of approval: Policy J-1050 Open Enrollment with changes-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Garley. Mr. Danner stated we need to get his out as soon as possible. So our constituents now what is happening as soon as possible. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
4. Consideration of approval: of the IDEA-B FY27 Application-Superintendent recommends

approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Mr. Tucker. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.

5. *Consideration of approval: out of state travel for Mariah Johnson to El Reno, OK for the National Range Evaluation Contest on 5/5/26-5/8/26 in the amount of \$1,135.00 fund 23009 (FFA Alumni covering costs for flights, meals, and hotel)
6. *Consideration of approval: for out of state travel for Mariah Johnson to Washington DC, MD for the Washington Leadership Conference on 6/9/26-6/13/26. FFA Alumni to cover all expenses

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. Board Workshop-Budget April 29, 2026 4:30 pm
2. Board Workshop-DCE Update and Booster Clubs May 6, 2026 4:00 pm
3. Teacher of the Year May 11, 2026 5:00 pm
4. Regular Board Meeting May 12, 2026 5:00 pm
5. BHS Graduation May 19, 2026 7:00 pm
6. IHS Graduation May 20, 2026 6:00 pm

- K. BOARD COMMENTS**-Mr. Tucker gave condolences to the Campbell family. Mr. Garley stated the state powerlifting was held. Mr. Fernandez stated the turn out of the participation for the student council. Mr. Sanchez said another group we need to be proud of is a group that was the art students chosen by the Governor to paint an outdoor mural. Mr. Danner stated we had a superintendent's evaluation tonight. To make it clear what our expectations are, we expect the superintendent, administration, teachers, students, and the parents to put the pedal to the metal and make sure we improve in everything we attempt this next school year. No planning, we want action. We have to make sure that we keep that at the forefront of our mind so we can be the best that we can in education.

- L. ADJOURNMENT**-7:04 pm.

Jim Danner, Board President

Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary

Respectfully submitted:

Cyndi Shawver, Recording Secretary