

BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 14, 2026 MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: Aubrey E. Tucker, Board Member

Administrators Present: Lawrence A. Sanchez, Superintendent
Annette A. Torrez, Chief Financial Officer
E. Renee Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent Academics
Ben Kingsolver, Technology Coordinator
Antonio Sedillo, Director Support Services
Rhett Burt, Principal Belen High School
Tanyia Montoya, Principal Belen Middle School
Robert Torrez, Principal Central Elementary

Others Present: Julia Dendinger, Valencia County News Bulletin
Approximately (21) individual(s) in attendance
Approximately (11) individuals watched via streaming

- A. CALL TO ORDER-**Mr. Fernandez called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO-**Mr. Fernandez led the pledges.
- C. MODIFICATIONS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA-**Superintendent recommended adoption of the agenda as is. Motion to adopt the agenda made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Motion passes with all members saying “aye”.
- D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS-**Superintendent recommend approval of consent items. Motion to approve consent items made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.

(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: 03/05/2026-04/08/2026

Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes: 03/10/2026

*MOU with RGEC for after school programming

BARs

Fund	Fund Name	Bar	Adjustment
27528	Community School and Family Engagement	087-000-2526-0145-M	\$0.00
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0147-I	\$1,529,445.01
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0148-I	\$4,929,135.11
15200	Local Revenue Operational	087-000-2526-0149-D	(\$38,933.24)
21000	Food Services	087-000-2526-0150-I	\$412,272.91
21100	Universal Free Lunch (State funded)	087-000-2526-0151-I	\$11.00
22000	Athletics	087-000-2526-0152-D	(\$1,556.32)
23000	Non-Instructional Support	087-000-2526-0153-I	\$47,910.60
25153	Title XIX MEDICAID 3/21 Years	087-000-2526-0154-D	(\$368,118.06)
25157	Child Care Block Grant CYFD	087-000-2526-0155-I	\$9,542.54
26107	REC/District Fiscal Agent	087-000-2526-0156-D	(\$173,276.77)
28189	GRADS - Child Care	087-000-2526-0157-I	\$10,953.59
31200	Public School Capital Outlay	087-000-2526-0158-D	(\$66,182.35)
31701	Capital Improvements SB-9 Local	087-000-2526-0159-I	\$120,885.07
31900	Ed. Technology Equipment Act	087-000-2526-0160-I	\$33,691.51
43000	ETN Debt Services	087-000-2526-0161-D	(\$235,358.46)
31100	GO Bond Building	087-000-2526-0162-D	(\$261,607.54)
41000	GO Debt Services	087-000-2526-0163-I	\$140,945.49
15200	Local Revenue Operational	087-000-2526-0164-I	\$2,415.02
29102	Private Dir Grants (Categorical)	087-000-2526-0165-D	(\$6.18)
25153	Title XIX MEDICAID 3/21 Years	087-000-2526-0166-I	\$175,207.86
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0167-I	\$21,893.10
26107	REC/District Fiscal Agent	087-000-2526-0168-I	\$173,380.78

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- Mr. Van spoke about how he would like to see if we can get a policy to provide a pathway for middle school students taking Algebra/Geometry and get credit for it on their transcript.**

E. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

1. Student Council

- a. BHS-Amanda Gladden shared an overview of the many projects and activities Student Council members lead throughout the year. One of these is Thoughtful Thursday, which focuses on sharing positive messages across campus. StuCo also organizes Homecoming, including events such as Rowdy-O and the spirit assembly. Every other Friday, Student Council participates in campus clean-up efforts to help maintain a positive school environment. Each grade level also creates themed posters—highlighting values such as kindness, empathy, and honesty—which are displayed throughout the school. Spirit Week is another opportunity for students to have fun while building school pride. Ms. Gladden also discussed the State Student Council Competition, which includes participation from schools across the state. BMS competes in multiple categories, including two project-based entries—this year focusing on the campus clean-up initiative and the Giving Tree. Additional categories include scrapbook and roll call. The scrapbook highlights the year's activities and accomplishments. Student Council also leads the Giving Tree project and regularly attends sporting events, as well as band, choir, and drama performances, to show support for fellow students. This year, StuCo members helped guide incoming 8th graders and welcomed 6th grade students from LPE by

providing campus tours and club presentations. They also promote school spirit through Eagle Fridays, when students wear school colors. Looking ahead, upcoming events include hosting prom, supporting the Power Puff game between seniors and juniors, and organizing Spring Spirit Week to celebrate the final stretch of the school year.

- b. BMS- lass Historian Kataleya Avita presented and began by introducing all Student Council members. She then reviewed the StuCo mission and vision, highlighting the group's purpose and goals for the year. This year, Student Council chose to focus on fostering a sense of belonging. This decision was based on a review of Panorama survey data, where they identified an area they could realistically impact. Their goal is to help students feel more connected, create a welcoming environment, and encourage participation across campus. To support this focus, Student Council has organized and participated in a variety of activities, including the Fall Festival, school assemblies, Spirit Week, school dances, Tropical Day, the 8th grade BBQ, and pop-up events throughout the year. The purpose behind these efforts is to create positive change at BMS, support students and staff, strengthen school culture, and build a stronger sense of belonging. As they emphasized, small actions can lead to big change—and together, they are building a stronger community.
 - c. CE-Natalie Kheer students in attendance introduced themselves. At the beginning of the school year, teachers select students to serve on Student Council. Throughout the year, these students take on a variety of meaningful projects and leadership roles across campus. Currently, they are planning for International Day. Each class is assigned a country, and students learn about its culture, food, and language. At the end of the year, they showcase their learning by visiting booths representing each country. Student Council members also support literacy by participating in Reading Buddies, helping promote a love of reading among younger students. They assist with school events such as STEM Night, organize Valentine grams, and lead a Thanksgiving canned food drive competition. In addition, they help with Red Ribbon Week, promote kindness through an end-of-year assembly, and support the sixth-grade promotion. Through these activities, Student Council helps students learn the difference between right and wrong, give back to their community, and be part of something bigger than themselves while developing leadership skills. Student Council member Hayley shared that she participates to help support other students. Members meet regularly to plan activities that improve the school environment and help all students feel safe and included. They want their peers to know they are always there to listen and support them. Overall, Student Council is centered on care, connection, and creating a positive school community.
2. Parent Teacher Conferences-E. Renee Sanchez presented on the Spring PTC. Out of 2,729 scheduled conferences, 2,371 were completed (86.9% completion rate) based on 176 survey responses. The 13.1% no-show rate represents a significant opportunity for improvement. Strengths: Students took ownership of their learning and effectively articulated progress and growth. Dedicated in-person time strengthened teacher-parent relationships and communication. Parents showed genuine interest and appreciation for teacher efforts. School-provided meals and welcoming environments fostered positive interactions. Concrete progress data (iReady, iMSSA, Amira scores, work samples) made student growth visible and measurable. Teachers and parents developed actionable plans for struggling students, including tutoring and intervention referrals. Pre-break conferences allowed teachers to prepare adjustments and parents to support learning at home. Spanish-language options, morning and evening time slots, and dedicated conference periods (versus individual scheduling) improved accessibility and attendance. Areas to Improve: High schools experienced 40-50% no-show rates in some classes, especially among families of struggling students who needed to attend most. High school students often had multiple redundant meetings with different teachers and frequently did not attend their own

conferences, limiting their voice and accountability. PowerSchool records contained incorrect phone numbers, invalid emails, and missing contact information, making parent outreach impossible. Some non-Spanish-speaking families experienced communication challenges and felt disconnected. Parents most needing to attend were hardest to contact and most likely to miss meetings, leaving vulnerable students without home-school support. Approximately 358 conferences (13.1%) were not completed across the district.

3. 2026-2027 School Year Student Calendar-Lawrence A. Sanchez presented. Community and committee members voted on two calendar options. The community split nearly evenly: 225 respondents (51%) favored Option A and 218 (49%) favored Option B. The committee strongly preferred Option A, with 8 members (73%) supporting it versus 3 (27%) for Option B. Option A starts later in August, preserving more summer break with a Friday start that provides a gentler re-entry. However, supporters want a full Thanksgiving week and clarity on spring break timing. Some raised scheduling conflicts with local events like county fair, FFA activities, and Infinity High School graduation. Option B allows an earlier finish in May, providing more post-school time for jobs and travel. Supporters prefer a Monday start for routine and scheduling ease. Concerns include heat affecting walking students in late May and requests for more distinct calendar alternatives like year-round options. NMPED requires all students receive at least 1,140 instructional hours annually. K-6 students need 1,080 hours with students plus up to 60 professional work hours; 7-12 students need 1,110 hours with students plus up to 30 professional work hours. Full days require 5.5–7.5 instructional hours; half days require at least 3.5 hours. Remote learning is capped at 4 days and 32 hours per year, with at least 50% synchronous instruction required. If weather or emergencies drop the calendar below 1,140 hours, schools must revise the calendar or make up missed days. To maintain K-12 Plus funding, schools can either make up canceled days later or convert them to remote learning days while meeting all remote caps and requirements. The 2026-2027 BCS Calendar includes 1,145.43 hours for K-6 and 1,145.85 hours for 7-12 across 180 instructional days (7 abbreviated Wednesdays and 4 half days), plus 7 K-12 Plus days.

F. BOARD REPORTS

1. Finance Committee Meeting March 25, 2026 -Ms. Silva went over what was discussed. Budget Report 3/20/2026-Fund 11000 Operation budget balance \$\$12,661,330.55. The All Funds budget balance was discussed as well as the purchase order detail as of 3/24/2026. Total requisitions that have been submitted to her office is 2652 totaling \$30,198,752.84. Out of that amount \$1,111,169.80 issued directly to school sites. Information was also provided on the whole budget process; timelines and what to expect in the coming weeks.
2. Construction Committee Meeting March 25, 2026 -Mr. Garley went over what was discussed. Recently completed projects: Security Camera Upgrades at Belen Middle School, Gil Sanchez, Belen Family School & Central Office have been completed. Concrete, erosion control and landscaping upgrades including installation of retaining walls, sidewalks and crusher fines completed at Belen High School, Belen Middle School and Gil Sanchez Elementary. In Progress: BHS Gym hot water heaters- Project is in finishing stages. Change order approved to replace existing recirculating pump; final inspection to follow. Secure Vestibule: BHS Secure Vestibule: Project construction is at approximately 90%. Access control integration to existing system in progress. Final walkthrough to follow upon completion. RGE Secure Vestibule: Project expected to be completed by Wednesday, March 25 with final walkthrough to follow. BHS Interactive projector project kickoff meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 26 to discuss installation of short throw projectors throughout 900 wing classrooms. Project schedule to follow. Upcoming Projects: LPE Flooring Replacement: Carpet and LVT installation in Admin Suite and Classrooms tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 20. Central Elementary Cafeteria Flooring: Removal of existing VCT and installation of epoxy flooring system in Cafeteria to be scheduled with site staff. BHS Football Fieldhouse ADA Restroom Upgrades: Projected start date Monday,

- March 30. Estimated 4-7 business days for completion. BHS Gym HVAC Controls: Wage Decisions and Notice of Award approved. Project schedule to be determined. BHS Career Academy Exterior Paint: Painting of all exterior metal windows, doors, and bollards to be scheduled for earliest availability.
3. Policy Committee Meeting March 25, 2026 -Mr. Danner went over what was discussed. Mr. Danner stated they spoke about student fundraising. Mr. Danner gave the first read with changes.
 - a. First Read Policy J-4050 Student Fund-Raising Activities with changes- The purpose is to establish when and under what conditions they can occur.
 - b. First Read Policy J-4100 Student Activities Funds with changes-purpose to establish will be planning a board workshop.
 - c. First Read Policy J-1050 Open Enrollment with changes-discussion the capacity options and application. Will have regulation to deal with this.
 4. Budget Meetings March 26th, 31st, and April 1st-Mr. Garley stated a lot of meetings were had. The good thing was that it was a great learning situation. It was interesting and well done. Mr. Garley stated Ms. Torrez does a good job. Ms. Silva stated every department and sites presented what their needs were. At times had to justify certain expenditures and to make sure it was aligned with District goals. The budgets do need to focus on student learning. Mr. Danner stated this budget process was new for the board and a positive learning experience. The development and how the budget process works. The board learned a lot and now we can appreciate what goes on in those meetings. Was specifically interested in the board budget and the instructional budget. They went great and well informed of what needs to take place. Mr. Danner thanked the board and their participation. Mr. Sanchez also thanked the board and Ms. Torrez for their participate it showed the value in the work we are trying to do. We were able to show we are working to meet the board goals. We take the public's money seriously. It was a big investment of time for the board and we thank you.
 5. NMSBA Spring Region IV March 31, 2026-Mr. Garley stated that him and Ms. Silva attended. Grants School Board Members and Superintendent were all very nice. They toured the sites science fair. Officers were elected for the District. Mr. Guillen discussed what the Board does and what they do for us. Also heard from Dr. Steinhaus. Ms. Silva stated they also reminded school board members of their responsibility to complete training hours and how to better track them. The state is now watching this.

G. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of approval: Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Ms. Silva. Mr. Danner congratulated Ms. Torrez and her staff; this was one of our better audits. Mr. Sanchez echoed that. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
2. Consideration of approval: Resolution authorizing the acquisition of equipment and delegation of authority for Dennis Chavez Elementary-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
3. Consideration of approval: for the 2026-2027 school year student calendar Option A-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
4. Consideration of approval: for purchase to Tillery Blue Bird Bus for 2026 Chevrolet Suburban 9 passenger (replacing District vehicle O-13 - 2003 Chevrolet Suburban) in the amount of \$67,615.00 fund 11000-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
5. Consideration of approval: for purchase to CES (Albuquerque Asphalt) for support services parking lot in the amount of \$571,919.39 fund 11000-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Individual

votes 4-0, motion passes.

6. Consideration of approval: for purchase to Orcom replacement HVAC units for LPE in the amount of \$160,637.47 fund 31701-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
7. Consideration of approval: for purchase to Orcom replacement HVAC units for GSE in the amount of \$129,158.80 fund 31701-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
8. Consideration of approval: for out of state travel for T. Chavira, D. Dawes, and C. Trujeque to Charlotte, NC for the National Student Nutrition Association Conference on 7/11/26-7/15/26 in the estimated amount of \$9,098.88 fund 21000-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
9. Consideration of approval: for out of state travel for Heather Juarez to Colorado Springs, CO for the Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers Assoc Symposium 5/28/26 - 5/31/26 in the estimated amount of \$1,211.29 fund 11000-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
10. *Consideration of approval: MOU with RGEC for after school programming

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.

H. ADVANCED PLANNING

1. Board Workshop-Budget April 20, 2026 4pm
2. Finance Committee Meeting April 22, 2026 9am
3. Construction Committee Meeting April 22, 2026 10am
4. Policy Committee Meeting April 22, 2026 11am
5. Closed Executive Session (Superintendent Evaluation) April 28, 2026 3:30 pm
6. Regular Board Meeting April 28, 2026 5:00 pm
7. Teacher of the Year May 4, 2026 5:00 pm

- I. **BOARD COMMENTS**-Mr. Garley stated he read about the weightlifting team. We have three State Champions and want to congratulate Coach Chris Peralta.

- J. **ADJOURNMENT**-Mr. Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm.

Jim Danner, Board President

Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary

Respectfully submitted:

Cyndi Shawver, Recording Secretary