

**BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS BOARD OF**  
**EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**MAY 26, 2026 MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Jim Danner, Board President  
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  
E. Renee Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent  
Ben Kingsolver, Technology Coordinator  
Baylor Del Rosario, Director Special Education  
Rhett Burt, Principal Belen High School  
James Collins, Athletic Coordinator

**Others Present:** Julia Dendinger, Valencia County News Bulletin  
Approximately (6) individual(s) in attendance  
Approximately (11) individuals watched via streaming

- A. CALL TO ORDER**-Mr. Danner called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO**-Mr. Danner led the pledges. Mr. Danner stated that there is a quorum in attendance.
- C. MODIFICATIONS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**-Superintendent recommends adopting the agenda as is. Motion to adopt the agenda as is made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Fernandez. Motion passes with all members saying “aye”.
- D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**-Superintendent recommends approval of consent items. Motion to approve consent items made by Mr. Fernandez 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: 05/07/2026-05/20/2026  
Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes: 05/12/2026
- 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*
- F. RECOGNITION**-Sophia Cox, 11th Track 1<sup>st</sup> place 400m – Coach Jared Schmock introduced Sophia. She placed 1<sup>st</sup> in 400, 2<sup>nd</sup> in 100 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200, and her and her team in the 4x400 took 4<sup>th</sup> place this year.
- G. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

1. Spring Athletics-James Collins presented on winter and spring sports: Basketball: The boys varsity team finished 18-12 overall and 8-2 in district (2nd place), qualifying for the NMAA playoffs and hosting a home game. Pablo Aguilar and Sammy Sanchez earned 1st Team All District honors, while Dalton Herschberger received Honorable Mention and 1st Team Academic honors. The girls varsity team finished 7-20 overall and 0-8 in district (5th place), with Alyssa Trujillo earning 2nd Team All District and an All State nomination. Powerlifting: The boys team finished as state runners-up with three state champions: Kendra Sims (198 lbs, 10th grade), Manny Valdez (132 lbs, 12th grade), and Nehemiah Sanchez (181 lbs, 12th grade). Eight boys and seven girls qualified for the 2026 State Championships, giving Belen the 4th largest team in 4-A division. Multiple state records were set in total weight and individual lifts. Wrestling: The boys team went undefeated in duals (19-0) and won the district championship with six individual district champions. At regionals, they placed 4th as a team. Multiple wrestlers qualified for state, with Ryder Williamson placing 2nd at state and Tristan Lopez and Damion Gomez each placing 1st in their weight classes. The girls wrestling team placed 5th regionally, with Olivia Sanchez advancing to state (4th place) and recording 100 wins. Baseball & Softball: Baseball finished 3rd in district (15-12 overall) as a state playoff qualifier. Softball finished as district runners-up (14-15 overall), won a state playoff game, and advanced to the State Championship weekend. Track: The boys team won the district championship with 15 individual district champions and 11 runners-up. The girls team finished as district runners-up with seven state placers, including Sophia Cox as a state champion in the 400 meters. Tennis: The boys team won the district championship (15-2 overall, 6-0 district) and advanced to state quarterfinals. Joshua Jaramillo won the boys district singles championship, the first for Belen since 2018. The girls team placed 3rd in district and earned the #8 seed at the state tournament for the third consecutive year. Doubles team Ella Wilson/Ashtyn Carrillo Lovato won the District Doubles Championship, Advance to state quarterfinals Golf: The boys team won the district championship and finished 5th at state, with Elijah O'Canna named District Player of the Year and earning All State honors. The board thanked Coach Collins for all that he did for BCS athletics this last year.
2. BHS SAT Results-Rhett Burt presented what he could since the data is still embargoed. Belen High School has developed a comprehensive SAT improvement plan for the 2026-2027 school year focused on raising school-wide scores in both Math and ELA, with particular emphasis on Math performance. The school recognizes a critical need for improvement, noting that over the past two cycles, only one student achieved MEETS/EXCEEDS status on the Math SAT. To support this goal, BHS has established a structured data collection schedule utilizing the Bluebook secure browser, with two key testing periods: Fall PSAT Day in October 2026 (assessing 9th and 10th graders) and Spring SAT Day in March/April 2027 (assessing 9th through 11th graders). In response to the state's and school's poor Math performance, the school is implementing Pathways2Careers (P2C), a state-funded curriculum that connects Math concepts to real-world careers and personalizes lessons based on student interests. BHS has also made instructional changes for the 2026-2027 school year, including incorporating daily core skills work in Math classes, increasing word problems with SAT-style questioning, and adopting WeWillWrite, an interactive writing program designed to improve ELA performance school-wide. Mr. Danner thanked him for the presentation and stated that he hopes the principals listen and learn from what is happening tonight. We are all given a lot of data, so what kind of success did you have with what planned to do. We are always planning and never active. It is time for us to win and quite going the other direction. This Board wants to move forward. Mr. Fernandez asked what they have tried to implement or change in the school to correct the issues. Mr. Burt stated getting the teachers to change their mindsets is not easy. How do we write this as an SAT question, can you do the math to begin with before it is applied and put into real world. This year second semester they pushed common formative assessments and writing them where they are challenging them and go up in the depth of knowledge questions. Ms. Silva asked about the funding and if it was in the budget. Mr. Burt stated they would pay for it. Mr. Sanchez stated that they are working on how to create lockdown browsers and Mr. Kingsolver has a solution that he wants Mr. Burt to try out. Mr. Danner stated he struggles that there is no

short cycle assessment that is valid in regard to anything doing towards the SAT. He is frustrated for Mr. Burt. Ms. Silva stated and now we have a new math curriculum and the training. They went on to discuss interventions, documenting, and getting teachers to do what they need to do. Mr. Danner stated we have in policy everything a principal needs to ensure that education occurs every day in that classroom. It is time to make changes.

## **H. BOARD REPORTS**

1. Budget Committee Meeting May 20, 2026-Mr. Fernandez gave a shout out to Annette and her team. Hearing the history before some came on board to where we are at now. Mr. Danner stated he too feels that way. After the meeting he was worried. There have been many discussions. When dealing with the budget it is important to review what the budgets is. Policy B-0200 states specific jobs the board has; employ you, and review and approve the school budget. With that we review analyze spending and specific sections. Then NMSBA had a book about Becoming a Better Board Member, a Guide to Effective school Board Service is says "before you and your colleagues can adopt A budget with confidence, however, you will need to understand it. Review it and make alterations as necessary. That is our role. So, the board votes to approve, modify, or reject. We have the authority to reallocate funds. And the final approval is typically before authentication. Annette has done a tremendous job. We are now in a position as board members-our district is doing the best to allocate the funds. We answer to our constituents. If we make a decision, we have to answer for it. There was a statement that bothered him, their responsibility is just that. Financial responsibility is our job. As this board member we have always said aye, aye, aye. This year we were allowed to be part of the process and we need to be more part of the process and get involved. We don't have a lot of responsibilities, but financial responsibilities is ours. Thanks to you, you allowed us to be part of the process. And I think that that is what really got me thinking we need to get involved. Ms. Silva stated we learned more, understand the budget, with instructional, operational, just the understanding, reviewing and being part of the budget week was helpful. The workshop seemed more of a final budget because Ms. Torrez stated she would turn it in on Monday. Mr. Sanchez stated it isn't final yet. As much as we like to say it is final you will see that it isn't. We are trying to predict insurance and what does that actually mean. It is all about the deadline. Mr. Sanchez stated it was due for everyone else on Monday. Mr. Danner as a district he would like to look at the District secretaries' salaries. We need to be clear we want our employees to be happy but work too. Mr. Sanchez stated that it is not that easy because of CBA. Ms. Silva stated not all positions fall under the agreement. Mr. Danner stated from a District we can put out what we think we want to do and then change it if we need to. But we need to come to it from a point of our thoughts.
2. Construction Committee Meeting May 20, 2026-Mr. Garley went over what was discussed. Recently Completed Projects- LPE Classroom and Admin Suite flooring replacement completed on Monday, May 18. BHS Football Fieldhouse ADA restroom upgrades have been completed and are now in operation. BHS Interactive Projectors and A/V package installed in 900 wing classrooms. In Progress Projects- BHS Gym HVAC Controls: Physical installation is complete. Graphics, 3D floorplan, and user interface in progress. Project is estimated to be fully completed by end of May. Owner training to be scheduled upon completion. BCS Support Services Parking Lot: Preconstruction walkthrough is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26. Earthwork and curb & gutter to begin June 1 with asphalt & striping to follow. Estimated 2-3 weeks for completion. BHS Career Academy Exterior Painting: Project start date is tentatively scheduled for June 3 and is expected to take approximately 2 weeks. NMDOT LGRF Project: La Promesa parking lot upgrades Phase II scheduled to be completed June 18 & 19. BMS Science Lab Improvements: Demolition of existing lab tables, utilities and VCT flooring tentatively scheduled for June 22. Central Elementary Cafeteria Flooring: Removal of existing VCT and installation of epoxy flooring system is tentatively scheduled from Monday, June 22 through Wednesday, June 24. Upcoming Projects- Camera Upgrades: Audit of camera systems completed at La Promesa and Infinity High. Contractor has provided proposals for recommended replacements.
3. Policy Committee Meeting May 20, 2026-Mr. Danner stated they spent most of the time talking about a regulation with regards to MLSS. The policy is very broad and covers a lot of

areas; the regulation is very specific. The meeting went well and it was well organized. Mr. Danner went over first reads.

- a. First Read Policy K-2600 Relations with Booster Organizations with changes
- b. First Read New Policy MLSS
- c. First Read New Policy Transition from Elementary to Middle School

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Consideration of approval: Resolution No. 25-26 Granting the Finance Office authority to submit and make any and all necessary adjustments, BARs, and other related fiscal actions for fiscal year-end close – Superintendent recommends approval of action item. Motion to approve made by Mr. Fernandez and seconded by Mr. Danner. Individual votes, motion passes.

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. NMSBA School Law Conference June 4-6, 2026
2. Regular Board Meeting June 9, 2026 5:00 pm

- K. BOARD COMMENTS**-Mr. Danner gave condolences to Maria Garcia Shaffner family. She passed away last week. She was a teacher, administrator, former Superintendent, and a very close friend and want to recognize her contributions to the Belen Schools.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**-6:25 pm

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Jim Danner, Board President

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Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary

Respectfully submitted:

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Cyndi Shawver, Recording Secretary