

BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 10, 2026 MINUTES

Board Members Present: Jim Danner, Board President
Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary
Aubrey E. Tucker, Board Member
Joanne Silva, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Ralph Fernandez, Board Vice President

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
Antonio Sedillo, Director Support Services
Valeryia Gauthier, Director Federal Programs
Baylor Del Rosario, Director Special Education
Cheri Montoya, Principal La Promesa Elementary
Rhett Burt, Principal Belen High School
Margaret Manning, Principal Rio Grande Elementary

Others Present: Julia Dendinger, Valencia County News Bulletin
Approximately (8) individual(s) in attendance
Approximately (11) individuals watched via streaming

- A. CALL TO ORDER**-Mr. Danner called the meeting to order at 5:00pm
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO**-Mr. Danner led the pledges.
- C. MODIFICATIONS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**-Superintendent recommends adoption of the agenda as is. Motion to adopt the agenda as is made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Tucker 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 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: 02/19/2026-03/04/2026

Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes: 02/24/2026

BARs

Fund	Fund Name	Bar	Adjustment
31703	SB-9 State Match Cash	087-000-2526-0120-I	\$270,358.55
41000	GO Debt Services	087-000-2526-0121-M	\$0.00
31900	Ed. Technology Equipment Act	087-000-2526-0122-M	\$0.00
24189	Student Support Title IV	087-000-2526-0123-M	\$0.00
24101	Title I Part A - ESEA	087-000-2526-0124-M	\$0.00
22000	Athletics	087-000-2526-0125-M	\$0.00
24113	Education for Homeless Children	087-000-2526-0126-M	\$0.00
24101	Title I Part A - ESEA	087-000-2526-0127-I	\$213,492.86
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0128-I	\$34,274.69
13000	Pupil Transportation	087-000-2526-0129-I	\$687.76
29102	Private Dir Grants (Categorical)	087-000-2526-0130-I	\$1,100.00
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0131-I	\$551,026.71
25157	Child Care Block Grant CYFD	087-000-2526-0132-M	\$0.00

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

E. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

1. FFA Program-Mariah Johnson. FFA students presented. Summer recap- FFA Camp; members grew in leadership and old fashion camp. Fall semester- experiences with the newly elected State Officer Team. Washington Leadership Conference- 4 Belen FFA students traveled to State Convention! National Convention-6 members of the chapter attended the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo! Members got to do industry tours like a commercial fish farm, attend the Career and College Expo, and listen to keynote speakers with members from across the country. Leadership Development-Belen FFA is working hard to develop leadership skills in our members though public speaking, employability skills, and personal growth. The Ag. Sales team placed 4th at the State Contest in June, Miss Madison Mead will advance to the State level for Employability Skills, 3 Greenhand members will compete at the District III Creed Contest in April. Some of the CDE judging events-Poultry, Land/Homesite, Livestock, Horse, Wildlife, Horticulture, Floriculture, and Vet Science. Plans for the future include Greenhouse Work, Envirothon with MESA, AgriScience Fair, State President, and Community Day at La Merced.
2. Attendance for Success-Valeryia Gauthier introduced the district attendance facilitators: Ellen Thomas, and Geneva Romero-Sanchez presented. This year the attendance program was required to go through the accreditation process. District and school were required to go through this process and each tier required strategies and action plans. They reviewed the tiered approach to attendance. Relationship building and strong relationships are very important. Tier 1 is for everyone. Tier 2 is an early outreach. Tier 3 is preventive plans. Tier 4 is intervention. Tier 3 and 4 is when they miss 10% or more and they are called chronic absenteeism and the district is responsible for this. There have been some issues reducing chronic absenteeism since COVID. We have changed the model for this school year. At each site there is 1-2 attendance liaison. There are two district facilitators and they analyze district data, provide training and coaching to liaisons and principals, and they are responsible for parent and community outreach. Why are students chronically absent. Some of them include physical and mental health issues. Bullying in schools, transportation, and parents who didn't have the best experience when they attended to school. Some of the district attendance initiatives include the monthly Eagle Eye on Attendance newsletter, Be Here Day challenges, monthly attendance competitions, and parent and community

engagement events. A huge shout out to Sisneros Bros who made the traveling trophy for most improved attendance each month. Attendance is a shared responsibility. Early intervention makes the biggest difference and district alignment strengthens outcomes.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of approval: NM PreK handbook (combined for LPE and RGE)-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Garley. Mr. Danner asked why we approved this handbook when we don't approve any other handbook. Mr. Sanchez stated we are required to have this handbook approved by the board. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
2. Consideration of approval: for the disposal and auction of general fixed assets and obsolete items-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 purchase to CES (Gordian) for painting exterior of Career Academy in the amount of \$53,315.93 fund 31200-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Tucker. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
4. Consideration of approval: for purchase to CES (High Tech Floors) for classroom flooring at LPE in the amount of \$59,318.01 fund 11000-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
5. Consideration of approval: for purchase to Yearout Mechanical, LLC for HVAC unit in BHS gym in the amount of \$87,987.72 fund 31701-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 4-0, 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.

G. ADVANCED PLANNING

1. NHS Induction March 11, 2026 6:00 pm BHS Auditorium
2. Finance Committee Meeting March 25, 2026 9am
3. Construction Committee Meeting March 25, 2026 10am
4. Policy Committee Meeting March 25, 2026 11am
5. NMSBA Spring Region IV March 31, 2026
6. Budget Meetings with Leadership March 26th, March 31st, April 1st
7. Regular Board Meeting April 14, 2026 5:00 pm

H. BOARD COMMENTS-Mr. Garley stated that Mr. Tucker and himself attended the NJROTC Inspection. It was really awesome, and they have great leadership.

I. ADJOURNMENT-Mr. Danner adjourned the meeting at 5:46 pm.

Jim Danner, Board President

Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary

Respectfully submitted:

Cyndi Shawver, Recording Secretary