BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 11, 2025 MINUTES

Board Members Present: Jim Danner, Board President
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
Ben Kingsolver, Technology Coordinator
Annette A. Torrez, Chief Financial Officer
E. Renee Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent
Deborah Baca, Director Health Services
Jamie Romero, Assessment Coordinator

Others Present: Julia Dendinger, Valencia County News Bulletin
Approximately (3) individual in attendance
Approximately (10) 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.

C. **MODIFICATIONS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**-Superintendent recommends approval of agenda as is. Motion to approve the agenda made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Ms. Silva. 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: 10/23/2025-11/05/2025
Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes: 10/28/2025
*2025-2026 GRADS Instructional Component Contract
*2025-2026 GRADS Child Development Contract
BARs

Fund	Fund Name	Bar	Total
27584	Attendance Success Initiative	087-000-2526-0083-M	$0.00
27584	Attendance Success Initiative	087-000-2526-0084-M	$0.00
24109	Preschool IDEA-B	087-000-2526-0085-T	$0.00
11000	Operational	087-000-2526-0086-M	$0.00
13000	Pupil Transportation	087-000-2526-0087-M	$0.00
24106	Entitlement IDEA-B	087-000-2526-0088-M	$0.00
24118	Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	087-000-2526-0089-D	($4,158.00)
24101	Title I Part A - ESEA	087-000-2526-0090-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. Eagle Expo-Rae Cee Vallejos and Angela Duran-Mr. Burt introduced Rae Cee and Angela. He stated there is a lot that goes into this big community event, and it was very successful. There were a couple of changes; one being it was done a little earlier in the school year, which came with its own struggles. Angela Duran spoke regarding the development and planning of the event. Something of this caliber takes a lot of time and having it earlier in the school year they really wanted to analyze the data from last year and make it relevant. It is a big deal to them, and they wanted to make sure the students coming into this excited and what they wanted to learn about. They continued with the four stations: Mock Interviews, CTE presentations, College presentations, and EXPO vendor booths and interactive experiences. TLC is a big partner and had an interactive booth. Compared to last year they had triple the students who were able to participate. Rae Cee Vallejos stated of the new things they did was the Golden Eagle award. To celebrate and highlight the people who go above and beyond. Walmart Distribution Center, Sisneros Brothers, and Starbucks all received this award. Rae Cee went on to talk about the data. The biggest takeaway from last year was that the vendors showed up, the staff showed up, we showed up and some of the students showed up but were they invested. One of the biggest responses they received from vendors was they didn't feel their audience was engaged. The spring eagle expo they had 253 absences the day of the expo; 30% did not show up that day. The fall expo 133 absences; 14%. That is a huge growth. That came from getting them excited about it. The 3rd annual expo 263 students responded to the survey and this year 435 responded; 65% increase. Positive feedback rate was in the 90%. They asked what vendors they really like and the Los Lunas Police Dept was at the top. They also asked how they can make it better. Some of the responses were to make each rotation longer, maybe careers in the animal field, and they should learn about this all year long. She then reviewed the vendor data. Last year overall rating was a 4.4 and this year it was a 4.9. The staff data last year 36 responded and this year 55 responded. Some of their favorite moments were interacting with the students during mock interviews, seeing students make connections, and loved seeing the students networking with professionals. The common critique among the staff was more diverse career opportunities and more hands-on experiences.
2. 2025 NM-ASR-Jaime Romero presented. The New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR) for the 2024–2025 school year measures student mastery of the New Mexico STEM Ready! Science Standards for grades 5, 8, and 11. At Belen, participation aligned with state expectations; results are presented as performance levels (Advanced, Proficient, Nearing Proficiency, Novice) and scaled scores. Grade 5: Of 275 students tested, the mean scaled score was 549, placing the cohort in the Nearing Proficiency range. Only 14% scored Proficient (down from ~30% in prior years), 1% Advanced, 51% Nearing Proficiency, and 34% Novice. Over four years Belen's Grade 5 Proficient rate declined by 17 percentage points, exceeding the modest statewide decline. Grade 8: Among 280 students, the mean score was 851 (Nearing Proficiency). Proficient students comprised 18%, Nearing Proficiency 59%, and Novice 23%; no students scored Advanced. Grade 8 Proficient rates have fluctuated but show a small net change over four years; Belen's 2025 Proficient rate remains below statewide percentages. Grade 11: With 227 students, the mean score was 1,156 (Nearing Proficiency). Proficient students represented 32%, Nearing Proficiency 30%, and Novice 38%; no students scored Advanced. Grade 11 Proficient rates have remained roughly steady across recent years and track below state Proficient levels. Longitudinal growth analyses of students tested in both earlier and current grades indicate limited upward mobility in

performance levels. For cohorts tracked from Grade 5→8 and Grade 8→11, many students remained in Nearing Proficiency or shifted into Novice rather than into Proficient/Advanced brackets, signaling concerns about sustained conceptual mastery across grades. Key takeaways and implications: Overall, Belen students predominantly score in the Nearing Proficiency category across grades 5, 8, and 11, with relatively low Advanced rates and Proficient rates below state averages.

3. Panorama Student SEL Survey-Lawrence A. Sanchez presented. He stated the survey is given twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The test was done in October, and it was ready right away. They talk about self-efficacy, self-management, sense of belonging, and social awareness is new. In grades 3-5 from the chart, you can see we are in the green and this is compared to other schools taking these surveys, we are also improving our scores. In the 6-12 chart the scores are not as good, but we are still improving. We are not where we need to be, but we are growing. So, another one added was student support and environment; school climate and safety returned with engagement being added. In grades 3-5 there was a decline in school safety. It is not his belief that they are worried about outside influences, but it is their peers bullying them and being mean to them. We need to listen to what our kids are telling us. In grades 6-12 the answered the same reasons as it is happening in grades 3-5th. School climate did go up for grades 6-12. Key overall trends- Grades 6–12: Self-efficacy rose steadily from 32% (Fall 2023) to 41% (Fall 2025) with item-level increases (e.g., confidence completing work, understanding complex ideas). Self-management is consistently high (66–71%) with strong results on politeness, following directions, and staying focused. Sense of belonging is low-to-moderate (34–39%) with some improvement by Fall 2025. Safety and school culture show mixed results: safety measures around bullying/violence and adults' fairness fluctuate (roughly mid-40s to mid-60s on some items). Engagement is low (20–47% across items), indicating students are not highly excited or focused in classes. Grades 3–5: Self-efficacy strong (54–57%) and stable improving slightly by Fall 2025. Self-management high (67–73%) with frequent politeness, preparedness, and ability to focus. Sense of belonging relatively high (64–71%) and generally better than older students. Social awareness (measured in Spring 2025 / Fall 2025) shows high percentages on caring, listening, and respecting others (60s–80s). Safety and school climate scores are higher than older grades (school climate 55–64%, safety mid-60s). Engagement in 3–5 is high (overall 59%)—students report excitement, focus, and interest. Several elementary sites show comparatively high scores in climate, safety, self-efficacy, self-management and belonging in 3–5. For grades 6–12, some schools report higher self-management and safety than others; Belen High and Belen Middle have lower climate/self-efficacy numbers. Mr. Sanchez went over the Grades 3-5 Free Response: What can teachers or other adults at school do to better help you?

- Need for Additional Help: Many students express a desire for more individualized assistance, particularly in subjects like math, reading, and writing. They highlight the importance of teachers helping them understand challenging concepts.
  - Math Support
  - Reading Support
- Emotional Support: Students frequently mention the need for emotional support, including kindness and understanding from teachers. They appreciate when teachers check in on their feelings and help them manage frustration or bullying situations.
- Adjusting Teaching Methods: Several responses indicate that students would benefit from clearer explanations and slower pacing when new material is introduced. They suggest that teachers could repeat instructions or provide examples to enhance understanding.

- Classroom Environment: Students express a desire for a more positive and engaging classroom atmosphere. Suggestions include making learning more fun through games, reducing strictness, and allowing for breaks to help maintain focus.
- Peer Support: Many students note the importance of collaboration and peer assistance. They feel that classmates can be valuable resources for help and understanding.
- General Satisfaction: Despite some requests for improvement, many students express overall satisfaction with their teachers and the support they receive, indicating that they feel cared for and well-supported in their learning.

Grades 6-12 Free Response: What can teachers or other adults at school do to better support you?

The main student concerns from the responses include:

Positive Sentiments:

- Many students reported feeling supported by their teachers and appreciated the efforts of staff to help them succeed. They expressed satisfaction with their relationships with educators.

Teacher Support and Understanding:

- Students expressed a desire for teachers to be more understanding, patient, and supportive, especially regarding individual learning needs and emotional well-being.

Grading and Feedback:

- Many students requested quicker grading and more timely feedback on assignments to alleviate stress regarding their academic performance.
- Several responses indicated a need for more individualized attention, with requests for one-on-one help to better understand assignments and concepts.

Classroom Environment:

- Concerns about classroom behavior were prevalent, with students asking for better management of disruptive behaviors and a more conducive learning atmosphere.
- Some students mentioned dissatisfaction with collective punishment practices, where the entire class is penalized for the actions of a few, leading to feelings of unfairness.

Homework and Assignments:

- Students expressed that the volume of homework could be overwhelming and suggested a need for more lenient deadlines and clearer instructions.

Engagement and Teaching Methods:

- There was a call for more interactive and engaging teaching methods, as well as a preference for practical examples and less reliance on rote learning.

Respect and Communication:

- Students highlighted the importance of respectful communication from teachers and staff, including a need for them to actively listen to students' concerns.

Food and Breaks:

- Some students mentioned dissatisfaction with lunch options and requested more breaks or snacks during the school day.

These themes reflect a desire for improved communication, support, and a more engaging learning environment.

4. 2024-2025 EOY NMMSSA-Lawrence A. Sanchez presented the NM MSSA IMMSA BOY 2025 presentation summarizes district and site-level ELA and Math results, growth trends, highlights, concerns, and planned actions. Districtwide, ELA showed stronger average growth than Math. Site summaries note several schools with notable gains (Central, Dennis Chavez, Family School, Gil Sanchez, Rio Grande) and areas of concern where proficiency or growth remain low, particularly for some subgroups (students with disabilities, English learners) and at high schools. Grade-level analyses show mixed results in meeting growth targets across

grades. Key district actions include clarifying resources and practices, continued professional learning, refining the instructional model and proficiency scales, adopting high-quality instructional materials for mathematics, and using data tools for decision making. Site highlights include notable gains at Central (highest district increase, gains in grades 4–6), Dennis Chavez (EL students showing strong growth), Belen Family School (all students above 60% proficiency and growth across grades 6–8), Gil Sanchez (SWD and grade 6 growth), Rio Grande (high EL proficiency), Belen Middle (more 8th graders meeting growth), Infinity High (higher proficiency relative to the other high school), and Belen High (male students showing increased proficiency). Concerns include persistently low proficiency and growth at Central and some other sites, lagging high school proficiency overall, fewer students with disabilities reaching proficiency at Dennis Chavez, lower percentages of students meeting growth targets in grades 4–5 at Family School and Gil Sanchez, small or insufficient increases at La Merced and La Promesa (including lower growth in some grades), and generally mixed/uneven grade-level results in meeting growth targets across the district. Mr. Danner stated we are showing improvement but not where we need to be. He also stated that we made a commitment to data, and we hold the superintendent to that data. We are looking at all of our goals and we are seeing improvement. Hopefully we see that same growth in May. Ms. Silva stated when looking at each grade level, site, when looking at Panorama and social emotional of the child; it is really good to compile and put it all together. This is excellent information. Mr. Sanchez stated these are not silos, they are tied directly into what we are doing in the classroom. How do we get kids excited. We need to start surveying our kids and what is keeping them from going to school.

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.

5. **ACTION ITEMS**
   1. Consideration of approval: for the appointment of two board members to serve on the math textbook adoption committee-Superintendent recommends approval. Mr. Danner stated he appoints himself to be one of the board members to be on the committee. Ms. Silva will be the second member. Motion to approve made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Garley. Individual votes 5-0, motion passes.
   2. Consideration of approval: purchase to CES/Two Bears Construction for vestibule at RGE in the amount of $ 59,503.86 find 31200-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Mr. Fernandez. Mr. Sanchez stated they are also doing a secure vestibule at Belen High School at the same time, it is just not costing as much. Mr. Danner stated he struggles with this because it is a fairly new school that was designed and built very recently. Security hasn't changed and he wants to make sure that Dennis Chavez is meeting all those requirements. Individual votes 5-0, motion passes.
   3. *Consideration of approval: 2025-2026 GRADS Instructional Component Contract
   4. *Consideration of approval: 2025-2026 GRADS Child Development Contract

6. **ADVANCED PLANNING**
   1. Finance Committee Meeting November 19, 2025 9am
   2. Construction Committee Meeting November 19, 2025 10am
   3. Policy Committee Meeting November 19, 2025 11am
   4. Audit Committee Meeting November 19, 2025 12 pm
   5. NMSBA Annual Convention December 4-6, 2025
   6. Regular Board Meeting December 9, 2025 5:00 pm

7. **BOARD COMMENTS**-Mr. Danner congratulated Ms. Silva, Mr. Garley, and himself for being

reelected to the board and we can continue our quest for excellence in the Belen Schools and glad we have five board members pushing for that excellence phase. Mr. Tucker stated there was an excellent turn out at LPE for Veterans day and his wife was able to attend that. Mr. Garley stated the girls VB team made the state tournament, first time in 18 years. Mr. Sanchez stated the boys football has advanced to the second round.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**-Mr. Danner adjourned the meeting at 6:55 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