BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 23, 2026 MINUTES

Board Members Present: Jim Danner, Board President
Aubrey E. Tucker, Board Member
Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary
Joanne Silva, Board Member (arrived 3:35)

Board Members Absent: Ralph Fernandez, Board Vice President

Administrators Present: Lawrence A. Sanchez, Superintendent
E. Renee Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent
Annette A. Torrez, Chief Financial Officer
Ben Kingsolver, Technology Coordinator
Antonio Sedillo, Director Support Services
Deborah Baca, Director Health Services
Mary C. Batista, Director Human Resources

Others Present: Julia Dendinger, Valencia County News Bulletin
Approximately (2) individuals present
Approximately (12) individuals watched via streaming

A. **CALL TO ORDER**-Mr. Danner called the meeting to order at 3:32pm-Mr. Garley called roll.

B. **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**- For the purpose of discussing Superintendent evaluation pursuant to §10-15-1(H)(2) and for the discussion of possible disposal of real property 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”. Mr. Danner made a statement that the only items discussed were the superintendent evaluation and property. Motion to come out of closed executive session made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Ms. Silva. Motion passes with all members saying “aye”.

C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO**-Mr. Danner led the pledges.

D. **MODIFICATIONS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**-Superintendent recommend a change. Remove #6 Action Item-BFSE Ratification, it will be moved to the next board meeting. Motion to adopt the agenda as modified made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Motion passes with all members saying “aye”.

E. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**-Mr. Danner recused himself. Superintendent recommends approval of consent items. Motion to approve consent items made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Tucker. Individual votes 3-0, 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: 06/04/2026-06/17/2026
Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes: 06/09/2026
Legal Service Agreement with Modrall Sperling for 2026-2027 school year
MOU with June Romero for Hearing Officer for 2026-2027 school year

F. 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*

G. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

1. Panorama Student Survey-Lawrence A. Sanchez presented the results. We are starting to get a data trend starting back from fall 2023. Grades 3-5 vs 6-12 there is a huge difference. Grades 3-5: Self efficacy is growing, and we are above national percentile. Self-management, when you look at year 23, we were below the national percentile, we have moved into the green. Sense of belonging-most important to us. Younger grades we are above the trend nationally. Social awareness-new, how much empathy and grace do you have for others-not doing badly. Safety-Ms. Baca has spent years making our schools safe; we are above the trend nationally. Believes it is determined how safe people feel in their country. School Climate, we were below national average but this year we did increase. Engagement numbers aren't great but are above the national average. Grades 6-12 there is a lot of orange and very little green. We are still growing but we are below the national average when it comes to self-efficacy. Sense of belonging-38% of our student feel they belong. Social Awareness is in the 50's but not great nationally. Safety did go up a few years ago but feels it has a lot to do with bullying. School Climate is a concern-we are not improving no matter what we do. Engagement- one of the things is they want control. This shows when we look at the free response. We have to find a way to increase student voice at all our schools. We need to get our parents more involved in school, so they know attendance matters. Mr. Danner stated the number one response=teach me, clear instruction, clear assignments. We are now in a position to make sure this becomes process. We have policy, regulation, and cba's. We can meet this need K-12. Mr. Sanchez stated the key is observation and feedback. If the leaders are not getting into the classroom to make sure District expectations are being met, you will have things slipping through the cracks. Now we have to hold people accountable. Ms. Silva stated prior to this conversation you mentioned how Ms. Batista is going to be working on student voice at the District level. We have some baseline information, students responded and now where to start, what their concerns are, and where to start. Mr. Sanchez stated one of the reasons he asked is it was left up to principals last year and it didn't get done. We need to make it a district wide process. How are we going to hold you accountable. We want to see agendas-meet once a month. Was that student voice being implemented. Explain the why. Mr. Tucker asked grade Grades 3-5 #6 teachers being rude -when and how do teachers get training in order to correct that. How are teachers taught to combat that. Mr. Danner stated we have some teachers who work really hard at being nice. Mr. Sanchez stated it is societal. We had an initial rollout of PAX training. By setting that standard. Unfortunately, a lot of teachers are alternatively licensed and don't get that training. Some teachers don't need it, they already have it, but we have different educated teachers, and we are trying to help them.
2. EOY IMSSA and Galileo-Lawrence A. Sanchez stated one of the things they are paying better attention to is skills needed, not just growth and proficiency. Reading-first skill required is literary text grades 3-5 but all grades assessed on it. We need to figure out how we stop losing knowledge over the summer. Concern is how our teachers are following the instructional model and SALSA. The District didn't adjust pacing guide to match the interim assessments. We are going to look at all standards and make sure we are in alignment. Those teachers who were successful, we have invited them to help us revise and calibrate.

All the skills state says in necessary in reading is what we need to be teaching. If they are struggling, they need to reach out to their principals to let them know they are struggling so we can help them get better. Concern is English language convention grade 8 76% novice BOY. As a whole we are not good at teaching this; we are going to work on building sentences. How can we expect students to write when we don't teach them how to build a sentence. It is not so much where we are at, but what we are learning. How we are using this data for future learning and professional learning, impact understanding data with principals. Principals need to learn how to read this data. Math 6-8 math rationales and proportional relationships. This is where it starts to change. If they are not getting it in grades K-5 they are really struggling. Theres is a little improvement in grade 6 but then not in 7th if they struggle here, it will trickle over into high school. In math number system grades 6-8 the standards change and become higher. We see growth over the year, but we have to get our teachers better. We have to start to build the capacity, so we see better numbers by the next year. Mr. Tucker asked how we establish young minds. Mr. Sanchez stated we have to make it fun. We also need to teach our students the ethics of AI. Mr. Danner stated the role of AI is not going to decrease in our society. We need to teach our students to be thinkers, not let someone else think for you. Mr. Danner stated our data shows we have got to work on math. Mr. Sanchez stated it is nationwide.

H. BOARD REPORTS

1. Finance Committee Meeting June 17, 2026-Ms. Silva reported. State equalization review. FY26 Unit Value was $6877. FY27 Unit Value is $7117. Increase for 2027 is $819,514. Also looked at the at the "True" SEG Review, total $50,845,452 with an increase of $819,514.80. PED is mandating allocations; the District must follow. That allocation is at $20,485,929. Also discussed payroll summary pay period 25 and those totals were $1,983,593. Labor summary total employer paid benefits $509,273. Breaking it down certified staff $420,465 and classified $88,808. Total 578 employees-certified 426, classified-152. One of the points that was made clear was the benefits the District pays for staff.
2. Construction Committee Meeting June 17, 2026-Mr. Garley reported. Recently Completed Projects: LPE Lagoon Repairs: Cleaning of effluent ponds and repairs to liners completed to maintain compliance with NMED discharge permit. In Progress: BHS Gym HVAC Controls: Project installation complete. Owner training scheduled for early July. BCS Support Services Parking Lot: Demolition of existing asphalt complete. Grading and earthwork in progress. Paving expected to be completed around Monday, June 29 with striping to follow. NMDOT LGRF Project: La Promesa parking lot upgrades Phase II scheduled to be completed June 18th & 19th. BMS Science Lab Improvements: Demolition of existing lab tables and utilities complete. Additional LVT flooring added to original scope of work. Demolition of existing VCT in progress and installation of LVT expected to be completed during the week of June 29. 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. BHS Career Academy Exterior Painting: Project start date is postponed. Start date will be scheduled to follow completion of the LVT flooring installation in BMS science labs. Mr. Sanchez stated one of the items that didn't make it on this was they just finished the front landscape of RGE, and it came out really nice. Upcoming Projects: Belen Middle School Gym Sewer: Incorrect grade for waste line discovered during recent repairs. BCS is working with contractor for options to correct issue. Some of the things they think can correct it are the inspection camera and descaling, CIPP lining, lift station and back water valves.
3. Policy Committee Meeting May 20, 2026, and June 17, 2026-Mr. Tucker reported. He did second reads then first reads. He read the purpose for the policy Generative AI in Schools.
    a. First Read NEW Policy Generative AI in Schools
    b. First Read Policy J-4550 Extracurricular Activity Eligibility with changes
    c. Second Read Policy J-0500 Student Attendance with changes
    d. Second Read Policy G-1350 Employee Assistance with changes (policy advisory)
    e. Second Read Policy K-1000 Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information with changes (policy advisory)

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of approval: Policy J-0500 Student Attendance with changes-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Ms. Silva. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
2. Consideration of approval: Policy G-1350 Employee Assistance with changes (policy advisory) -Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
3. Consideration of approval: Policy K-1000 Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information with changes (policy advisory) -Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Mr. Tucker. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
4. Consideration of approval: of the purchase of Everybody Math and McGraw Hill Mathematics Curriculum at the projected cost of $819,994.80 Fund 11000-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Tucker and seconded by Ms. Silva. Mr. Danner asked if they are for single class sets or books for all the students. Ms. Sanchez replied they are buying class sets and elementary it is consumables. Mr. Danner asked if we have a class set, does that mean only 30 students can be on there at the same time. Ms. Sanchez stated that anyone will have access to the curriculum online. Mr. Sanchez stated all students will have access virtually. Mr. Danner asked how this relates to SALSA. Mr. Sanchez stated with the state setting the standards and planning calendar, we will have to take that and make sure teachers will know how to go through their textbook to find that. Ms. Sanchez added there will be a unit guide that teachers create, and they can look up the standard that aligns with SALSA and there will be a unit plan and pacing guide for each grade level. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
5. Consideration of approval: of the purchase of staff and student computers at a projected cost of $1,407,623.00 Fund 31900 (Ed Tech Notes) -Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Ms. Silva and seconded by Mr. Garley. Mr. Garley asked how often computers are replaced. Mr. Sanchez stated computers last five years, but we are buying every year. They are on a cycle. Mr. Tucker stated it is wonderful to have this opportunity. Mr. Sanchez stated we can thank the people of BCS for supporting the District. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
6. ~~Consideration of approval: 2026-2027 BFSE Ratification and salary schedules~~
7. Consideration of approval: 2026-2027 NEA Ratification-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Danner and seconded by Mr. Garley. Mr. Sanchez thanked Ms. Hill and her team from NEA and Ms. Batista for getting this done quickly. Mr. Tucker thanked Ms. Batista, NEA, and MS. Holcomb. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
8. Consideration of approval: Donation from Amazon for BCS families in need in the estimated amount of $10,000-Superintendent recommends approval. Motion to approve made by Mr. Garley and seconded by Mr. Tucker. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes. Mr. Danner thanked Amazon.
9. Consideration of approval: Superintendent contract for the 2026-2027 school year-Mr. Danner asked for a motion. Ms. Silva made a motion and seconded by Mr. Tucker. Mr. Danner went over the contract-Length runs till June 30, 2027; contract amount determined by what raises are within the District and will accommodate the salary that way. He may accumulate up to 30 vacation days, accumulate up to 30 earned leave days, correction-40 days for both. 235 workdays 15.99 vacation days, 13 sick and personal days. Compensation for unused leave per policy G-2550. Use of a vehicle, computer, and cell phone. Individual votes 4-0, motion passes.
10. *Consideration of approval: Legal Service Agreement with Modrall Sperling for 2026-2027 school year
11. *Consideration of approval: MOU with June Romero for Hearing Officer for 2026-2027 school year

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. Regular Board Meeting July 14, 2026 5:00 pm
2. NMSBA Leadership Retreat July 15-18, 2026 (Taos)

K. BOARD COMMENTS-Mr. Danner stated as board members they are required to have trainings. He attended a webinar from NSBA, called PED and asked to speak to someone in charge of school board certification. They said it has to be pre-approved through NMSBA prior to receive credit for training. Why would NSBA provide this information, but we can't get credit for it. Mr. Tucker stated he is pleased with the way the meetings are conducted and the transparency and glad that we do have the media here and to participate with us.

L. ADJOURNMENT-Mr. Danner adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm.

_____

Jim Danner, Board President

_____

Larry B. Garley, Board Secretary

Respectfully submitted:

_____

Cyndi Shawver, Recording Secretary