

MODOC JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Trustees

Regular Board Meeting

May 13, 2026

Closed Session: 5:00 p.m.

Open Session: 6:00 p.m.

District Office Board Room

906 W 4th Street, Alturas, CA 96101

MINUTES

A full, recorded transcript of the regular board meeting is available upon request. Contact the District Office (530) 233-7201.

Call to Order by Fernand Larranaga at 5:00 p.m. closed session and at 6:07 p.m. open session.

Roll Call:

Fernand Larranga, President	Present
Ruth Ann Criner, Vice President	Present
Monica Widby, Clerk	Present
Jodie Veverka, Member	Present
Shaun Wood, Member	Present
Rebecca Lewis, Superintendent	Present

Pledge of Allegiance Led by: Monica Widby

Approval of Agenda: Jodie Veverka/Shawn Wood Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0

Public Comments on Closed Session Agenda:

No public comments were made on items that were on the closed session agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board will now adjourn to Closed Session to discuss Personnel Matters Pursuant to Government Code § 54957:

- 1. Personnel - Public Employee Employment:**
 - 1.1. Resignations / Retirements / Releases**
 - 1.1.1. Certificated Staff
 - 1.1.2. MMS Athletic Director
 - 1.1.3. AES Title I Coordinator 3-5
 - 1.1.4. Classified Staff
 - 1.1.5. Classified Staff
 - 1.1.6. Certificated Staff

- 1.1.7. Testing Coordinator
- 1.1.8. Certificated Staff
- 1.1.9. Certificated Staff
- 1.1.10. Certificated Staff
- 1.2. Recommendations for Approval**
 - 1.2.1. Ratify Classified Substitute
 - 1.2.2. Certificated Staff
 - 1.2.3. Ratify Certificated Staff
 - 1.2.4. Certificated Staff
- 1.3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation**

- 2. Negotiations:** Conference with labor negotiator pursuant to [Government Code § 54957.6]: Agency Negotiators: Rebecca Lewis, Elizabeth Guzman, Gerese Weber
 - 2.1.** Employee Organization: Modoc Teachers Association
 - 2.2.** Employee Organization: Teamsters Local 137
 - 2.3.** Employee Organization: Unrepresented

OPEN SESSION

Reporting of Closed Session Items:

1. Personnel - Public Employee Employment:

1.1. Resignations / Retirements / Releases

- 1.1.1. Certificated Staff Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.1.2. MMS Athletic Director Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.1.3. AES Title I Coordinator 3-5 Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.1.4. Classified Staff Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.1.5. Classified Staff No Action
- 1.1.6. Certificated Staff Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.1.7. Testing Coordinator Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.1.8. Certificated Staff Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.1.9. Certificated Staff Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.1.10. Certificated Staff Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0

1.2. Recommendations for Approval

- 1.2.1. Ratify Classified Substitute Shaun Wood/Jodie Veverka Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.2.2. Certificated Staff Shaun Wood/Jodie Veverka Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.2.3. Ratify Certificated Staff Shaun Wood/Jodie Veverka Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0
- 1.2.4. Certificated Staff Shaun Wood/Jodie Veverka Yes:5 (Larranaga, Criner, Veverka, Widby, Wood) No: 0 Abstain: 0

1.3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation - *No Reportable Action*

2. **Negotiations:**Conference with labor negotiator 1 pursuant to [Government Code § 54957.6]: Agency Negotiators: Rebecca Lewis, Elizabeth Guzman, Gerese Weber
No Reportable Action

- 2.1. Employee Organization: Modoc Teachers Association
- 2.2. Employee Organization: Teamsters Local 137
- 2.3. Employee Organization: Unrepresented

Reports

- 1. Modoc High School Student Representatives - Liam Prince and Laila Hill reported that:
 - Baseball and Softball finish the regular season play. Baseball will be in the playoffs. Golf won the SCL championship and the Division 3 championship. Track is in post season with competition for the Division 4 championship at West Valley. The Spring Sports Banquet will be May 28th.
 - FFA hosted the 8th grade recruitment event yesterday. Ag in the classroom will be this Monday at the JLS grounds. The end of year banquet will be June 3rd.
 - ASB is working on end of the year activities. They gave the 8th graders a tour of the campus this week. Some of the events Prom, Play Day, the Rhonda Haselip Invitational Special Olympics and a Spring Blood Drive.
 - The MHS music concert will be May 26th at 7:00 p.m. The MMS music concert will be May 28th at 7:00 p.m.
 - Seniors are wrapping up their internships and will do presentations in a few weeks.
 - Welding is producing livestock planters to sale. They sold about 75.
 - Horticulture students are busy in the greenhouse. They are expecting to have a plant sale at the end of May / early June.
 - Floral students are finishing up their subscriptions.
 - AP Calculus took their AP test this week.
- 2. Modoc Middle School Student Representatives Emma Alvarez, Benelli Britton, Brylee Wilson, and Bentley Young reported that:
 - Spring Fever Week included candy themed dress up days, lunch time activities, and a rally.
 - They had a March Madness Basketball Tournament.
 - Some activities included an Egg Hunt and a Spring Dance.

- Staff Appreciation Week featured salad dress up days, lunch time activities and a rally.
- 8th grade exit interviews will be June 8th.
- Upcoming events include the 8th grade trip will be to UNR and the water park, last day of school rally, AVID field trips, Freshman orientation, 6th grade orientation, and helping with the AES playday.
- New ASB officers for the 26/27 year are: President Bradyn Knighton, Vice President Elsie Flournoy, Secretary Leigha DePaul, Treasurer Avery Flournoy, and Communications Paige Mason.

3. Site Principals

- Matt McCandless, Principal of Modoc Middle School, reported that the character trait for May is Community Minded. The staff focus this month is Testing/End of Year. They are finishing up tests this week for state testing. MAP testing to come. Staff is preparing for the promotion ceremony on June 11th and the parent group is planning a great student party to follow. He is working with Mrs. Britton and Mrs. Lewis to ensure a smooth transition. He thanked CSC for staff appreciation goodies.
- Todd Hughes, Assistant Principal of Modoc High School, reported that state testing is wrapping up. MAP testing in ELA/Math will start next week. They have 3 graduates from Warner. Current seniors at MHS are on track to graduate. They are closely watching a couple of seniors and Erin is having frequent meetings with them. Scholarship packets are being reviewed by committees and the Senior Awards Banquet will be May 27th at 6:00 p.m. The WASC mid cycle review went very well April 29th. They received the report and will utilize the document as they plan for the next couple years prior to starting the process again.
- Amy Welch, Principal of Alturas Elementary School, reported that they celebrated their students for completing CAASP testing. They are preparing for the end of year assessments and MAP testing. AVID strategy is to interview the next grade level students. The character trait is Collaboration / Sportsmanship. Schoolwide attendance is 95.04%. Mr. Blue Shoes will be there May 19th, June 5th is the last SOAR assembly and June 9th is the SOAR water party. June 10th is playday. PLC topic is End of Year Close Out.

4. Superintendent's Report - Beckie Lewis reported that:

- She got to teach 1st grade last week and loved every minute of it.
- The TCSIG representatives were here last Monday to go over any open enrollment questions and talk about the new plan. They also held a clinic on Tuesday.
- School First Credit Union was here today to present their services.
- She met with Rosa George and Andria Cockrell to discuss how the district could acknowledge the local tribes. They would like to put up tribal poles in front of the high school acknowledging all of the tribes. They would also like to have a verbal acknowledgement at all games before the National Anthem.
- In light of the recent Facebook posts about the ongoing MTA / District negotiations, Mrs. Lewis presented a Powerpoint, **Understanding District Realities: Staffing, Budget, and Sustainability**, laying out facts about the district and the current negotiation status. This presentation went over current negotiation status, historical data on TCSIG insurance rate increases and MJUSD cap increases, health

insurance open enrollment timelines, district budget and reserves, key factors of current schools in financial distress, the reasons for certificated staff leaving, declining enrollment & ADA, teacher recruitment and retention efforts, and Special Education staffing realities. The power point is included in these minutes.

5. Board Reports

- Jodie Veverka did and AES walk through She attended the MMS pep rally, drove a van for the AVID trip to San Francisco and participated in the Spring Fun Run that the MHS track put on.
- Ruth Ann Criner did a MMS walk through and is going to AES tomorrow.
- Monica Widby talked about the MMS golf clinic.
- Fernand Larranaga went to the city council meeting regarding the Main Street lanes. He talked about the high school kids crossing the streets unsafely and would like to have an informative assembly showing safety measures.

6. MTA

- Katie Copp commented that she personally was a grey area person and not a numbers person because numbers are rude and cold, referring to Mrs. Lewis' presentation. She expressed her concerns about student's education because teachers are leaving at an alarming rate. She addressed teacher retention and compensation, specifically the health insurance rate increase. She thinks the district could have more money to pay them if they hadn't discontinued TK. She thinks the Board needs to give more to the teachers regardless of how that would affect the district's long term financial stability. She introduced Rafael Sevilla. He talked about his experience with the district and how they made him feel unvalued. He discussed an issue with a coach that he refused to apologize to and how the Board went behind his back and apologized for him and how that made him feel.

7. Director of Maintenance & Transportation

- Doug Waterman reported that it is a busy time of year with all of the field trips and athletic events.

Public Comments on Items on and not on the Agenda:

Under this item, the public is invited to address the Board regarding items that are and not on tonight's agenda. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each. The Board is not allowed under the law to take action on matters that are not listed on the agenda.

1. Kevin Marcussen - He looked at the 2014 salary schedule and put it into AI and had it look at what it should be now with inflation. He believes the district is 10% below what it should be. He thinks the district should just pay the healthcare increase out of district funds. Commented that we are not running the district as a successful business.
2. Chad Wilson commented that the district needs to make it a place where people need to want to come to work. They need to feel valued and supported as educators. This will trickle down so kids feel good.
3. She is new to the community and is marrying a teacher. Kids are the most important part of a community. The Board should invest in the teachers as a community. Parents

need to want their kids in school. If they don't trust the district, they won't put their kids in school.

4. Kristen Chambers is concerned about teachers leaving. People don't have faith in our school district. It is a community issue. How can we partner with the community to help? She is not concerned about insurance or wages. She thinks TK kids need to go to school. She is worried that the town might turn into a ghost town.
5. Fernand Larranaga addressed a couple of the comments. He pointed out that the state has our hands tied with their funding. We only get so many dollars. He addressed Kevin Marcussen's comment about being a business. Businesses can raise prices if costs go up. The district cannot. He also stated he did not appreciate the dirty Facebook posts about the Board when we are not even done negotiating yet. He stated that the Board values and appreciates the staff.
6. Katie Copp commented that she was not sorry for the Facebook posts. It got the district's attention.
7. Laurel Rulison talked about the rising costs of health insurance and how it affects her family.
8. Colleen Cooper-Vanosdell commented that health insurance costs will be her mortgage payment.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda, if approved, will be recorded in the minutes as if each item had been acted upon individually. Requests by members of the Board to have any item taken off the consent agenda for discussion will be honored without debate. Requests by the public to have an item taken off the consent agenda will be considered prior to the Board taking action.

Motion That all consent items be approved as recommended by the superintendent

Alternative Motion That consent items with the exception of (*name items*) be approved as recommended by the superintendent

Approval of Consent Agenda

Ruth Ann Criner/Monica Widby

Yes: 5 (Larranaga, Widby, Veverka,

Wood, Criner) No: 0 Abstain: 0

1. Administration

- 1.1. Approve Minutes (**Pages 1-9**)
 - 1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting April 15, 2026;
 - 1.1.2. Special Board Meeting April 27, 2026:
- 1.2. Approve the DSA Inspection Service Agreement Extension (**Page 10**)
- 1.3. Approve the Lease Agreements between Modoc Joint Unified School District and:
 - 1.3.1. Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities (**Pages 11-14**)
 - 1.3.2. TEACH Latchkey Program (**Pages 15-17**)
 - 1.3.3. TEACH Senior Center (**Pages 18-21**)
- 1.4. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Modoc Joint Unified School District and Keegan's IT Services, LLC (**Pages 22-23**)

- 1.5. Approve MHS 2026 Fall Sports Schedules (**Pages 24-29**)
 - 1.5.1. Football
 - 1.5.2. Volleyball
 - 1.5.3. Soccer
 - 1.5.4. Cross Country
 - 1.5.5. Girls Golf
2. **Budget and Finance**
 - 2.1. Approve the 2026-27 Consolidated Application (**Pages 30-31**)
 - 2.2. Approve Budget Changes over \$10,000 (**Page 32**)
 - 2.3. Approve Interfund Transfers (**Page 33**)
 - 2.4. Approve warrants to be paid from the following (**Pages 34-37**)
 - 2.4.1. Checks dated 4/1/26 - 4/23/26
 - General Fund in the amount of \$270,003.66
 - Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$34,907.33
 - Special Reserve Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$1,015,316.77
 - Warrant/Pass Through in the amount of \$10,401.04

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA

1. Approve the following declaration: The Governing Board of Modoc Joint Unified School District declares that there is a shortage of qualified teachers due to the geographic location of the District and, as a consequence of this action; the District is unable to recruit certificated persons who meet the District's specified employment criteria for the positions listed on the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators. The District anticipates employing up to 10 (ten) certificated persons who do not meet the specific qualifications for the 2026/2027 school year.

Ruth Ann Criner/Shawn Wood Yes: 5 (Larranaga, Widby, Veverka, Wood, Criner) No: 0 Abstain: 0

2. Approve the School Plans for Student Achievement for Modoc Middle School, High Desert Community Day School, and Alturas Elementary School (**Pages 38-166**)

Jodie Veverka/Ruth Ann Criner Yes: 5 (Larranaga, Widby, Veverka, Wood, Criner) No: 0 Abstain: 0

3. Approve Edmentum Agreement (**Pages 167-172**)

Monica Widby/Ruth Ann Criner Yes: 5 (Larranaga, Widby, Veverka, Wood, Criner) No: 0 Abstain: 0

4. Ratify Special Education ELOP Summer School Instructional Aide Job Description (**Pages 173-174**)

Jodie Veverka/Shawn Wood Yes: 5 (Larranaga, Widby, Veverka, Wood, Criner) No: 0 Abstain: 0

5. Approve the Agreement for Special Services with Butte Rural Initiative Center (BRIC) (**Pages 175-181**)

Monica Widby/Jodie Veverka Yes: 5 (Larranaga, Widby, Veverka, Wood, Criner) No: 0 Abstain: 0

6. Approve the Final Reading to Rescind the Board Policy
 - a. BP 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency / High School Equivalency

Shaun Wood/Jodie Veverka Yes: 5 (Larranaga, Widby, Veverka, Wood, Criner) No: 0 Abstain: 0

7. Approve the Final Reading of the Board Policies. **(Pages 182-276)**
 - a. BP 1000 - Concepts and Roles
 - b. BP / AR 1114 - District Sponsored Social Media
 - c. BP 2120 - Superintendent Recruitment and Selection
 - d. AR 3311.3 - Design-Build Contracts
 - e. BP3470 - Debt Issuance and Management
 - f. BP 4000 - Concepts and Roles
 - g. BP 5000 - Concepts and Roles
 - h. BP / AR 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities
 - i. BP / AR 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance
 - j. BP 5138 - Conflict Resolution / Peer Mediation
 - k. BP / AR 6020 - Parent Involvement
 - l. BP / AR 6143 - Courses of Study
 - m. AR 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency / High School Equivalency
 - n. BP 7000 - Concepts and Roles
 - o. BP 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies
 - p. BB 9310 - Board Policies
 - q. BB / E(1) / E(2) 9321 - Closed Session

Shaun Wood/Monica Widby Yes: 5 (Larranaga, Widby, Veverka, Wood, Criner) No: 0 Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

1. Construction Project Update

INFORMATION

1. Quarterly Food Service Report. **(Page 277)**
2. March 2026 ASB Report **(Pages 278-279)**
3. Quarterly & Historical Interest Earned on MJUSD Investments **(Page 280)**
4. 25/26 General Fund Budget as of May 4, 2026 **(Page 281)**
5. 25/26 General Fund Cash Flow Projection as of May 4, 2026 **(Page 282)**

Board Member Request(s) for Items on the Next Regular Meeting Agenda

- 1.
- 2.

Next Regular Board Meeting:

June 10, 2026

5:00 p.m. Closed Session

6:00 p.m. Open Session

Adjournment: 8:10