

CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education - Board Workshop  
Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025  
Richard S. Kirkendall Education Center | 170 W. San Jose Avenue, Claremont, California  
(Hybrid Meeting)

Board of Education  
Kathryn Dunn, President  
Richard W. O'Neill, Vice President  
Dr. Alex McDonald, Clerk  
Kathy Archer, Member  
Cheryl Fiello, Member

Board Members Present: Kathryn Dunn, Richard O'Neill, Dr. Alex McDonald, Kathy Archer, Cheryl Fiello

Student Board Members Present: Eli George (SAHS)

Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera (CHS)

Administrative Staff Present:

Dr. James Elsasser, Superintendent and Board Secretary  
Desiree Reyes, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Dr. Julie Olesniewicz, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Kevin Ward, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services  
Dr. Rick Lopez, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Kara Evans, Director of Educational Technology and Innovation  
Angela Gearhart, Exec. Secretary to the Superintendent

1. LIVE VIDEO STREAM

Information, Procedural: 1.01 Zoom Link to Join the Meeting

2. OPENING ITEMS

Procedural: 2.01 Call to Order at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Procedural: 2.02 Establish a Quorum

A quorum was established with five Board members present: Kathryn Dunn, Richard O'Neill, Dr. Alex McDonald, Kathy Archer, and Cheryl Fiello. Dr. James Elsasser, Executive Cabinet, Angela Gearhart, and Kara Evans were also present at the meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Action, Procedural: 3.01 Adoption of Agenda

To adopt the Agenda as presented.

- Motion by Kathy Archer, second by Alex McDonald.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn

4. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS / Public Comment

Information, Procedural: 4.01 Public Comment on Closed Session Items

There were no public comments regarding closed session items.

- Action: 4.02 Student Matters: Regarding Student Records Challenge - Pupil Case No 20250306A - Pursuant to California Education Code §49070 and §49071
- Discussion: 4.03 Conference with Labor Negotiator: Designated Negotiator: Dr. James Elsasser, CUSD Superintendent of Schools; CFA/CSEA/CMA/Unrepresented - California Government Code §54954.5 (f) pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6
- Discussion: 4.04 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - (Government Code §54954.5(e)) pursuant to California Government Code §54957

5. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Procedural: 5.01 Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:32 p.m.

6. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: 6.01 Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

Procedural: 6.02 Establishing a Quorum

A quorum was established with five Board members present: Kathryn Dunn, Richard O'Neill, Dr. Alex McDonald, Kathy Archer, and Cheryl Fello. Student Board Members Eli George, Dr. James Elsassser, Executive Cabinet, Angela Gearhart, and Kara Evans were also present at the meeting. Student Board member Soleil Rivera was not able to attend the meeting.

Procedural: 6.03 Flag Salute

Board President Kathryn Dunn led the pledge of allegiance.

Information, Procedural, Reports: 6.04 Report of Action Taken in Closed Session

Action: 4.02 Student Matters: Regarding Student Records Challenge - Pupil Case No 20250306A - Pursuant to California Education Code §49070 and §49071

This item was discussed in closed session and action was taken in open session.

To deny the allegation brought forth in Pupil Case No 20250306A and uphold the student record.

- Motion by Cheryl Fello, second by Alex McDonald.

- Final Resolution: Motion Carries

- Yea: Cheryl Fello, Alex McDonald, Kathryn Dunn

- Abstain: Kathy Archer, Richard O'Neill

Discussion: 4.03 Conference with Labor Negotiator: Designated Negotiator: Dr. James Elsassser, CUSD Superintendent of Schools; CFA/CSEA/CMA/Unrepresented - California Government Code §54954.5 (f) pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6

- No reportable action was taken in closed session.

Discussion: 4.04 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - (Government Code §54954.5(e))

- No reportable action was taken in closed session.

### 7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Action, Minutes: 7.01 March 20, 2025 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the regular board meeting on March 20, 2025.

- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Cheryl Fello.

- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George

- Final Resolution: Motion Carries

- Yea: Cheryl Fello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn

- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

### 8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Information: 8.01 Recognitions

Information, Procedural: 8.02 Recognition: Volunteer of the Year (VOY)

The Board recognized the 2024-2025 Volunteer of the Year (VOY) honorees, including Julie Bernard from Chaparral Elementary School, Patty Moreno from Condit Elementary School, Ivore White from Mountain View Elementary School, Erin Muir from Oakmont Outdoor School, Katie Wheatley from Sumner-Danbury Elementary School, Jessica MacLacian from Sycamore Elementary School, Kevin O'Reilly from Vista del Valle Elementary School, Valarie Jimenez from El Roble Intermediate School, Sandy Lopez from Claremont High School, Marisela Zuniga from San Antonio High School, Darlene Berg from Claremont Unified School District, and Gloria Clark from Claremont Unified School District.

Information: 8.03 Recognition: You Are The Commitment Award

The Board presented the You Are The Commitment Award to Dr. Scott Turner, Executive Director of the East San Gabriel Valley East San Gabriel Valley (ESGV) Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), in recognition of his exemplary dedication to the core values of Excellence, Equity, Innovation, and Integrity, which strengthen the CUSD Commitment and enrich the district's culture.

Information, Reports: 8.04 East San Gabriel Valley (ESGV) Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Presentation

Executive Director Dr. Scott Turner and Special Education Director Sarah Estrada presented an overview of the ESGV SELPA, which included data on Member LEAs, ESGV and CUSD enrollment of Students with Disabilities (SWD), SWD eligibilities, ESGV SELPA Provider programs, CUSD OI/OHI Provider Programs, Special Education trends, State and Federal Advocacy, and IDEA. A key concern highlighted was funding.

### 9. ORAL REPORTS: STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Information: 9.01 Oral Reports by Student Board Members

Eli George reported on events at Condit and Sumner Danbury Elementary Schools and San Antonio High School.

Information: 9.02 Oral Reports by the Board of Education

- Board Member Cheryl Fello shared with the community that the Chamber Top Golf tournament would take place on April 24, 2025, and mentioned that the Chamber would also be part of the Ontario International Airport Multi-Chamber Mixer. She also thanked Mountain View Elementary for welcoming her during a site visit with Dr. Elsassser and Board Vice President O'Neill.

- Board Member Kathy Archer thanked the community for voting for the Measure G bond and stated that the CHS Music Building Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to witness the result of that measure, as the CHS Music Building was renovated due to the funding from the bond.
- Board Clerk Alex McDonald reported that the previous night's CEF Comedy Magic Night at the Padua Theatre raised \$20,000.
- Board Vice President Richard O'Neill said that he had joined Dr. Elsasser and Board Member Fiello during a site visit at Mountain View Elementary School.
- Board President Kathryn Dunn shared that she attended the Baldy View ROP meeting the week prior and recounted an inspiring story about a student's journey within the program.

#### 10. SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reports: 10.01 Superintendent's Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser shared that he recently completed meetings with principals, assistant superintendents, and Director Kong to discuss progress on their goals for the year. He also conducted walkthroughs at Mountain View with Board members O'Neill and Fiello, and at Vista del Valle with Interim Principal Dynes, noting that a recommendation for Vista's new principal will be brought to the next Board meeting.

#### 11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

Information: 11.01 Comments by Employee Associations: CSEA Chapter 200, CFA, and CMA

CFA President Brian D'Ambrosia-Donner spoke about the success of STEAM Night, announced that the CFA Annual Day of the Teacher will be held on May 7, and emphasized the growing need for special education programs and services.

#### 12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Information, Procedural: 12.01 Call for Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

#### 13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Procedural, Reports: 13.01 Presentations and Reports

#### 14. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Information: 14.01 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Update

Dr. Olesniewicz provided an update on the progress toward the development of the 2024-2027 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The update included an overview of community engagement efforts, survey results, and key emerging themes, with a focus on increasing academic support, career exploration, and addressing school safety concerns.

Action: 14.02 Additions and updates to the Claremont High School Courses of Study

Dr. Olesniewicz presented the proposed additions and updates to the High School Courses of Study, specifically regarding the physical education course offerings at Claremont High School. The Board approved the following additions and updates, which aim to better accommodate the diverse schedules and interests of students while maintaining rigorous academic and physical education standards.

To approve the following additions and updates to the High School Courses of Study as presented.

- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Cheryl Fiello.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

#### 15. HUMAN RESOURCES

Action: 15.01 Resolution 09-2025 Day of the Teacher

Dr. Lopez presented the resolution to recognize National Teacher Day on May 6, 2025, and California Day of the Teacher on May 7, 2025, and to honor teachers with ten to forty years of service at the upcoming Honor Our Own reception on May 20, 2025.

To adopt Resolution 09-2025, proclaiming May 6, 2025, as National Day of the Teacher, and May 7, 2025, as California Day of the Teacher

- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Kathy Archer.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

Action: 15.02 Resolution 10-2025: Classified Employees Week

Dr. Lopez presented the resolution to recognize the week of May 19, 2025, as Classified School Employee Week and to honor classified employees with ten to forty years of service at the Honor Our Own reception on May 20, 2025.

To adopt Resolution 10-2025, proclaiming the week of May 19, 2025, as Classified School Employees Week.

- Motion by Richard O'Neill, second by Cheryl Fiello.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries

- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

Action, Discussion: 15.03 Certification of Athletic Coaches  
 Dr. Lopez presented the certification of compliance with Section 5593 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, confirming that all temporary athletic coaches for the 2024-2025 school year have met the required qualifications as certified by Claremont High School Athletic Director Harold Sanin, El Roble Intermediate School Principal Richard McAlindin, and San Antonio High School Principal Andrea Deligio.  
 To certify the Claremont Unified School District has met the requirements for the certification of temporary athletic coaches for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Motion by Richard O'Neill, second by Alex McDonald.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

Action: 15.04 Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators  
 Dr. Lopez presented the annual 'Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators,' which was approved by the Board for submission to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in preparation for emergency permit needs for the 2025-2026 school year.  
 To approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators as required by Title 5 regulations, consistent with the Bergeson Act.

- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Cheryl Fiello.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

## 16. GENERAL ITEMS

Discussion, Information: 16.01 Discussion of the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar and Survey Results  
 Dr. Eisasser presented the results of the survey regarding the potential adjustment of the start date for the 2026-2027 school year, which was sent to 7th-12th grade students, families, and staff. A discussion was held, providing the Board an opportunity to review the feedback and consider next steps for the academic calendar.

There were three public comments made by community members:

- Melissa Gaw, a San Antonio High teacher, expressed concerns about the current academic calendar for high school students and spoke in support of the proposed changes.
- Lydia Hernandez, a Sycamore Elementary School teacher, expressed concerns about the potential changes and spoke in opposition.
- Lisa Schuster, a Sycamore Elementary School teacher, also expressed concerns about the potential changes and spoke in opposition.

Board members were in unanimous agreement that the benefits to students of this potential change would be worth the adjustment. However, they requested further clarification on the guidelines for indoor activities due to heat.

Mr. Ward clarified that guidelines for outdoor activities are determined by the county, with outdoor activities allowed when temperatures range from 94-99°F, but only morning recess is permitted. When temperatures exceed 100°F, all activities must be held indoors.

Dr. Eisasser also noted that the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic calendars will be brought to the Board for approval at the May 1, 2025 meeting.

Discussion, Information: 16.02 First Reading of Board Policy: 6142.7  
 There were no suggestions or edits made.

## 17. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action (Consent): 17.01 Approval of Consent Calendar  
 Resolution: To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Kathy Archer.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

Action (Consent): 17.02 Overnight Field Trips  
 Resolution: To approve the recommended field trips as indicated

Action (Consent): 17.03 Research proposal: "Examining the Relationship Between Culturally Responsive Teacher Self-Efficacy, Culturally Responsive Instruction, and General Teacher Efficacy" by Catherine Dia, Doctoral Candidate, Azusa Pacific University.  
Resolution: To authorize the research proposal, "Examining the Relationship Between Culturally Responsive Teacher Self-Efficacy, Culturally Responsive Instruction, and General Teacher Efficacy" by Catherine Dia, Doctoral Candidate, Azusa Pacific University.

Action (Consent): 17.04 Budget Adjustments  
Resolution: To approve the budget adjustments as presented.

Action (Consent): 17.05 Interfund Transfer  
Resolution: To approve the following interfund transfer.

Action (Consent): 17.06 Obsolete Items  
Resolution: To declare obsolete and dispose of the attached items.

Action (Consent): 17.07 Gifts  
Resolution: To accept donations and gifts as listed.

Action (Consent): 17.08 Vendor Agreements  
Resolution: To authorize the following agreements with the attached vendors.

Action (Consent): 17.09 Certificated Personnel Actions  
Resolution: To approve the attached Certificated Personnel Actions as presented.

Action (Consent): 17.10 Classified Personnel Actions  
Resolution: To approve the attached Classified Personnel Actions as presented.

Action (Consent): 17.11 Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints  
Resolution: To approve the "Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints" for the third quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

18. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Discussion, Information, Procedural: 18.01 New or Revised Calendar Information  
There were no changes noted to be made.


19. CLOSED SESSION (IF NEEDED)

Discussion: 19.01 Closed session script if needed


20. ADJOURNMENT

Procedural: 20.01 Final Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Dr. James Elsasser, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Board of Education

Attested and Approved:

  
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Dr. Alex McDonald, Board Clerk  
Board Approved on the 1st day of May 2025

