CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026
Richard S. Kirkendall Education Center | 170 W. San Jose Avenue, Claremont, California
(Hybrid Meeting)

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

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

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. ZOOM LINK TO JOIN THE MEETING
   1.01 Zoom Link to Join the Meeting

2. OPENING ITEMS
   2.01 Call to Order at 5:30 p.m.
   The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

   2.02 Establish a Quorum
   A quorum was established with four Board members present: Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, and Alex McDonald. Board Member Richard O'Neill was unable to be present at roll call. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Elsasser, Executive Cabinet, Angela Gearhart, and Kara Evans.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
   To adopt the Agenda as presented.
   - Motioned by: Cheryl Fiello
   - Seconded by: Kathy Archer
   - Yeas: Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald
   - Absent: Richard O'Neill

   Motion Carried

4. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS / Public Comment
   - 4.01 Public Comment on Closed Session Items
   - 4.02 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
   - 4.03 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (One potential case)
   - 4.04 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - California Government Code §54954.5(e) pursuant to California Government Code §54957

   At this time Richard O'Neill entered the meeting, and a second roll call established a quorum with five Board members present: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, and Alex McDonald.

5. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 5:31 p.m.

6. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

6.01 Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:04 p.m.

6.02 Establishing a Quorum

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

6.03 Flag Salute

Board President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

6.04 Report of Action Taken in Closed Session

There was no action taken in closed session, the following action was taken in open session.

To approve Student Settlement Agreement 2026030360-2026051104.

- Motioned by: Kathy Archer
- Seconded by: Kathryn Dunn
- Yeas: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald

Motion Carried

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7.01 August 6, 2026 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on August 6, 2026.

- Motioned by: Cheryl Fiello
- Seconded by: Kathryn Dunn
- Yeas: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald

Motion Carried

8. ORAL REPORTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

8.01 Board of Education

- Board Member Richard O'Neill spoke about his recent trip to Toronto and highlighted the new sign at El Roble Intermediate School.
- Board Member Kathryn Dunn reported on attending Back-to-School Night at El Roble Intermediate School and shared her appreciation for seeing Principal Missy Samson in action.
- Board Clerk Cheryl Fiello attended Back-to-School Night at Chaparral Elementary School, where she welcomed new Principal Frances Baird, and also attended Back-to-School Night at El Roble Intermediate School.
- Board Vice President Kathy Archer attended Back-to-School Night at El Roble and reported that the Claremont Educational Foundation awarded $16,000 in scholarships through business sponsorships. She also wished CUSD teachers and staff a successful school year.
- Board President Alex McDonald attended the New Certificated Staff Orientation, welcomed new staff, and attended the CFA breakfast and welcome-back rally.

9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

9.01 Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser reported on the orientation for the District's two new student Board members, the new employee orientation, and professional development activities held prior to the start of the school year. He also highlighted the District's recognition of all 10 schools with Platinum-level California PBIS recognition, the successful opening of the 2026–2027 school year, well-attended Back to School Nights, and the Extended Cabinet's outreach to new employees to support their transition to CUSD.

10. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

CFA President Melissa Wanacott spoke regarding the CFA's election endorsements, including support for Proposition 3, which would continue Proposition 50, and for Richard Berrera for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

11.01 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

There was one in-person public comment.

- Megan Rainey, Associate Director of Uncommon Good, a local nonprofit organization, provided an overview of the services provided by the organization and its partnership with CUSD.

12. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

12.01 Presentations and Reports

13. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

13.01 Addition and update to the San Antonio High School Courses of Study

Dr. Olesniewicz presented the proposed addition and update to the San Antonio High School Courses of Study for the 2026–2027 school year, including the introduction of the Life and Career Readiness Seminar as a semester-long elective course. The update is intended to provide students with relevant skills and experiences to support success in high school, postsecondary education, the workplace, and everyday life.

To approve the addition and update to the San Antonio High School Courses of Study as presented.

- Motioned by: Kathryn Dunn
- Seconded by: Cheryl Fiello
- Yeas: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald

Motion Carried

13.02 Educational Technology Program Presentation

The Educational Technology Leadership Team, led by Kara Evans, Director of Technology and Innovation, provided an overview of the District's Educational Technology Program, including student use of technology in the classroom, technology access and equity, program enhancements, feedback from the family and staff surveys, and changes planned for the 2026–2027 school year.

There were three in-person public comments. Emily Orr asked questions regarding the process for approving and communicating revisions to the Educational Technology Program, the Parent and Staff Advisory Committee, and the proposed age-level guidelines. Michiko Hori asked questions regarding the availability of the presentation to the public, the survey development and research, and the use of educational technology in the primary grades. Andrew Alonzo asked about safeguards and guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence by students and staff. Staff and the Board responded to questions and provided clarification regarding the proposed changes, stakeholder engagement, communication, and ongoing work related to artificial intelligence. The Board extended the discussion by 10 minutes to allow for additional questions and discussion.

14. GENERAL ITEMS

14.01 First Reading of Board Policies: 6020, 6141.4, 6142.7, 6143, 6144, & 6146.2

Dr. Elsasser presented a first reading of Board Policies 6020 Parent Involvement, 6141.4 International Baccalaureate Program, 6142.7 Physical Education and Activity, 6143 Course of Study, 6144 Controversial Issues, and the deletion of 6146.2 Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency, as recommended by CSBA and District staff to ensure alignment with current laws and educational best practices. There were no edits or suggestions made to the policies presented.

15. CONSENT CALENDAR

15.01 Approval of Consent Calendar

To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- Motioned by: Richard O'Neill
- Seconded by: Cheryl Fiello
- Yeas: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald

Motion Carried

15.02 Memorandum of Understanding with Azusa Unified School District for reimbursement toward the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program (BTPDP) Grant

To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Azusa Unified School District for reimbursement toward the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program (BTPDP) Grant.

15.03 Memorandum of Understanding to Participate in Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) and K12 Strong Workforce Grant (K12 SWP) with Baldy View Regional Occupational Program
To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Baldy View Regional Occupational Program (Baldy View ROP) for a Joint Powers Authority for participation in the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) and K12 Strong Workforce Grant (K12 SWP).

15.04 Board Orders
To approve the A and B Warrants and Purchase Orders as of July 2026 as presented.

15.05 Budget Adjustments
To approve the budget adjustments as presented.

15.06 Gifts
To accept donations and gifts as listed in the attached.

15.07 Vendor Agreements
To authorize the following agreements with the attached vendors.

15.08 Rejection of Claim
To reject liability claim #2614937.

15.09 Certificated Personnel Actions
To approve the attached Certificated Personnel Actions as presented.

15.10 Classified Personnel Actions
To approve the attached Classified Personnel Actions as presented.

15.11 Adoption of Board Policies: 6142.1, 6142.8, & 6142.91
To adopt Board Policies 6142.1, 6142.8, & 6142.91 as presented.

16. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

16.01 New or Revised Calendar Information
There were no changes noted to be made.

17. ADJOURNMENT

17.01 Final Adjournment
The meeting adjourned in closed session at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Attested and Approved:

Cheryl Fiello, Board Clerk
Board Approved on the 3rd day of September 2026