

CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education - Board Workshop  
Date: Thursday, March 6, 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: Soleil Rivera (CHS)  
Student Board Members Absent: Eli George (SAHS)

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 Richard O'Neill.

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 was no comment on closed session items.

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

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

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 Board reconvened to open session at 6:05 p.m.

**Procedural: 6.02 Establishing a Quorum**

A second quorum was established with five Board members present: Kathryn Dunn, Richard O'Neill, Dr. Alex McDonald, Kathy Archer, and Cheryl Fiello. Also in attendance were Student Board Member Soleil Rivera, Superintendent Dr. James Elsasser, Executive Cabinet members, Angela Gearhart, and Kara Evans. Student Board Member Eli George was unable to attend this 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**

The following was discussed in closed session and the following action was taken in open session:

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

To approve the recommendation of the Hearing Panel for Pupil Case No 20250306A

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

**4.03 Conference with Labor Negotiator: Dr. James Elsasser, CUSD Superintendent of Schools; CFA/CSEA/CMA/Unrepresented**

- No reportable action was taken in closed session.

**4.04 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release**

- No reportable action was taken in closed session.

**7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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

- To adopt the minutes from the regular board meeting on February 20, 2025.
- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Richard O'Neill.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn

**8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Information: 8.01 Recognitions

Information, Procedural: 8.02 Recognition: You Are The Commitment

The Board recognized Chief Aaron Fate of the Claremont Police Department for his dedication to collaboration, mentorship, and service to the district.

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

Information: 9.01 Oral Reports by Student Board Members

- Soleil Rivera reported on events at Sycamore and Mountain View Elementary Schools, and Claremont High School

Information: 9.02 Oral Reports by the Board of Education

- Cheryl Fiello reported on the upcoming State of the Chamber event on March 20 and the Chamber Walk at the Claremont Botanical Garden. She also highlighted recent site visits to Sumner Danbury Elementary School and San Antonio High School, referenced YATC cards, and attended the Elementary Instrumental Music Program Winter Concerts, Chaparral Elementary School's Leave a Legacy Painting Night, and El Roble Intermediate School's New Panther Showcase.
- Kathy Archer shared updates on the February 26 CLASP meeting with a website designer, recognized Claremont High School students who demonstrated baseball and soccer skills for younger students, and highlighted the Claremont Chapter of Kids Coding. She also attended Math Night featuring Arthur Benjamin, extended best wishes to Muslim families for Ramadan Mubarak, acknowledged the Lenten season, and commended the Nutrition Services Department for accommodating students observing Ramadan with thoughtful meal options.
- Alex McDonald shared that he attended El Roble Intermediate School's New Panther Showcase and reminded the public that registration for the Claremont Educational Foundation's Slice of Summer program opens on April 4.
- Richard O'Neill discussed an editorial on the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on classrooms.
- Kathryn Dunn reported on the upcoming Legislative Action Week scheduled for the following Tuesday through Thursday. She emphasized advocacy efforts to increase funding by 2.3% and noted her monitoring of two Assembly bills related to affordable housing.

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

Reports: 10.01 Superintendent's Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser reported on recent school walkthroughs at Oakmont Outdoor School, Condit Elementary, Sumner Danbury Elementary, and San Antonio High School with their respective principals and Board Member Fiello. He highlighted the fourth Leadership Seminar discussion on Lincoln on Leadership and a personal values activity. He also congratulated

elementary instrumental students and teachers on a successful concert and acknowledged the teachers and students recognized in the Making Change contest.

#### 11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

Jeff Brown, member-at-large for CFA, expressed appreciation to administrators for their work in negotiations and highlighted the continued growth of secondary arts education, including the Instrumental Music Program at CHS and El Roble, as well as the Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, and Choir departments.

#### 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.

#### 13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Procedural, Reports: 13.01 Presentations and Reports

#### 14. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Information: 14.01 Youth and Family Services Update

Rosa Leong, Senior Liaison for Youth and Family Services, and Millie Monroy, Youth and Family Services Liaison, provided an update to the Board of Education on the program's progress and recent actions. The update included an overview of the McKinney-Vento Act; LEA Liason Responsibilities; Youth Impacted by the Foster Care System; Resources Provided; and Educational Partners.

Dr. Elsasser invited Lizzie Hayward, 4th-grade student in Mrs. Bonner's class at Condit Elementary School, to share her essay that she had received recognition for at the Making Change Award ceremony on February 24.

#### 15. HUMAN RESOURCES

Action: 15.01 Adoption of Resolution 08-2025 Non Re-Election and Release from Employment of Temporary Certificated Employees

Dr. Lopez reported that, pursuant to California Education Code 44954, the Governing Board must notify certain temporary employees of their non-re-election for the following school year. He noted that Resolution #08-2025 delegates this authority to the Superintendent or designee, with notifications to be issued by March 15, 2025, in accordance with the Education Code.

To adopt Resolution 08-2025 - Non Re-Election and Release from Employment of Temporary Certificated Employees.

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

#### 16. GENERAL ITEMS

Discussion, Information: 16.01 First Reading of Board Policies: 0000, 0100, & 0200

Dr. Elsasser presented the following board policies and stated they were recommended by district staff for revision to reflect The CUSD Commitment and Focus Areas 2022-2027: BP 0000 Vision; BP 0100 Philosophy; and BP 0200 Goals For The School District.

Action, Discussion: 16.02 CSBA Delegate Assembly Elections

Dr. Elsasser reported that the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly sets the general policy direction for the Association, representing school districts and county offices of education. Delegates serve two-year terms from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2027, attending meetings and regional caucuses to shape policy, adopt bylaws, and establish CSBA's positions on key issues.

To cast a unanimous vote for no more than two candidates to the California School Board Association Subregion 23-C Delegate Assembly to serve a two-year term from April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2027.

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

#### 17. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action (Consent): 17.01 Approval of Consent Calendar

Resolution: To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

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

Action (Consent): 17.02 Overnight Field Trip

Resolution: To approve the recommended field trip as amended.

Action (Consent): 17.03 Obsolete Items

Resolution: To declare obsolete and dispose of the attached items.

Action (Consent): 17.04 Gifts

Resolution: To accept donations and gifts as listed.

Action (Consent): 17.05 Vendor Agreements

Resolution: To authorize the following agreements with the attached vendors.

Action (Consent): 17.06 Approval of Construction Change Order

Resolution: To authorize the District to approve the attached construction change orders.

Action (Consent): 17.07 Completion of Project

Resolution: To authorize the District to accept the attached project as satisfactorily completed.

Action (Consent): 17.08 Certificated Personnel Actions

Resolution: To approve the attached Certificated Personnel Actions as presented.

Action (Consent): 17.09 Classified Personnel Actions

Resolution: To approve the attached Classified Personnel Actions as presented.

Action (Consent): 17.10 Adoption of Board Policies to Align with CSBA Recommendations

Resolution: To adopt revised Board Policies as presented.

18. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Discussion, Information, Procedural: 18.01 New or Revised Calendar Information

There were no changes noted to be changed.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Procedural: 20.01 Final Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 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 20th day of March 2025