

CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes
Date: Thursday, August 6, 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: Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald
Board Members Absent: Richard O'Neill

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. Richard O'Neill was unable to be present at this meeting. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Elsasser, Executive Cabinet, Angela Gearhart, and Kara Evans.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. Elsasser requested that Board Policy 6141.4 be removed from consideration under Agenda Item 17.01.

To adopt the Agenda as amended.

- Motioned by: Kathryn Dunn
- Seconded by: Cheryl Fiello
- 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

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

To adopt the Agenda as amended.

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

Motion Carried

5. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 5:32 p.m.

6. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

6.01 Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

6.02 Establishing a Quorum

A quorum was established with five Board members present: Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, and Alex McDonald. Richard O'Neill was unable to be present at this meeting. 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

No reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7.01 June 18, 2026 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on June 18, 2026

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

Motion Carried

7.02 June 22, 2026 Minutes - Special Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on June 22, 2026

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

Motion Carried

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS/RECOGNITIONS

8.01 Special Order of Business

8.02 Recommendation for Principal at Chaparral Elementary School

Dr. Lopez presented the recommendation to ratify Frances Luna-Baird as Principal of Chaparral Elementary School, effective July 1, 2026, following a comprehensive recruitment and interview process involving District staff, parents, and administrators.

Mrs. Baird thanked the Board

To ratify Frances Luna-Baird for the position of Principal at Chaparral Elementary School, with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

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

Motion Carried

8.03 Recommendation for Interim Principal at Condit Elementary School

Dr. Lopez presented the recommendation to ratify the appointment of Dr. Brett O'Connor as Interim Principal of Condit Elementary School for the 2026–2027 school year following the resignation of the current principal.

To ratify the appointment of Dr. Brett O'Connor as Interim Principal at Condit Elementary School, effective the 2026-2027 school year.

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

Motion Carried

9. ORAL REPORTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

9.01 Board of Education

- Board Member Kathryn Dunn expressed that she was happy to be back and excited for the start of the new school year.
- Board Clerk Cheryl Fiello reported on the upcoming CLASP Ice Cream Social on August 27 and noted the passing of Greg Shapton, recognizing his many accomplishments and contributions to CLASP.
- Board Vice President Kathy Archer reported on the July CEF Board meeting and extended condolences to the family of Greg Shapton, noting his contributions to the community.

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

10.01 Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser highlighted summer programs offered throughout the District, including academic intervention, extended school year, credit recovery, dual enrollment, BLAST, and CEF's SLICE program. He also reported on the annual Leadership Advance, summer hiring efforts, and a back-to-school event at the Student and Family Resource Center that provided more than 100 students with backpacks and school supplies through community partnerships, and shared his enthusiasm for welcoming students and staff back for the 2026–2027 school year.

11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

- CFA President Melissa Wanacott spoke about the Collective Bargaining process and the start of the new school year.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

12.01 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

There were no in-person public comments.

13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

13.01 Presentations and Reports

14. BUSINESS SERVICES

14.01 Resolution 01-2027 Designating Certain Funds as Committed Fund Balance

Ms. Reyes presented Resolution 01-2027 designating certain General Fund balances as committed fund balance to ensure compliance with the 10 percent local reserve cap established under Proposition 2 and Education Code requirements. The resolution authorizes the District to commit eligible funds for specific purposes as determined during the year-end closing process.

To adopt Resolution #01-2027, Designating Certain General Funds as Committed Fund Balance.

- Motioned by: Kathryn Dunn
- Seconded by: Cheryl Fiello
- Roll Call Vote (Yeas): Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald
- Absent: Richard O'Neill

Motion Carried

14.02 AB 1200/2756 Financial Disclosure: Claremont Faculty Association, Claremont Management Association, and California School Employees Association and its Chapter #200

Ms. Reyes presented the AB 1200/2756 Financial Disclosure report for the Claremont Faculty Association, Claremont Management Association, and California School Employees Association and its Chapter #200, certifying that the District is able to meet its financial obligations under the proposed 2026–2027 collective bargaining agreements.

To certify AB 1200/2756 report for the Claremont Faculty Association, Claremont Management Association, and California School Employee Association and its Chapter #200, as proposed in the 2026-2027 collective bargaining agreement.

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

Motion Carried

15. HUMAN RESOURCES

15.01 Ratified Collective Bargaining Agreement with Claremont Faculty Association

Dr. Lopez presented the ratified collective bargaining agreement between the Claremont Unified School District and the Claremont Faculty Association, summarizing the negotiated changes resulting from the 2026–2027 negotiations and noting that the fiscal impacts had been reviewed through the AB 1200 process.

To approve ratified agreements between Claremont Unified School District and Claremont Faculty Association.

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

Motion Carried

15.02 Ratified Collective Bargaining Agreement with the California School Employees Association and its Chapter #200

Dr. Lopez presented the ratified collective bargaining agreement between the Claremont Unified School District and the California School Employees Association and its Chapter #200, summarizing the negotiated changes resulting from the 2026–2027 negotiations and noting that the fiscal impacts had been reviewed through the AB 1200 process.

To approve ratified agreements between Claremont Unified School District and California School Employee Association and its Chapter #200.

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

Motion Carried

15.03 Ratified Increase to Claremont Management Association Salary Schedule

Dr. Lopez presented the recommended 4.31% salary schedule increase for the Claremont Management Association, retroactive to July 1, 2026, to align with the negotiated compensation increases approved for the District's other employee groups.

To ratify the increase to the Claremont Management Association Salary Schedule.

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

Motion Carried

15.04 Ratified Increase to Adult School Teachers Salary Schedule

Dr. Lopez presented the recommended 4.31% salary schedule increase for Adult School teachers, retroactive to July 1, 2026, to align with the negotiated compensation increases approved for the District's other employee groups.

To ratify the increase to the Adult School Teachers Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2026.

- Motioned by: Cheryl Fiello
- Seconded by: Kathryn Dunn
- Yeas: Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald

- Absent: Richard O'Neill

Motion Carried

15.05 Addendum to Agreement of Employment for the Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Dr. Elsasser introduced Agenda Items 15.05 through 15.09, noting that each addendum reflected compensation adjustments consistent with the 4.31% increase approved for District employee groups, and where applicable, extensions to the terms of employment. He then presented each addendum individually for Board consideration.

Board President McDonald provided an oral report on the addendum to the employment agreement for Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Desiree Reyes, extending the term of employment through June 30, 2029, and providing a 4.31% compensation adjustment retroactive to July 1, 2026.

To approve the addendum to the Agreement of Employment between Claremont Unified School District and Desiree Reyes, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services.

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

Motion Carried

15.06 Addendum to Agreement of Employment for the Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Board President McDonald provided an oral report on the addendum to the employment agreement for Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Julie Olesniewicz, which includes a step increase and a 4.31% compensation adjustment retroactive to July 1, 2026.

To approve the addendum to the Agreement of Employment between the Claremont Unified School District and Dr. Julie Olesniewicz, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services.

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

Motion Carried

15.07 Addendum to Agreement of Employment for the Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Board President McDonald provided an oral report on the employment agreement for Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Rick Lopez, extending the term of employment through June 30, 2029, and providing a step increase and a 4.31% compensation adjustment retroactive to July 1, 2026.

To approve the addendum to the Agreement of Employment between Claremont Unified School District and Dr. Rick Lopez, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources.

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

Motion Carried

15.08 Addendum to Agreement of Employment for the Assistant Superintendent, Student Services

Board President McDonald provided an oral report on the employment agreement for Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Kevin Ward, providing a 4.31% compensation adjustment retroactive to July 1, 2026.

To approve the addendum to the Agreement of Employment between the Claremont Unified School District and Kevin Ward, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services.

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

Motion Carried

15.09 Addendum to Agreement of Employment for the Superintendent

Board President McDonald provided an oral report on the employment agreement for the Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Elsasser, extending the term through June 30, 2030, and providing a 4.31% compensation adjustment retroactive to July 1, 2026.

To approve the addendum to the Agreement of Employment between the Claremont Unified School District and Dr. James Elsasser, Superintendent.

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

Motion Carried

15.10 Revised Job Description

Dr. Lopez presented the revised job description for the Child Development Program Assistant II position to reflect current duties and operational needs within the District's Child Development Program.

To approve the revised Child Development Program Assistant II.

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

Motion Carried

15.11 Revised Salary Schedules for Claremont Faculty Association (CFA), California School Employees Association and its Chapter #200 (CSEA), Claremont Management Association (CMA), and Unrepresented Classified Employees

Dr. Lopez presented the revised salary schedules for the Claremont Faculty Association, California School Employees Association and its Chapter #200, Claremont Management Association, and Unrepresented Classified Employees to reflect the approved salary increases and updated salary schedule format. He also noted that a clerical calculation error in Appendix E for counselors had been corrected to accurately reflect the approved 4.31% increase.

To ratify the revised salary schedules for Claremont Faculty Association (CFA), California School Employees Association and its Chapter #200 (CSEA), Claremont Management Association (CMA), and Unrepresented Classified Employees.

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

Motion Carried

16. STUDENT SERVICES

16.01 Memorandum of Understanding Between The City of Claremont and CUSD for a School Resource Officer

Mr. Ward presented the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Claremont and the Claremont Unified School District for School Resource Officer services for the 2026–2027 school year, highlighting provisions for successor terms and clarifying that the District is responsible for payment only for the days the School Resource Officer provides services on behalf of the District.

To approve the MOU between The City of Claremont and CUSD for a School Resource Officer.

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

Motion Carried

17. GENERAL ITEMS

17.01 First Reading of Board Policies: 6141.4, 6142.1, 6142.8, & 6142.91

Dr. Elsasser presented a first reading of Board Policies 6142.1, Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction; 6142.8, Comprehensive Health Education; and 6142.91, Reading/Language Arts Instruction, as recommended by CSBA and District staff to ensure alignment with current laws and educational best practices.

6141.4 was pulled.

18. CONSENT CALENDAR

18.01 Approval of Consent Calendar

Board Member Kathryn Dunn asked that Agenda Item 18.13 Classified Personnel Actions be pulled for separate consideration.

To approve the Consent Calendar as amended.

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

Motion Carried

18.03 2026-2027 Consolidated Application

To approve the California Department of Education 2026-2027 Consolidated Application.

18.03 Request for Authorization of the 2026-2027 Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Application

To authorize the 2026-2027 Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Application.

18.04 Overnight and Alternative Transportation Field Trips

To approve the recommended field trips as indicated.

18.05 Purchase of 2026-2027 Field Trip Admission Tickets

To authorize the District to purchase admission tickets and/or pay transit fees for students to attend educational field trips during the 2026-2027 school year.

18.06 Budget Transfers

To approve these transactions as presented.

18.07 Board Orders

To approve the A and B Warrants and Purchase Orders as of June 2026 as presented.

18.08 Interfund Transfer

To approve the following interfund transfer.

18.09 Obsolete Items

To declare obsolete and dispose of the attached items.

18.10 Gifts

To accept donations and gifts as listed in the attached.

18.11 Vendor Agreements

To authorize the following agreements with the attached vendors.

18.12 Certificated Personnel Actions

To approve the attached Certificated Personnel Actions as presented.

18.14 Adult School Special Services Contract

To approve Adult School Special Services Contracts.

18.15 Annual Agreements

To authorize the District to enter into Agreements with local Universities for the 2026-2027 School Year.

18.16 Consultant Agreements

To approve the attached Consultant Agreements as presented.

18.17 Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints

To approve the "Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints" for the fourth quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

18.13 Classified Personnel Actions

This item was pulled for separate consideration.

To approve the attached Classified Personnel Actions as presented.

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

Motion Carried

17. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

17.01 New or Revised Calendar Information

Yes, there is one revision to the Calendar of Events. The start time for the Special Meeting on August 20 has been changed from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

20. ADJOURNMENT

20.01 Final Adjournment

The meeting adjourned in closed session at 6:32 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 20th day of August 2026