

CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Date: Thursday, August 21, 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

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 all five board members present: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Dr. Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, and Kathryn Dunn. 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 Alex McDonald, 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 public comment on closed session items.

- Action: 4.02 Student Matters: Settlement Agreement 20250821A, Pursuant to Education Code §56157 and §56365 - §56366.5
- Action: 4.03 Student Matters: Readmission of Student 20250807A, Pursuant to California Education Code §48916 and Government Code §54957
- Discussion: 4.04 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: 4.05 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 into open session at 6:01 p.m.

Procedural: 6.02 Establishing a Quorum

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

The following items were discussed in closed session, and action was taken in open session.

4.02 Student Matters: Settlement Agreement 20250821A

To approve Student Settlement Agreement 20250821A.

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

4.03 Student Matters: Readmission of Student 20250807A

To readmit Student 20250807A.

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

4.04 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

- There was no reportable action taken

4.05 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

- There was no reportable action taken

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Action, Minutes: 7.01 August 7, 2025 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the regular board meeting on August 7, 2025.

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

8. ORAL REPORTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

Information: 8.01 Oral Reports by the Board of Education

- Board Member Cheryl Fiello reported attending the Tuesday, August 12 Chamber of Commerce Business Over Breakfast meeting, noting that the Chamber has been focusing on education and student support. She also shared that the Chamber has begun recruiting for the Village Venture Arts and Craft Fair. On a personal note, she highlighted spending the week transferring to be a Panther parent, complimented the energy, and shared that it was a very positive experience.
- Board Member Kathy Archer shared that CLASP has not met yet this month. She also recounted an experience shared by a new teacher who attended the CUSD New Teacher Orientation earlier that day, describing it as impactful and a very positive experience.
- Board Clerk Dr. Alex McDonald noted that he did not attend the CEF meeting the night prior but mentioned the SLICE of Summer event over the summer. He reminded the community to mark calendars for the September 14 Hair Cutting Fundraiser at Be Rosey Salon and continues to seek additional Board members.
- Board Vice President Richard O'Neill shared about his recent experience in Canada.
- Board President Kathryn Dunn reported on a meeting with Superintendent Dr. Elsasser, Dr. Olesniewicz, and Assemblymember John Harabedian, which included discussions regarding educational pathways and supports for students with special needs. She also provided an update from the most recent Baldy View ROP meeting, noting the approval of Superintendent Adams' contract renewal, progress on the modernization project, and the introduction of a new pharmacy program.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reports: 9.01 Superintendent's Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser thanked the Board for participating in the Board workshop earlier in the day, which included a review of the Facilities Needs Assessment and an overview of technology needs. He also reported on the orientation of new student board members, Samantha Gutierrez and Andres Zamora Jr., and the two-day new certificated staff orientation, including a bus tour of district schools.

10. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

Brian D'Ambrosia-Donner, CFA President, invited the Board and Executive Cabinet members to the upcoming CFA Breakfast and spoke about the smooth execution of registration at El Roble and CHS, the collaborative effort in New Teacher Orientation, the partnership with Human Resources at the start of negotiations, and shared insights from the CTA conference regarding the expansion of TK to a full day and the associated funding benefits.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Information, Procedural: 11.01 Call for Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments on items not on the agenda.

12. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Procedural, Reports: 12.01 Presentations and Reports

13. BUSINESS SERVICES

Action: 13.01 Adoption of Resolution 01-2026: Purchase and Installation of Kitchen Sinks

Ms. Reyes presented the adoption of Resolution 01-2026, which would authorize the purchase and installation of kitchen sinks at four school sites using CMAS Schedule 4-25-03-1028 through California Industrial Refrigeration Machines, Inc. She noted that the work is required to comply with Department of Health standards and includes upgrading single-compartment sinks to multi-compartment sinks, adding hand-washing stations, additional water flows, water heaters, floor sinks, and replacing supporting infrastructure. The total cost of the project is \$384,301, funded by KIT Funds.

To Adopt Resolution 01-2026, Approving the Purchase and Installation of Kitchen Sinks Under CMAS Schedule 4-25-03-1028

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

14. GENERAL ITEMS

Discussion, Information, Procedural: 14.01 Nomination of California School Board Association Director-At-Large James Elsasser, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, provided information on the CSBA Director-at-Large nominations, noting the October 2, 2025 deadline and that the item was for informational purposes only.

15. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action (Consent): 15.01 Approval of Consent Calendar

Resolution: To approve the Consent Calendar as presented/amended/corrected.

Item 15.08 Adoption of Board Policies: 5126, 6115, & 6177 was pulled for separate consideration.

To approve the Consent Calendar as amended.

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

Action (Consent): 15.02 Board Orders

Resolution: To approve the A and B Warrants and Purchase Orders as of July 2025 as presented.

Action (Consent): 15.03 Vendor Agreements

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

Action (Consent): 15.04 Certificated Personnel Actions

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

Action (Consent): 15.05 Classified Personnel Actions

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

Action (Consent): 15.06 Consultant Agreements

Resolution: To approve the attached Consultant Agreements as presented.

Action (Consent): 15.07 Annual Agreement

Resolution: To authorize the District to enter into Agreements with local Universities for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Action: 15.08 Adoption of Board Policies: 5126, 6115, & 6177

This item was pulled for separate consideration. Mr. Kevin Ward explained that an edit would be made to BP 6177 to include "secondary" in the first sentence of the eleventh paragraph.

To adopt the revised Board Policies 5126, 6115, & 6177 as amended.

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

16. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Discussion, Information, Procedural: 16.01 New or Revised Calendar Information


There were no changes noted to be made.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Procedural: 18.01 Final Adjournment


The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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

Attested and Approved:



Dr. Alex McDonald, Board Clerk
Board Approved on the 4th day of September 2025

