CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes
Date: Thursday, September 17, 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
Student Board Members Present: Leia Sandoval, Corinne Sorel

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 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.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

To adopt the Agenda 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

4. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS / Public Comment

- 4.01 Public Comment on Closed Session Items
- 4.02 Student Matters: Settlement Agreement 20260917A - Pursuant to Education Code §56157 and §56365 - §56366.5
- 4.03 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - California Government Code §54954.5(e) pursuant to California Government Code §54957

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 6:00 p.m.

6.02 Establishing a Quorum
A second 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 20260917A.

- 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 September 3, 2026 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
To adopt the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on September 3, 2026

- Motioned by: Cheryl Fiello
- Seconded by: Richard O'Neill
- Yeas: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald
- Student Advisory Vote (Yeas): Leia Sandoval, Corinne Sorel

Motion Carried

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

8.01 Special Order of Business
8.02 Recognition: 2027 CHS National Merit Semi-Finalists
The Board of Education recognized Claremont High School students Ziqi (Ben) Fu and Iris Chiou as 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists.

9. ORAL REPORTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

9.01 Student Board Members

- Leia Sandoval, San Antonio High School, reported on events at Sumner Danbury and Vista del Valle Elementary Schools, El Roble Intermediate School, and San Antonio High School.
- Corinne Sorel, Claremont High School, reported on events at Chaparral, Mountain View, Sycamore, and Oakmont Elementary Schools, and Claremont High School.

9.02 Board of Education

- Board Member Richard O'Neill reported on long-term mathematics success, including the new mathematics framework and research on effective approaches to teaching and learning mathematics.
- Board Member Kathryn Dunn reported on attending a Claremont Parent Faculty Association (CPFA) meeting, an upcoming El Roble student art show at the Claremont Packing House, and a meeting with Congresswoman Norma Torres regarding education issues, including special education and Career Technical Education funding.
- Board Clerk Cheryl Fiello shared highlights from CLASP's 2025–2026 annual report, including 4,115 individual tutoring sessions, and noted the upcoming CLASP Gala. She also reported on a recent meeting with Congresswoman Norma Torres regarding federal education issues affecting school districts.
- Board Vice President Kathy Archer reported on Claremont Educational Foundation activities, including upcoming fundraising events, the annual car raffle, the Chocolate Walk, and the addition of three new Board members.
- Board President Dr. Alex McDonald reported on a conversation with a community member regarding evidence-based reading instruction and highlighted the District's use of phonics-based instructional practices.

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

10.01 Information/Announcements
Dr. Elsasser reported on recent school walkthroughs, family technology support nights, and the first Family, Staff, and Student Technology Advisory Committee meeting. He also provided an enrollment update, noting that CUSD ended Month

One with 5,973 students, a decline of 38 students from the prior year, which was less than the projected decline of 125 students.

11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

CFA President Missy Wonacott reported that former Board Member Nancy Treser-Osgood recently provided a presentation regarding Measure CS to the CFA Representative Council, after which the Council voted to endorse the measure. She spoke about facility needs across District sites and described support for Measure CS as an investment in students and their learning environments. She also encouraged the community to vote yes on Proposition 3 and support Richard Barrera for State Superintendent of Public Instruction and invited community members to participate in canvassing at the CTA Regional Office in Ontario or contact CFA with questions.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

12.01 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

There were two in-person public comments.

- Nancy Treser-Osgood spoke regarding Measure CS, providing an update on community outreach efforts, campaign endorsements, and opportunities for parents and community members to become involved in supporting the measure.
- Valerie Rountree, a member of Slow Tech Families, spoke about the formation and purpose of the group, including creating more opportunities for children to engage in screen-free activities and encouraging thoughtful conversations regarding the use of devices and technology in classrooms.

13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

13.01 Presentations and Reports

14. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

14.01 School Plan for Student Achievement Reports (SPSA): Sumner Danbury Elementary School and San Antonio High School

School staff from Sumner Elementary School, Danbury Elementary School, and San Antonio High School presented their respective School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA), including goals and planned actions to improve student academic achievement for the 2026–2027 school year.

Sumner and Danbury Elementary School

Principals Diana Taylor and Eduardo Acevedo presented the Sumner Elementary School SPSA, along with TK teacher Denise Klinovsky and 6th grade student Layla Morrison.

San Antonio High School

Andrea Deligio, Principal, presented the San Antonio High School SPSA, along with 12th grade students Rolando Marquez and Student Board Member Leia Sandoval.

15. BUSINESS SERVICES

15.01 Unaudited Actuals Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2026

Desiree Reyes presented the Unaudited Actuals Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026, representing the District's financial position and results of operations for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. The Board approved the Unaudited Actuals Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026.

To approve the Unaudited Actuals Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2026.

- Motioned by: Cheryl Fiello
- Seconded by: Richard O'Neill
- Yeas: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald
- Student Advisory Vote (Yeas): Leia Sandoval, Corinne Sorel

Motion Carried

16. HUMAN RESOURCES

16.01 Resolution 03-2027: Week of the School Administrator

Dr. Lopez presented Resolution 03-2027, proclaiming October 12–16, 2026, as the Week of the School Administrator in recognition of the contributions of District administrators. The Board adopted Resolution 03-2027.

To approve Resolution 03-2027, proclaiming October 12-16, 2026, as the Week of the School Administrator.

- Motioned by: Kathryn Dunn
- Seconded by: Cheryl Fiello
- Roll Call Vote (Yeas): Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald
- Student Advisory Vote (Yeas): Leia Sandoval, Corinne Sorel

Motion Carried

17. GENERAL ITEMS

17.01 First Reading of Board Policies: 5145.2, 6146.1, & 6173.2

Dr. Elsasser presented a first reading of Board Policies 5145.2, Freedom of Speech/Expression; 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements; and 6173.2, Education of Children of Military Families, as recommended for revision by CSBA and District staff. There were no suggestions or edits provided.

18. CONSENT CALENDAR

18.01 Approval of Consent Calendar

To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

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

Motion Carried

18.02 2026-2027 Title I, Part A LEA-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

To approve the 2026-2027 Title I, Part A LEA-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

18.03 2025-2026 Art and Music K12 Education Funding Plan Annual Report

To approve the 2025-2026 Art and Music K12 Education Funding Plan Annual Report.

18.04 Overnight and Alternative Transportation Field Trips

To approve the recommended field trips as indicated.

18.05 Board Orders

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

18.06 Budget Adjustments

To approve the budget adjustments as presented.

18.07 Obsolete Items

To declare obsolete and dispose of the attached items.

18.08 Gifts

To accept donations and gifts as listed in the attached.

18.09 Vendor Agreements

To authorize the following agreements with the attached vendors.

18.10 Certificated Personnel Actions

To approve the attached Certificated Personnel Actions as presented.

18.11 Classified Personnel Actions

To approve the attached Classified Personnel Actions as presented.

18.12 Annual Agreements

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

18.13 Consultant Agreements

To approve the attached Consultant Agreement as presented.

18.14 Adoption of Board Policies: 6146.3, 6173, & 6173.1
To adopt Board Policies 6146.3, 6173, & 6173.1 as presented.

17. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

18.01 Final Adjournment
The meeting adjourned in closed session at 7:26 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 1st day of October 2026