CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes
Date: Thursday, June 18, 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, Richard O'Neill, 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 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: Kathryn Dunn
- 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 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 Liability Claims: Rejection of Claim #2514442 - Government Code §54954.5(d) Pursuant to Government Code §54956.95
- 4.04 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Appointments/Employment - Pursuant to California Government Code §54957
    - Principal
    - Assistant Principal
- 4.05 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 5:0_ 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: 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

No reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7.01 June 4, 2026 Minutes - Special Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on June 4, 2026

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

Motion Carried

7.02 June 4, 2026 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on June 4, 2026

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

Motion Carried

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS/RECOGNITIONS

8.01 Special Order of Business/Recognitions

8.02 California Democracy School Designation

The Board of Education recognized Mountain View Elementary School and Claremont High School for earning the California Democracy School designation through the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Elaina Garza, Coordinator III, History-Social Science, Los Angeles County Office of Education, formally presented the designation in recognition of each school's commitment to civic learning, student engagement, and community involvement.

9. ORAL REPORTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

9.01 Board of Education

- Board Member Kathryn Dunn reported touring the Baldy View Elementary School modernization project, encouraged community members to visit the campus, provided an update on legislative actions, and shared observations regarding changes occurring at the national level within the U.S. Department of Education.
- Board Clerk Cheryl Fiello expressed her appreciation for the San Antonio High School Senior Awards ceremony, which she attended the previous week.
- Board Vice President Kathy Archer reflected on the District's commencement ceremony, attended the San Antonio High School Senior Awards, and reported on the recent Claremont Educational Foundation (CEF) Board meeting. She shared upcoming CEF volunteer opportunities, including openings for the SLICE and Fundraising Chair positions, and highlighted upcoming fundraising events, including the Car Raffle beginning in August with the drawing on December 5, Rosy's on September 20, and the Chocolate Walk on December 12.
- Board President Dr. Alex McDonald reflected on the many successful end-of-year activities and celebrations held throughout the District.
- Board Member Richard O'Neill recognized Mountain View Elementary School for its recent accomplishments and extended congratulations to the school community.

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

10.01 Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser reflected on the successful conclusion of the 2025–2026 school year, highlighting senior awards ceremonies, elementary school senior walk-throughs, and the District's graduation ceremony recognizing graduates from Claremont High School, San Antonio High School, and Claremont Adult School. He also expressed appreciation to the Claremont community and its educational partners for their continued support of District students.

11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

- CFA President Brian D'Ambrosia-Donner and CFA Bargaining Chair Jason Remedios spoke about the effort teachers put in to get students to end the school year successfully, and preparing for the next year and professional development, and thanking the administration, and spoke about the strong collaboration between the CFA and CUSD bargaining teams and congratulated Pro-Tem President Missy Wonacott.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

12.01 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

There were four public comments expressing concerns regarding technology use and screen time in elementary school classrooms.

- Margaret
- Michiko
- Emily
- Valerie

13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

13.01 Presentations and Reports

14. HUMAN RESOURCES

14.01 Recommendation for Assistant Principal at Claremont High School

Dr. Lopez presented the recommendation for the appointment of an Assistant Principal at Claremont High School, summarizing the recruitment and selection process, which included broad recruitment efforts, panel interviews with District stakeholders, and Cabinet interviews. The Board approved the recommendation.

To approve Rose Bomentre for the position of Assistant Principal at Claremont High School, with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

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

Motion Carried

15. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Dr. Olesniewicz presented the proposed 2026–2027 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), highlighting stakeholder engagement, annual updates, and proposed goals and actions aligned with the District's priorities.

The public hearing opened at 6:49 p.m. There was no public comment during the period the hearing remained open. The public hearing closed at 6:49 p.m.

Board members expressed appreciation for the comprehensive work involved in developing the LCAP and discussed the District's Equity Multiplier funding eligibility and the importance of the LCAP in guiding district priorities and services.

16. BUSINESS SERVICES

16.01 Public Hearing in Connection with the Adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget

Desiree Reyes presented the proposed 2026–2027 Adopted Budget and the 2027–2028 and 2028–2029 multi-year projections in accordance with Education Code requirements.

The public hearing opened at 7:05 p.m. There was no public comment during the period the hearing remained open. The public hearing closed at 7:05 p.m.

16.02 Public Hearing in Connection with the Proposed Levy of Assessments for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 within the Claremont Unified School District Recreation Assessment District and Adoption of Resolution #21-2026 Confirming the Diagram and Assessments for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Desiree Reyes presented the proposed levy of assessments for the Claremont Unified School District Recreation Assessment District (RAD) for fiscal year 2026–2027, which supports the installation, maintenance, and servicing of recreational facilities throughout the District.

The public hearing opened at 7:10 p.m. During the public hearing, community member Ludd Trezpok inquired about whether Recreation Assessment District funds could be used to keep the District pool open year-round. The public hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

To adopt Resolution #21-2026 confirming the diagram and assessment for fiscal year 2026-2027 within the Claremont Unified School District Recreation Assessment District.

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

Motion Carried

17. STUDENT SERVICES

17.01 Adoption of Resolution No. 22-2026: Increasing Capacity at the Vista del Valle Preschool
Dr. Lopez presented Resolution No. 22-2026, authorizing an increase in the licensed capacity of the Vista del Valle Preschool from 15 to 19 students to meet community needs. The Board adopted Resolution No. 22-2026.

To adopt Resolution 22-2026 Increasing Capacity at the Vista del Valle Preschool.

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

Motion Carried

18. GENERAL ITEMS

18.01 Adoption of Resolution No. 23-2026 Resolution of the Board of Education of the Claremont Unified School District Ordering an Election, and Establishing Specifications of the Election Order
Dr. Elsasser presented Resolution No. 23-2026, ordering an election for the purpose of submitting to District voters a general obligation bond measure at the November 3, 2026, General Election and establishing the specifications of the election order.

Public Comment
Doug Lyon expressed concerns regarding the potential tax impact of the proposed bond measure.

Board members discussed the District's long-term facilities needs and the importance of addressing aging infrastructure. Board Member Kathryn Dunn commented on the continued need for state investment in public education and school facilities. Board Clerk Cheryl Fiello recommended a minor revision to Exhibit B to remove redundant language related to electrical improvements.

To adopt Resolution 23-2026: Resolution of the Claremont Unified School District Ordering an Election and Establishing Specifications of the Election Order.

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

Motion Carried

18.02 Appointment of Student Board Members for the 2026-2027 School Year
Dr. Elsasser presented the nominations of Gabriel Espinoza-Rodriguez, representing San Antonio High School, and Corinne Sorel, representing Claremont High School, to serve as Student Board Members for the 2026–2027 school year. The Board expressed its appreciation for their willingness to serve and appointed both students to the Board of Education. The Oath of Office will be administered at the September 17, 2026, regular Board meeting.

To appoint Gabriel Espinoza-Rodriguez and Corinne Sorel as Student Board Members for the 2026-2027 school year, representing San Antonio High School and Claremont High School, respectively.

- Motioned by: Richard O'Neill
- Seconded by: Kathryn Dunn

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

Motion Carried

19. CONSENT CALENDAR

19.01 Approval of Consent Calendar
To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

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

Motion Carried

19.02 Overnight and Transportation Field Trips
To approve the recommended field trips as indicated.

19.03 Budget Transfer
To approve the transaction as presented.

19.04 Board Orders
To approve the A and B Warrants and Purchase Orders as of May 2026 as presented.

19.05 Budget Adjustments
To approve the budget adjustments as presented.

19.06 Obsolete Items
To declare obsolete and dispose of the attached items.

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

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

19.09 Rejection of Claim
To reject liability claim #2514442.

19.10 Certificated Personnel Actions
To approve the Certificated Personnel Actions as presented.

19.11 Classified Personnel Actions
To approve the Classified Personnel Actions as presented.

19.12 Consultant Agreements
To approve the attached Consultant Agreements as presented.

19.13 Adoption of New Board Policies: 4119.24, 4219.24, & 4319.24
To adopt new Board Policies 4119.24, 4219.24, and 4319.24 as presented.

17. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

17.01 New or Revised Calendar Information
Dr. Elsasser announced one revision to the Calendar of Events. The November 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting has been rescheduled to November 12, 2026.

18. ADJOURNMENT

18.01 Final Adjournment
The meeting adjourned in closed session at 7:25 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 6th day of August 2026