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