CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes
Date: Thursday, October 15, 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
Board Member Absent: Alex McDonald
Student Board Member Present: Leia Sandoval
Student Board Member Absent: 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 5:00 p.m.
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.02 Establish a Quorum
A quorum was established with four Board members present: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, and Kathy Archer. Board President Alex McDonald was unable to attend. 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: Cheryl Fiello
- Seconded by: Richard O'Neill
- Yeas: Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn, Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer
- Absent: Alex McDonald

Motion Carried

4. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS / Public Comment

- 4.01 Public Comment on Closed Session Item
- 4.02 Student Matters: Settlement Agreement 2026060064 - Pursuant to Education Code §56157 and §56365 - §56366.5
- 4.03 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
- 4.04 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)

- 4.05 Conference with Superintendent and Staff Regarding Pending Litigation - Case No.: 24PSCV02181, Pursuant to California Government Code §54956.9
- 4.06 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - Pursuant to California Government Code sections §54954.5(c) and §54957

5. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 5:02 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 three Board members present: Richard O'Neill, Cheryl Fiello, and Kathy Archer. Member Kathryn Dunn was unable to attend the rest of the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Elsasser, Executive Cabinet, Angela Gearhart, and Kara Evans.

6.03 Flag Salute

Vice President Archer 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.

4.02 Student Matters: Settlement Agreement 2026060064

To approve Student Settlement Agreement 2026060064.

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

Motion Carried

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7.01 October 1, 2026 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on October 1, 2026

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

Motion Carried

7.02 October 5, 2026 Minutes - Special Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on October 5, 2026

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

Motion Carried

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS/RECOGNITIONS

8.01 Student Recognition: El Roble Speech & Debate Team

The Board recognized the El Roble Intermediate School Speech & Debate Team, coached by David Chamberlain, for winning the Inland Valley Debate League Championship for the second consecutive year. Students Bailey Wong, Danielle Ruan, and Ruhaan Kashyap were recognized for qualifying for the 2026 NSDA Middle School National Tournament, with Bailey Wong receiving additional recognition for earning both the 2026 California State Championship and the NSDA Middle School National Championship in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

8.02 Recognition: David Chamberlain - NSDA Distinguished Service Gold Key
The Board recognized David Chamberlain for receiving the National Speech & Debate Association's (NSDA) Distinguished Service Gold Key in recognition of his outstanding leadership, dedication, and service to the speech and debate community, having earned 20 service citations through his contributions to the program and support of students.

9. ORAL REPORTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

9.01 Student Board Members

- Leia Sandoval, San Antonio High School, reported on events at Condit and Vista del Valle Elementary Schools, El Roble Intermediate School, and San Antonio High School.

9.02 Board of Education

- Board Member Richard O'Neill reflected on his recent walkthrough at Mountain View Elementary School with Dr. Elsasser and Dr. Olesniewicz, highlighting the implementation of RULER strategies, teachers' thoughtful use of screen time, mathematics instruction, and the Dual Language Immersion Program.
- Board Clerk Cheryl Fiello announced that tickets for the November 8 CLASP Gala were available through October 28. She also reported on attending Claremont High School girls' volleyball games at the freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity levels, as well as El Roble Intermediate School girls' basketball games. She extended her appreciation to District administrators in recognition of the Week of the School Administrator.
- Board Vice President Kathy Archer reported on upcoming Claremont Educational Foundation (CEF) activities and reflected on observing CEF-funded grants in action during a recent walkthrough at Sumner Danbury Elementary School with Dr. Elsasser. She also expressed appreciation to Vista del Valle Elementary School staff, students, and administrators for their resilience during a two-day power outage earlier in the week.

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

10.01 Information/Announcements
Dr. Elsasser reported on recent school walkthroughs at Mountain View and Sumner Danbury Elementary Schools, a Leadership Team Council workshop focused on empathy in leadership, and the first District Faculty Council meeting of the school year. He also highlighted the fourth annual Women in Leadership event and provided an enrollment update, noting that CUSD's official enrollment was 5,975 students, a decline of 36 students from the prior year. He concluded with an update on facilities outreach efforts, including recent community and staff meetings and upcoming Steering Committee activities.

11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

- CFA Member Anne Dieken encouraged community members to attend an event at a local park on Saturday, October 17, and expressed support for Proposition 3.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

12.01 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)
There were four in-person public comments.

- Wendy Marlar, a Claremont High School teacher, expressed concerns regarding increased health care costs for District employees.
- Aaron, a parent of a student at Condit Elementary School, expressed concerns regarding student safety at her child's school and throughout the District.
- Caitlin, a parent of a student at Condit Elementary School, expressed concerns regarding student safety at her child's school and throughout the District.
- Lydia Hernandez expressed concerns regarding increased health care costs for District employees.

13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

13.01 Presentations and Reports

14. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

14.01 School Plan for Student Achievement Reports (SPSA): Mountain View Elementary School and Claremont High School
School staff from Mountain View Elementary School and Claremont High School presented their respective School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA), highlighting goals and planned actions to support student academic achievement during the 2026–2027 school year.

Briana Hawkins, Principal, presented the Mountain View Elementary School SPSA, joined by Monique Manjarrez, teacher; Adrian Salgado Romero, fifth-grade student; and Kamila Clara De Armas, fourth-grade student.

Dr. James Mitchell, Principal, presented the Claremont High School SPSA, joined by Wendy Marlar, teacher; Henry Chang, senior; Aisha Early, junior; and Kara Sweeney, sophomore.

14.02 Annual Report on Assessment and Accountability
Dr. Olesniewicz presented the Annual Report on Assessment and Accountability, providing an overview of student performance on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), SAT, ACT, International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced Placement (AP) assessments. The report was presented for discussion and information only.

15. HUMAN RESOURCES

15.01 Dr. Lopez presented the revised job description for Senior Coordinator, Adult School and Student Services, formerly titled Senior Coordinator, Adult School, Facilities and Project Management.

To approve the new Senior Coordinator, Adult School and Student Services Job Description.

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

Motion Carried

15.02 Revised Claremont Management Salary Schedule
Dr. Lopez presented the revised Claremont Management Salary Schedule to reflect the updated Senior Coordinator, Adult School and Student Services position.

To approve the revised Management Salary Schedule.

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

Motion Carried

15.03 CUSD Negotiating Teams
Dr. Lopez presented the proposed District negotiating teams for the 2027–2028 contract year, identifying staff representatives who will participate in negotiations with the California School Employees Association (CSEA) and its Chapter #200 and the Claremont Faculty Association (CFA).

To approve the Claremont Unified School District Negotiating Teams for the 2027-2028 Negotiations Cycle.

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

Motion Carried

16. GENERAL ITEMS

16.01 First Reading of Board Policies: 3350 and 3400
Dr. Elsasser presented a first reading of Board Policy 3350, Travel Expenses, and Board Policy 3400, Management of District Assets/Accounts, as recommended by CSBA and District staff to ensure alignment with current laws and best practices. The item was presented for discussion and information only, and no changes were noted to be made.

17. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- Motioned by: Cheryl Fiello

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

Motion Carried

17.02 Request to Approve the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) Reports: Vista del Valle Elementary School and Condit Elementary School
To approve the 2026–2027 School Plans for Student Achievement for Vista del Valle Elementary School and Condit Elementary School.

17.03 Overnight Field Trip
To approve the recommended field trip as indicated.

17.04 Budget Transfer
To approve the attached budget transfer BUDK12T 27-005.

17.05 Board Orders
To approve the A and B Warrants and Purchase Orders as of September 2026 as presented.

17.06 Budget Adjustments
To approve the budget adjustments as presented.

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

17.08 Gifts
To accept donations and gifts as listed in the attachment.

17.09 Vendor Agreements
To authorize the agreements with the attached vendors.

17.10 Certificated Personnel Actions
To approve the attached Certificated Personnel Actions as presented.

17.11 Classified Personnel Actions
To approve the attached Classified Personnel Actions as presented.

18. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

19.01 Final Adjournment
The meeting adjourned in closed session at 7:36 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 12th day of November 2026