

CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education - Board Workshop
Date: Thursday, March 20, 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

Student Board Members Present: Eli George (SAHS)

Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera (CHS)

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 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5.00 p.m.

Procedural: 2.02 Establish a Quorum

A quorum was established with five Board members present: Kathryn Dunn, Richard O'Neill, Dr. Alex McDonald, Kathy Archer, and Cheryl Fiello. 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 Richard O'Neill, second by Alex McDonald.
- 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 comment on closed session items.

- Discussion: 4.02 Student Matters: Regarding Student Records Challenge - Pupil Case No 20250306A - Pursuant to California Education Code §49070 and §49071
- Discussion: 4.03 Liability Claims: Rejection of Claim #2413246 - Government Code §54954.5(d) Pursuant to Government Code §54956.95
- 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 5:02 p.m.

6. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Procedural: 6.01 Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:02 p.m.

Procedural: 6.02 Establishing a Quorum

A second quorum was established with five Board members present: Kathryn Dunn, Richard O'Neill, Dr. Alex McDonald, Kathy Archer, and Cheryl Fiello. Also in attendance were Student Board Member Eli George, Superintendent Dr. James Elsasser, Executive Cabinet members, Angela Gearhart, and Kara Evans. Student Board Member Soleil Rivera was unable to attend this 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

4.02 Student Matters: Regarding Student Records Challenge - Pupil Case No 20250306A

- No reportable action was taken in closed session.

4.03 Liability Claims: Rejection of Claim #2413246

- No reportable action was taken in closed session.

4.04 Conference with Labor Negotiator: Designated Negotiator: Dr. James Elsasser, CUSD Superintendent of Schools; CFA/CSEA/CMA/Unrepresented

- No reportable action was taken in closed session.

4.05 Personnel Matters: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

- No reportable action was taken in closed session.

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Action, Minutes: 7.01 March 6, 2025 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the regular board meeting on March 6, 2025.

- Motion by Kathy Archer, second by Alex McDonald.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Information: 8.01 Recognitions

Information, Procedural: 8.02 Recognition: Presidential Scholar Candidate

The Board recognized Claremont High School senior Ian Moore for being named a candidate in the prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, honoring his outstanding academic achievements, including a perfect SAT score, as well as his leadership and contributions to the school community. The Board congratulated Ian on this remarkable accomplishment and wished him success in the next stage of the selection process.

Information, Procedural: 8.03 Recognition: ACSA Region 15 High School Oratory Contest Winner

The Board recognized Claremont High School junior Nina Wu for her outstanding achievement in the ACSA Region 15 High School Oratory Contest, where she was named one of three regional winners. In addition to receiving a \$1,000 scholarship, Nina will be honored at the Region 15 Spring Conference and Awards Banquet on April 25, 2025. Nina Wu presented her speech to the Board and the public.

Information, Procedural: 8.04 Recognition: CHS Speech & Debate Team

The Board recognized members of the Claremont High School Speech & Debate Team for their outstanding achievements, including winning their 10th consecutive CBSR League Championship and qualifying for the California High School Speech Association State Championship. The Board commended Coach Dave Chamberlain and team members Lucas Grannis; Griffin Sandridge; Callum Stewart-Glavin; Rukmini Sridharan; Nina Wu; and Kate Song for their dedication, skill, and competitive excellence in continuing CHS's legacy of success.

9. ORAL REPORTS: STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Information: 9.01 Oral Reports by Student Board Members

Student Board Member Eli George reported on events at Condit, Sumner Danbury, and Vista del Valle Elementary Schools, and San Antonio High School.

Information: 9.02 Oral Reports by the Board of Education

- Cheryl Fiello shared that the Chamber of Commerce's State of the City video recording is now available on the City and Chamber websites. She also reported attending the CHS Open House and visiting El Roble Intermediate, where she observed the Design-a-Bug project.
- Kathy Archer reported attending the CHS Open House and a recent CLASP meeting.
- Dr. Alex McDonald shared that he attended the Claremont Educational Foundation (CEF) Board meeting and announced the upcoming Comedy & Magic Night scheduled for April 16.
- Richard O'Neill reported on site visits to El Roble and CHS, where he observed an English class taught by Marissa Martinez, the Design-a-Bug project, and the newly renovated CHS Music Building. He also highlighted the Community Project presentations by MYP students.
- Kathryn Dunn shared that she attended a Baldy View ROP meeting, where Superintendent Shelley Adams presented a balanced budget and emphasized advocacy for Career Technical Education (CTE). She also

participated in Legislative Action Week and met with Senator Sasha Perez.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reports: 10.01 Superintendent's Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser reported on recent school walkthroughs at Chaparral Elementary, El Roble, and Claremont High School, as well as the successful Open Houses at Claremont and San Antonio High Schools. He also highlighted meetings with the Superintendent's High School Advisory Council and the LCAP District Parent Advisory Council, along with his attendance at the CHS Speech and Debate celebration honoring the team's achievements.

11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

There were no comments by Employee Associations.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Information, Procedural: 12.01 Call for Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were three public comments submitted online and no in-person comments.

13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Procedural, Reports: 13.01 Presentations and Reports

14. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Action: 14.01 Research Proposal: "Cleaner Air Greener Schools Program" by Liz Christy, Education Programs Manager, US Green Building Council-CA (USGBC-CA)

Dr. Olesniewicz presented a research proposal from Liz Christy of the US Green Building Council-CA to study classroom air quality as part of the Cleaner Air Greener Schools Program. The Board considered the proposal for authorization, and Ms. Christy was present to address questions.

To authorize the proposed research "Cleaner Air Greener Schools Program" by Liz Christy, Education Programs Manager, US Green Building Council-CA (USGBC-CA).

- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Richard O'Neill.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Nay: Cheryl Fiello
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

15. BUSINESS SERVICES

Action: 15.01 2024-25 Second Interim Report and Certification of District Financial Solvency

Ms. Reyes presented the 2024-25 Second Interim Report, confirming the District's ability to meet its financial obligations for the current and two subsequent fiscal years. The Board considered the report for approval with a positive certification.

To approve the 2024-25 Second Interim Report with a positive certification. A positive certification indicates that based on current projections, the district will meet its financial obligations for the current and two subsequent fiscal years.

- Motion by Richard O'Neill, second by Kathy Archer.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

16. HUMAN RESOURCES

Action: 16.01 Revised Job Descriptions

Dr. Lopez presented revisions to job descriptions as part of a reorganization of the Information Services and Technology departments. The updates to the Assistive Technology Specialist, Information Services Specialist, Network Technician, Technology Support Lead, and Technology Support Technician roles aim to align responsibilities with the District's evolving technology needs for students, employees, and families.

To approve the revised Assistive Technology Specialist, Information Services Specialist, Network Technician, Technology Support Lead, and Technology Support Technician job descriptions as presented.

- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Cheryl Fiello.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

Action: 16.02 New Job Description: Student Information System (SIS) Data Analyst

Dr. Lopez presented a new job description as part of the reorganization of the Information Services and Technology departments. This update aims to align roles and responsibilities with the District's current and future technology needs for students, employees, and families.

To approve the new job description for Student Information System (SIS) Data Analyst.

- Motion by Kathy Archer, second by Alex McDonald.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

17. GENERAL ITEMS

Discussion, Information: 17.01 Communications Update & Presentation

Elaine Kong, Director of Communications, presented an update on recent districtwide communication initiatives and strategies. The presentation included topics such as strengthening trust and connection, increasing enrollment and participation, uniting educational partners, and integrating tools like the district website, Engage, and alerts to streamline communication.

Discussion, Information: 17.02 Possibly Moving the 2026-2027 Start Date of School

Dr. Elsasser presented an overview of the potential benefits and challenges of starting the school year two weeks earlier, noting that no changes could take effect before the 2026-2027 school year. The presentation was prompted by ongoing inquiries and suggestions received over the past two years.

Public Comment

Four students from the Superintendent's High School Advisory Council (SHAC)—Avan Bisoho and Mollie Chou from Claremont High School, and Daniella Hernandez and Gabriel Casteel from San Antonio High School—spoke in support of exploring a calendar change.

Following public comment, the Board expressed consensus to move forward with distributing another survey to 7-12 grade students, families, and staff, with the survey expected to be released on March 21 or March 24 and results to be reviewed on April 17.

18. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action (Consent): 18.01 Approval of Consent Calendar

Resolution: To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- Motion by Alex McDonald, second by Cheryl Fiello.
- Student Advisory Vote: Yeas, Eli George
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yea: Cheryl Fiello, Kathy Archer, Alex McDonald, Richard O'Neill, Kathryn Dunn
- Student Board Members Absent: Soleil Rivera

Action (Consent): 18.02 2024-2025 English Learner Master Plan

Resolution: To approve the 2024-2025 English Learner Master Plan.

Action (Consent): 18.03 Overnight Field Trips

Resolution: To approve the recommended field trips as indicated

Action (Consent): 18.04 Board Orders

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

Action (Consent): 18.05 Budget Adjustments

Resolution: Approve the budget adjustments as presented.

Action (Consent): 18.06 Vendor Agreements

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

Action (Consent): 18.07 Rejection of Claim

Resolution: To reject liability claim #2413246.

Action (Consent): 18.08 Certificated Personnel Actions

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

Action (Consent): 18.09 Classified Personnel Actions

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

Action (Consent): 18.10 Adoption of Board Policies to Align with The CUSD Commitment

Resolution: To adopt revised Board Policies as presented.

19. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Discussion, Information, Procedural: 19.01 New or Revised Calendar Information

Dr. Elsasser presented the New or Revised Calendar item and noted a correction to the schedule for the City of Claremont's Fourth of July Celebration. The Flag Raising Ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by the Honoree Recognition Ceremony at noon and the parade at 1:00 p.m. A revised calendar was provided to Board members and made available to the public.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Procedural: 21.01 Final Adjournment


The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 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 17th day of April 2025