

CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes
Date: Thursday, October 1, 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 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 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

The adoption of the agenda was inadvertently omitted. The Board proceeded with the agenda as posted, with no changes made to the posted agenda.

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 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)
- 4.04 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 5:01 p.m.

6. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

6.01 Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:02 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.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7.01 September 17, 2026 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on September 17, 2026

- Motioned by: Cheryl Fiello
- Seconded by: Kathryn Dunn
- 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 Citrus College Partnership and Program Presentation

Dr. Greg Schulz, Citrus College Superintendent/President, and Board Trustee Laura Bollinger presented an overview of the partnership between Citrus College and CUSD, highlighting enrollment, academic and Career Technical Education programs, dual enrollment and transfer opportunities, and the Citrus College Promise. The presentation also highlighted the expansion of the nursing program and Citrus College's continued connections with CUSD students, alumni, and the Claremont community.

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.
- 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 reflected on his upcoming retirement from the Board, commented on the importance of mathematics education, and reported on a recent site visit to El Roble Intermediate School, where he observed a mathematics class and reflected on the IB Learner Profile.
- Board Member Kathryn Dunn reported on a site visit to Claremont High School, where she learned about the school's Spanish course offerings. She also highlighted an El Roble student art show and fundraiser at the Claremont Packing House on October 3 and a Sustainable Claremont event during which 14 trees were planted at El Roble.
- Board Clerk Cheryl Fiello provided an update on CLASP, noting its enrollment of 60 students, organizational goals, and use of i-Ready data to support student learning. She also highlighted upcoming fundraising activities and commented on the recent Claremont Educational Foundation (CEF) Be Rosie event.
- Board Vice President Kathy Archer reported on Claremont Educational Foundation activities, including a \$4,000 contribution from the Be Rosie Salon fundraiser. She also recognized World Teachers' Day on October 5, 2026, and reflected on the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

10.01 Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser reported on recent school walkthroughs, Family Art Night, District athletic events, and CUSD Teacher of the Year Katherine Hertenstein's recognition at the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year ceremony. He also highlighted El Roble students' visit to Cisco, announced that CUSD had received a 2026 CSBA Golden Bell Award for "Cultivating the Arts Through Partnership and Mentorship," and provided an update on Measure CS community outreach activities.

11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

- CFA Member Anne Dieken commented on Proposition 3 and reported on CFA's endorsement of Richard Barrera for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

12.01 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

- There were three in-person public comments.
- Lydia Hernandez expressed concerns regarding increased health care costs for CUSD employees.
- Lisa S. expressed concerns regarding increased health care costs for CUSD employees.
- Rachel Forester expressed concerns regarding increased health care costs for CUSD employees.

13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

13.01 Presentations and Reports

14. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

14.01 School Plan for Student Achievement Reports (SPSA): Vista del Valle Elementary School and Condit Elementary School

School staff from Vista del Valle and Condit Elementary Schools 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.

Charles Boulden, Principal, presented the Vista del Valle Elementary School SPSA, joined by sixth-grade teacher Momi Garcia, parent Veronica Gonzalez, and student Eliana Ocegueda.

Dr. Brett O'Connor, Interim Principal, presented the Condit Elementary School SPSA, joined by parent Randy Lopez and sixth-grade student Savina Resvani.

14.02 Public Hearing and Resolution #4-2027 - Sufficiency of Materials

Dr. Olesniewicz presented Resolution #4-2027, Sufficiency of Instructional Materials, noting that all school sites had confirmed sufficient standards-aligned textbooks and instructional materials for the 2026–2027 school year. The public hearing opened at 7:46 p.m. There being no public comment, the public hearing closed at 7:46 p.m.

To adopt Resolution #4-2027, Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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

Motion Carried

15. CONSENT CALENDAR

15.01 Approval of Consent Calendar

To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

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

Motion Carried

15.02 Request to Approve the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) Reports: Sumner Elementary School, Danbury Elementary School, and San Antonio High School

To approve the 2026-2027 School Plans for Student Achievement for Sumner Elementary School, Danbury Elementary School, and San Antonio High School.

15.03 Overnight and Alternative Transportation Field Trips

To approve the recommended field trips as indicated.

15.04 Budget Adjustments

To approve the budget adjustments as presented.

15.05 Gifts

To accept donations and gifts as listed in the attachment.

15.06 Vendor Agreements

To authorize the following agreements with the attached vendors.

15.07 Certificated Personnel Actions

To approve the attached Certificated Personnel Actions as presented.

15.08 Classified Personnel Actions

To approve the attached Classified Personnel Actions as presented.

15.09 Annual Agreements

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

15.10 Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints

To approve the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for the 1st quarter of the 2026-2027 school year.

15.11 Adoption of Board Policies: 5145.2, 6146.1, & 6173.2

To adopt Board Policies 5145.2, 6146.1, & 6173.2 as presented.

17. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

17.01 New or Revised Calendar Information

Dr. Elsasser noted that a Special Board meeting would be held on October 5 at 8:00 a.m. and that the October 15 and November 12 Regular Board meetings would begin at 5:00 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

18.01 Final Adjournment

The meeting adjourned in closed session at 7:48 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 15th day of October 2026