CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes
Date: Thursday, September 3, 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 5:30 p.m.
The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Motion Carried

4. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS / Public Comment

- 4.01 Public Comment on Closed Session Items
- 4.02 Student Matters: Settlement Agreement 2026070683 - Pursuant to Education Code §56157 and §56365 - §56366.5
- 4.03 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 5:31 p.m. Board Member Richard O'Neill joined the Board in Closed Session at this time.

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 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; the following action was taken in open session.

To approve Student Settlement Agreement 2026070683.

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

Motion Carried

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7.01 August 20, 2026 Minutes - Special Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on August 20, 2026

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

Motion Carried

7.02 August 20, 2026 Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

To adopt the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on August 20, 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

8.01 Special Order of Business

8.02 Appointment of Student Board Member for the 2026-2027 School Year

Dr. Elsasser presented the nomination of Leia Sandoval, San Antonio High School, to serve as Student Board Member representing San Antonio High School for the 2026–2027 school year. The Board appointed Leia Sandoval as Student Board Member.

To appoint Leia Sandoval as Student Board Member for the 2026-2027 school year, representing San Antonio High School.

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

Motion Carried

8.03 Student Board Member Oath of Office

Board President Alex McDonald administered the Oath of Office to 2026–2027 Student Board Members Corinne Sorel, representing Claremont High School, and Leia Sandoval, representing San Antonio High School.

9. ORAL REPORTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

9.01 Board of Education

- Board Member Richard O'Neill reported on the morning announcements at Mountain View Elementary School.

- Board Member Kathryn Dunn reported that Baldy View ROP is phasing out evening classes in transportation, distribution, and logistics and discussed potential electrical and welding course offerings at the Ontario location. She also shared a story from a CUSD parent about the positive impact of a video the parent's daughter, a student with autism, shared with her classmates.
- Board Clerk Cheryl Fiello reported that CLASP will begin on September 9 with 53 students currently enrolled and shared updates regarding tutor orientation and training, the recent ice cream social, and upcoming fundraising activities. She also attended Back-to-School Night at Mountain View Elementary School and visited an AP Spanish classroom at Claremont High School.
- Board Vice President Kathy Archer reflected on her visits to Back-to-School Nights, noting the time CUSD math teachers make available to support students before school, during lunch, after school, and by appointment, as well as the care teachers put into their classrooms and the use of technology across grade levels. She also participated as a guest reader in Danielle Flowers' classroom.
- Board President Alex McDonald reported on his participation in the California Department of Education Health Cost Work Group, which has held three meetings to date, including discussions regarding investments in primary care and preventative services to better support educators. He also reported on discussions with the City Manager and City Council members regarding opportunities for a pool program.

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

10.01 Information/Announcements

Dr. Elsasser reported that all District schools successfully completed their Back-to-School Nights and shared an update on his first round of school walkthroughs, including classroom visits at El Roble Intermediate School and Claremont High School. He congratulated Condit Elementary School on again being recognized as an Apple Distinguished School and noted that the school will be recognized at a Board meeting this fall. Dr. Elsasser also reported that District enrollment has leveled off at 5,960 students, representing a decline of 51 students from the prior year's official CBEDS enrollment and fewer than the anticipated decline of 125 students.

11. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS

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

- CFA Vice President Paula Asinas spoke regarding Proposition 3 and Richard Berrera, encouraging the community to vote in support of both. She emphasized that Proposition 3 would not increase taxes and discussed the reasons for supporting the measure.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

12.01 PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

There were two in-person public comments.

- Marisol Diaz, CUSD parent, spoke regarding concerns about her child's safety.
- Michiko Hori spoke regarding concerns about educational technology.

13. PRESENTATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

13.01 Presentations and Reports

14. BUSINESS SERVICES

14.01 Adoption of Facilities Master Plan

Desiree Reyes presented the recommendation to adopt the District's 10-year Facilities Master Plan, which was presented by PBK Architects for discussion and review at the August 20, 2026, Board meeting.

There was one in-person public comment:

Andrew Alonzo, reporter for the Claremont Courier, asked about funding for the projects identified in the Facilities Master Plan and their relationship to Measure CS. Staff clarified that the Facilities Master Plan identifies the District's facility needs but does not prescribe or identify specific funding sources.

To adopt the 10-year Facilities Master Plan for the Claremont Unified School District.

- 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

14.02 Resolution #02-2027 Making Certain Findings and Determinations Regarding the Collection of School Fees and Compliance with Government Code Section 66007
Desiree Reyes presented Resolution #02-2027, confirming that the District has met the statutory requirements under Government Code Section 66007 to collect applicable school fees at the time of building permit issuance. The Board adopted Resolution #02-2027.

To adopt Resolution #02-2027, Making Certain Findings and Determinations Regarding the Collection of School Fees and Compliance with Government Code Section 66007.

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

Motion Carried

15. GENERAL ITEMS

15.01 First Reading of Board Policies:6146.3, 6173, & 6173.1
Dr. Elsasser presented a first reading of Board Policies 6146.3, Reciprocity of Academic Credit; 6173, Education for Homeless Children; and 6173.1, Education for Foster Youth, as recommended for revision by CSBA and District staff. There were no questions, comments, or suggested revisions from the Board.

16. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

Motion Carried

16.02 2026-2027 Physical Education Exemptions
To approve a permanent Physical Education exemption for students listed by identification number pursuant to California Education Code 51241.

16.03 Budget Adjustments
To approve the budget adjustments as presented.

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

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

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

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

16.08 Adoption of Board Policies: 6142.1, 6142.8, & 6142.91
To adopt Board Policies 6142.1, 6142.8, & 6142.91 as presented.

17. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

18.01 Final Adjournment
The meeting adjourned in closed session at 6:35 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 17th day of September 2026