MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ALTA LOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO–WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

OPEN SESSION, CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting was called to order by Board President Eric Chung at 6:00 PM. Present were members Buller, Chung, Davies, Hurley, and Martinez. Absent None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alta Loma Elementary School's Student Ambassador, Emily B. led the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Chung read aloud the Public Comment Announcement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Dr. Hurley, and carried with the following vote to adopt the agenda of the meeting, with the following change. Move Item Q. Board Information/Discussion to after Item N. General Functions.

AYES:	3	(Chung, Hurley, Martinez)
NOES:	2	(Buller, Davies
ABSENT:	0	
ABSTAIN:	0	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. Davies, seconded by Dr. Hurley, and carried unanimously to adopt the meeting minutes of December 10, 2025, as presented.

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Veteran of the Year – Mr. Gene Arnold was introduced and congratulated by the Board and Executive Cabinet.

Student Presentation – Alta Loma Elementary School

- 4th and 5th grade Student Ambassadors

CWDL Audit Presentation

Joe Tarantino, Senior Manager with CWDL presented the annual audit report and the general obligation bond report for the District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Highlighting the District's positive management and collaboration. Key findings included an unmodified opinion on financial statements, no non-compliance in federal awards, and a minor deficiency in state compliance regarding instructional materials. Recommendations included formalizing credit card policies and ensuring proper documentation for ASB accounts. The audit also noted the District's effective internal controls and the importance of timely access to documentation.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dez Alvarez, community member raised concerns about superintendent and administrative compensation, citing multiple contracts with annual salaries ranging from approximately $197,000 to $277,000 and total compensation packages exceeding $290,000. Ms. Alvarez questioned the transparency and justification of these salaries. She compared district compensation levels to that of the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, noting a

lower statewide salary, and urged the board to carefully consider fiscal responsibility and the impact of high administrative pay on district families and resources.

Antoinette Elaine community member questioned whether limiting the public to a single three-minute comment on multiple agenda items provides a meaningful opportunity for public participation. Ms. Elaine alleged conflicts of interest and lack of transparency in the IPC/uniform complaint process, asserting that oversight by Ted Alejandre, Edwin Gomez, AALRR, and advisory member Sherry Smith compromises fairness, and further claimed that Etiwanda Superintendent Charlene Sprague improperly disseminated a September 30, 2025 letter to all Etiwanda employees involving child assault allegations, circulating it more than 17,000 times by text and email, including to Chaffey Joint Union High School District and approximately 17 of her daughter's teachers and characterized as "National Enquirer" style gossip that violates the sanctity of mandatory reporting and has been devasting for her daughter and undermines trust in the reporting process.

Kurtis Downs, community member referenced the *Mirabelli v. Olson* ruling, summarizing key aspects of the decision, its legal status, and the anticipated timeline. He also cited an article titled *"The CDC Just Overhauled the Childhood Vaccine Schedule – What It Means for California Families."*

Community member Andrea Woore expressed concerns regarding access to public records, stating that in September 2024 she was asked to pay $780 for records related to Measure G, which she believes should have been provided at minimal cost. She compared her experiences with prior superintendents and alleged a lack of transparency and responsiveness from current leadership. The speaker also raised concerns about administrative salaries, District spending priorities, declining enrollment, student reading proficiency levels, and access to services such as special education and transportation. She urged the board to prioritize student needs and fiscal responsibility.

Rita Loof, a trustee with the San Bernardino County Board of Education representing Area B, informed the Board that the county board recently adopted a resolution to implement AB 1390 and encouraged the District to consider doing the same. She provided background on the legislation, noting it is intended to allow districts with the financial capacity to increase trustee compensation in a transparent manner aligned with inflation, while maintaining accountability. She stated the goal is to attract and retain a diverse range of community members, including working parents and individuals supporting families by reducing financial barriers to board service, and noted that several districts have already adopted the updated compensation limits.

Shari Megowan, ALEA President, shared positive updates, including the association's efforts to gather signatures supporting Proposition 55 and expressed appreciation for the executive cabinet's communication and collaboration with ALEA. She publicly recognized ALEA Vice President Karena Zubiate for her dedication in supporting teachers and providing leadership within the association. In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, she thanked Trustees and their families for their time, service, and support.

Rika Baum, a District parent, expressed concerns regarding delays and challenges in obtaining and implementing assistive technology (AT) for her son. She reported that although paperwork was signed in November, the iPad was not received until January and initially lacked necessary programs, connectivity, and functionality for completing assignments. She questioned the requirement for parents to provide homeowner and auto insurance to receive AT equipment and

requested the Board review and update related forms and policies. She also cited ongoing communication issues, delays in receiving additional equipment such as a C-Pen, and a lack of proactive solutions from administration, while acknowledging a staff member who provided helpful support. She urged improved communication, timely implementation, and clearer procedures to better support students requiring AT services.

Andrea Woore, community member raised concerns regarding the District's compliance with Education Code 60119, which requires school districts to ensure that each student has sufficient textbooks and instructional materials consistent with state content standards and curriculum frameworks. Ms. Woore expressed concern that the Superintendent's focus on political matters may have overshadowed her responsibility to guarantee legal compliance and student safety. She referenced social media posts suggesting that some instructional materials might contain inappropriate content, emphasizing community concern over student exposure. Ms. Woore commented that violations of state law carry real consequences, comparing them to disciplinary actions such as SARB for attendance, and urged the Board to address these compliance issues proactively.

CONSENT CALENDAR
Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Mrs. Davies, and carried unanimously to adopt the following Consent Calendar items:

Vendor Agreements
Approved agreements with the following vendors, and authorized Sherry Smith, Eric Hart, and/or applicable administrators to sign all related documents: 1) Amergis; 2) Avalon Transportation Services; 3) Bowlero; 4) California League of Middle Schools (CLMS); 5) CUE; 6) Lewis Family Playhouse; 7) Mary Vagle; 8) Mobile Ed Productions; 9) Mt. Sac Planetarium; 10) NIC Partners; 11) Sehi Computer Products, Inc.; 12) SoCal Drum Party; 13) United Signs & Awnings, Inc.; 14) Visser Bus Services.

Board Payment Report
Approved the Board Payment Report, as presented.

Routine Personnel Items
Approved employment, terminations, resignations, leaves and temporary assignments, as presented.

Donations
Accepted with appreciation the following donations:

a. Donation of $1,053.00 from California Judges Foundation to Stork Elementary School's Student Fundraiser Account to be used to enhance the instructional program.
b. Donation of $1,050.00 from Stork Elementary PFSA to Stork Elementary School's Students Fundraiser Account to be used to enhance the instructional program.

Amend Board Policies
A second reading was held to amend Board Policies related to Personnel, Students, and Instruction.

BP 4115 – Evaluation/Supervision
BP 4200 – Classified Personnel
BP 4215 – Evaluation/Supervision
BP 4300 – Administrative and Supervisory Personnel
BP 4315 – Evaluation/Supervision
BP 4361.9 – Catastrophic Leave Program

BP 5141 – Health Care and Emergencies
BP 6179 – Supplemental Instruction

Adopt Board Policies
A second reading was held to adopt Board Policies related to Personnel.

BP 4100 – Certificated Personnel
BP 4161.9/4261.9 – Catastrophic Leave Program

Request to Update Signers
Approved the request to update signers on the Alta Loma Junior High School ASB accounts at US Bank. This action would add, Brittany Brehm, Principal and remove authorization of Andrew Carter on all related documents for Alta Loma Junior High School.

McGraw Hill Literacy Leadership Symposium
Authorized TOSA, Tamara Youngstrom to attend McGraw Hill's Literacy Leadership Symposium in Austin, Texas on January 12, 2026 through January 15, 2026.

Following approval of the Consent Calendar, the Board and Executive Cabinet introduced and congratulated the newly appointed employees.

Vineyard Junior High Assistant Principal, Student Services – Karena Zubiate
Director of Expanded Learning Opportunity Program – Marla Lowry

BOARD REPORTS
Board member Brad Buller … commended the Alta Loma community and surrounding areas for their collaboration on the Winter Wonderland event, thanking Superintendent Dr. Sherry Smith and her team for their leadership; attended concerts at Vineyard Junior High and Alta Loma Junior High, praising students' musical performances, and participated in the District breakfast, humorously noting being "out staged by a real Santa."

Board member Jessica Martinez … reported on the District's Winter Wonderland event, thanking staff, volunteers, and community members for a well-planned and enjoyable celebration; January 7, visited two county-operated special education programs at Alta Loma High School and Los Osos High School with Dr. Smith, Special Education Director Matt Williams, and Dr. Pierce; the visits provided insight into transition services for students with significant needs, emphasizing the importance of early intervention, individualized support, and thoughtful IEP development at the elementary level to positively shape future educational outcomes and opportunities.

Board member Rebecca Davies … reported that the District's Winter Wonderland event was highly successful due to the dedication of staff and community volunteers who supported families across the District; recognized the generous time and effort contributed to create a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all attendees; special recognition was given to Adriana Mohler for her outstanding event planning and leadership, which ensured the event's smooth execution, the event's success was evident in the joy and excitement of the students who attended.

Board member Malinda Hurley … reported on recent school visits and District initiatives, highlighting a walk-through at Jasper Elementary where she observed strong implementation of the Science of Reading, Write From The Beginning, and Dual Language Immersion programs, along with positive PBIS practices and student engagement; noted professional development in argumentative writing instruction and praised Alta Loma Junior High's robotics program for

fostering collaboration, coding, and engineering skills; summarized key points from the LCAP Advisory Committee meeting, including the District's four pillars and progress toward goals in high levels of learning, closing the achievement gap, and maintaining safe, supportive learning environments, noting all schools were recognized at the PBIS Awards.

Board member Eric Chung … thanked fellow Board members for their community involvement and recognized community partners for their contributions to the Winter Wonderland event, including donations of blankets, gingerbread houses, jackets, and socks, noting that it was an exceptional and impactful event.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Smith recognized January as School Board Recognition Month, expressing gratitude to the Board for their dedication, thoughtful decision-making, and commitment to students, families, and the Alta Loma community. She acknowledged the challenges of board service and extended her sincere thanks and best wishes to all five Board members for their service.

Superintendent Dr. Smith informed the Board and community about the recent federal district court decision in *Mirabelli v. Olson,* which addresses parental notification related to student gender identity in California public schools. The ruling, issued in late December and currently under appeal, applies statewide and seeks to clarify constitutional boundaries among schools, parents, and existing child protection laws. Dr. Smith explained that the case emerged from inconsistent guidance and practices across districts, leading to differing approaches and legal challenges.

Dr. Smith acknowledged the strong and varied perspectives surrounding this issue, including concerns about student safety and parental rights. She emphasized that Alta Loma School District remains committed to a whole-child, student-centered approach that balances student wellbeing, family partnership, and legal responsibilities. Staff are mandated reporters, and student safety remains non-negotiable; any concerns about harm, abuse, or unsafe home situations are addressed in accordance with reporting laws. Dr. Smith expressed confidence in District staff and systems and reaffirmed the District's commitment to working collaboratively with families while prioritizing student safety.

Superintendent Smith shared that there were no reportable incidents for the Williams Reporting for the period of October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Pierce reported on the District's Williams compliance activities, noting that Deer Canyon Elementary's Williams visit was completed with no findings. She recognized Principal Rice, school staff, Associate Superintendent Hart, and the facilities team for their collaborative efforts, emphasizing that maintaining compliance requires coordinated work across departments. Dr. Pierce commended the team for their diligence and the positive outcome of the review.

Dr. Pierce announced that Tamara Youngstrom, ELA TOSA, has been selected by the California Department of Education to participate in the development of the new English Language Arts framework. Her acceptance ensures Alta Loma will be represented at the state level, allowing the district's values, beliefs, and instructional philosophy to help inform the framework adoption.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Pierce and Assistant Superintendent Cerecerez presented an Attendance/Chronic Absenteeism Presentation. Dr. Pierce reported that improving attendance remains a priority in the District's LCAP and reviewed the comprehensive, tiered system of support designed to encourage daily attendance. These efforts include universal strategies such as MTSS training, PBIS implementation, Character Strong programs, counseling services, community outreach, and schoolwide incentives that foster a safe and positive climate where students feel connected and motivated to attend. The District's three-year Average Daily Attendance (ADA) is approximately 95%, reflecting a return to pre-pandemic levels and reinforcing the positive impact of coordinated efforts to support student engagement.

The District also reported continued progress in reducing chronic absenteeism, with rates declining from 16.5% in 2023 to 12.3% in 2024 and most recently to 10.2%, significantly below the state average of approximately 20%. Targeted Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions—including SART meetings, FAST home visits, District-level attendance conferences, and, when necessary, referrals to the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)—provide structured, collaborative support to address barriers and reinforce expectations. Staff emphasized ongoing refinement of processes, expanded communication with families and the community, and a continued commitment to removing barriers so all students can attend school regularly and succeed.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

2026-2027 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule
Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Ms. Martinez, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2026-2027 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule, as presented.

2026-2027 Elementary and Junior High School Year Calendars
Taken as a block vote.
Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Dr. Hurley, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2026-2027 Elementary school year calendar, as presented.

Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Dr. Hurley, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2026-2027 Junior High school year calendar, as presented.

BOARD INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Amend Board Polices
A first reading was held to amend Board Policies related to Community Relations, Administration, Personnel, Students, and Instruction.
BP 1000 – Concepts and Roles
BP 1114 – District-Sponsored Social Media
BP 2120 – Superintendent Recruitment and Selection
BP 4000 – Concepts and Roles
BP 5000 – Concepts and Roles
BP 5020 – Parent Rights and Responsibilities
BP 5117 – Interdistrict Attendance
BP 5142 – Safety
BP 6020 – Parent Involvement
BP 6143 – Courses of Study
BP 6159.1 – Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education

Board Bylaws
A first reading was held to amend Board Bylaws.
BB 9310 – Board Policies

BB 9321 – Closed Session

Adopt Job Description
A first reading was held to adopt Job Descriptions, as presented.
Director of the Expanded Learning Opportunity Program
Director of Assessment, Accountability and Instruction

AB 1390 Discussion
A discussion was held, Board members gave their thoughts and opinions on Assembly Bill 1390. It was decided that at the next Board of Trustees meeting on February 18, an action item would be added to the agenda to increase the Board of Trustee's monthly compensation from the $240.00 a month to the maximum allowable by AB 1390 per the District's average daily attendance (ADA).

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Audited Financial Report
Moved by Dr. Hurley, seconded by Mrs. Davies, and carried unanimously to accept the 2024-25 Audited Financial Report, as presented.

Audited Financial Report for the General Obligation Bond Building Fund
Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Dr. Hurley, and carried unanimously to accept the 2024-25 Audited Financial Report for the General Obligation Bond Building Fund, as presented.

Employment Contract Amendment - Superintendent
Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Mrs. Davies, and carried with the following vote to approve Amendment No. 3 to the Employment Contract for Dr. Sherry Smith, Superintendent, reflecting the 1.5% salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2025, and by the same dollar amount as any other increases in total compensation negotiated with represented certificated employees.

AYES:	3	(Buller, Chung, Davies)
NOES:	2	(Hurley, Martinez)
ABSENT:	0	
ABSTAIN:	0	

Employment Contract Amendment – Associate Superintendent
Moved by Mrs. Davies, seconded by Mr. Buller, and carried unanimously to approve Amendment No. 4 to the Employment Contract for Eric Hart, Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services, reflecting the 1.5% salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2025, and by the same dollar amount as any other increases in total compensation negotiated with represented certificated employees.

Employment Contract Amendment – Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Mrs. Davies, and carried unanimously to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Employment Contract for Cara Cerecerez, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reflecting the 1.5% salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2025.

Employment Contract Amendment – Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Mrs. Davies, and carried unanimously to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Employment Contract for Christina Pierce, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, reflecting the 1.5% salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2025.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Management Salary Schedule
Moved by Dr. Hurley, seconded by Mr. Buller, and carried unanimously to adopt the Management salary schedule for the 2025-2026 school year, retroactive to July 1, 2025, for employees who are active as of the ratification date of the tentative agreement, as presented.

Classified Part Time Hourly Schedule – Student Helper
Moved by Dr. Hurley, seconded by Mr. Buller, and carried unanimously to approve the revised Classified Part Time Hourly Schedule – Student Helper, as presented.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The date of the next special meeting of the Board of Trustees is Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 6:00 PM for the purpose of a Long-Term Facilities Planning Workshop, at the Alta Loma School District Support Center, 9390 Base Line Road.

The date of the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 6:00 PM at the Alta Loma School District Support Center, 9390 Base Line Road.

CLOSED SESSION
The Board adjourned to closed session at 8:34 PM for the purpose of discussing matters expressly authorized by Government Code Section 3549.1, 54956.9, 54956.9(d), 54957, and 54957.6.

OPEN SESSION / ADJOURNMENT
The Board reconvened to open session, and made the following announcements.

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
The Board took action to direct staff to reject a cure and correct demand and provide a written response to the claimant.

Moved by Mr. Buller, seconded by Mrs. Davies, Claim #3120907, Cure and Correct Demand from A. Jensen was rejected with the following vote.

AYES:	4	(Buller, Chung, Davies, Hurley)
NOES:	1	(Martinez)
ABSENT:	0	
ABSTAIN:	0	

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 PM.