MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ALTA LOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO–WEDNESDAY, April 2, 2025

OPEN SESSION, CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting was called to order by Board President Brad Buller at 6:00 PM. Present were members Buller, Chung, Davies, and Martinez. Member Hurley arrived at 6:03 PM, during Item D. Absent None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President, Brad Buller led the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Buller read aloud the Public Comment Announcement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Mrs. Davies, seconded by Dr. Hurley, and carried unanimously to adopt the agenda of the meeting, as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Chung, seconded by Mrs. Davies and carried unanimously to adopt the meeting minutes of March 12, 2025, as presented.

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Alta Loma Council PTA Reflections Winners

- Samantha Mora, Visual Arts
- Amelia Lee, Visual Arts
- Alanah Torres, Literature
- Karlee Bandazewski, Film Production
- Aurora Diaz, Dance Choreography
- Finnley Femister, Literature
- Lily Femister, Literature
- Evie Fridolfsson, Photography
- Hudson Johnson, Photography
- Jadien Mach, Visual Arts
- Cassandra Malafa, Photography
- Logan Peters, Film Production
- William Silva, Music Composition

Cucamonga, Valley Water District – 5th Grade Poster Contest Winners

- Sophia Camarena
- Christopher Davies
- Chloe Mares
- Emily Lamas
- Joonhee Park
- Joonwoo Park
- Reagan Caron
- Ashley Gonzalez
- Brodie Van Westrienen
- Charolotte Canan-Farber

- Brielle Garcia
- Presley Richardson
- Isaac Sekayan
- Ava Wilhelm
- Nicholas Durham
- Roman Lopez
- Avery Joseph Schneck
- Jatziri Bajonero
- Joyce Ma
- Nadia Velasquez Kabir
- Hannah Walter
- Erin Zhang
- Jimmy Zhu

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brie Kabia, parent in the District asked the Board to reconsider the proposed cut to the general education busing. Ms. Kabia understands that the District is facing extreme financial challenges but eliminating the bus services is not just a budget issue, it's a safety issue and an equity issue, and a decision that will impact students and families. For many students bussing is not a convenience, it's a necessity. Ms. Kabia urges the Board to explore other options before eliminating bussing.

Amelia Smith, parent in the District, addressed the Board on agenda item M. 3, Discontinuation of District Home-to-School busing for general education students. Ms. Smith asked the Board to carefully consider the hardship that this would place on many families and students throughout the District. District buses have been an investment in the future of our children, by giving these families the ability to secure a stable and safe home for their children. Ms. Smith asked the Board to carefully consider the needs of the families in the District that they have been voted in to serve.

Rika Baum, parent in the District, echoed what fellow parents stated and asked the Board to reconsider cancelling the general education buses. Ms. Baum stated that the bus drivers go above and beyond, they are very gracious to her daughter and have helped accommodate her busy schedule. Ms. Baum suggested that the Board raise our in-house drivers' pay to hopefully get more in-house drivers and the District won't need the 3rd party drivers.

David Palmer, community member, wanted to voice his opposition for any reduction or elimination of transportation, stating it is a vital support service. Mr. Palmer also expressed his opposition on Policy BB 9006 – Governance Protocols. Mr. Palmer stated that he does not support it. Board members are elected by the community, they are the voice to the District, and he would appreciate it if Board members would continue to hold that voice. Mr. Palmer stated that the community voted the Board in to be their representatives and to hand that over to staff is a diarylation of their duty.

Philip Costas, community member, stated that he identifies as a person who keeps kids first, no matter what, no matter the cost. Mr. Costas is a local Special Education teacher, and he has two kids that attend local schools. Mr. Costas stated that he is a voice for all 600 students that rely on busing, it is not a luxury but a necessity. The decision to possibly eliminate this vital service is not only unjust but a disservice to the students. Mr. Costas stated that he didn't see where there

was an opportunity for remote public comment, and if that was the case then the District is out of compliance, according to California Education Code39800.1 (a)(2). Mr. Costas urges the Board to explore alternative solutions that nurture fairness and equality for all. Mr. Costas shared a few of his ideas on how this could possibly be done. Mr. Costas stated that the District needs to hold another public hearing on the Transportation Plan to allow for remote participation.

Andrea Woore, community member, stated that the State of California gives 40% of the budget to school districts and the state just approved another 10 billion for schools. Ms. Woore stated that the children need their transportation to get to school safely and efficiently. Ms. Woore stated that if she had children in our District she would be looking for other places that provide better services. Ms. Woore encouraged Board members to vote no, the children can not survive without their buses.

Andrea Woore, community member, spoke about BB 9006 – Governance Protocols. Ms. Woore shared the First Amendment, and stated that they elected the Board members, not Superintendent Smith who is appointed. Ms. Moore stated that for every "yes" vote by Board members, they will receive "noes" in their next election by the people they represent. Ms. Moore stated that they will not stand for communism or dictatorship.

Shari Megowan, ALEA President, shared the entire Alta Loma School District is going through a very challenging time financially, it is not the first time, and it won't be the last. Ms. Megowan stated that she personally has her whole heart invested in the difficult decisions that need to be made to continue to make Alta Loma the best place for our students, families, and staff. Ms. Megowan is not just a 29-year teacher, she is a K-6 Carnelian Alumna, former Junior High Warrior and a constituent living in the District. In tonight's agenda it shows that the bargaining unit has voted and approved a new contract with no, meaning zero salary compensation, for this year. These are teachers, school counselors, and nurses who have made a difficult vote affecting their families income. It was not an easy vote, and many are unhappy. It is now the Board's turn to make difficult financial decisions. The cost of transportation is a substantial amount of money. There are a few students who really do rely on the busing, but there are other solutions. Ms. Megowan stated that the District has heard from the community and families and class size are top priorities and staff has already sacrificed their pay. The Board's job is not easy, but staff relies on them to do their homework, get accurate information, share accurate information, to have solutions and be ready to take on the future for the entire community.

Kurtis Downs, member of the community, shared that he is for the busing and shared a verse from Proverbs 29:21. He also shared his views and opinions on current events.

PUBLIC HEARING
None.

BOARD REPORTS
Board member Jessica Martinez… March 15th, attended the 5th grade water district poster awards ceremony, presented by the Cucamonga Valley Water District; March 13th, participated in the Board's Special Meeting, discussed was the Long-Range Planning which included transportation; Member Martinez asked staff if the presentation that was given during the Long-Range Planning workshop could be included as part of future agendas; March 20th, attended the Rancho Chamber BCN where tariffs were the topic of conversation; since Friday, when the agenda was posted, Member Martinez has been in constant communication with members of the community regarding

transportation; Member Martinez shared from the correspondence they received today, two words resonated with her from the correspondence, "transportation is a lifeline," Member Martinez wanted to share that sentiment.

Board member Rebecca Davies. . . along with Member Martinez, also enjoyed the discussions the Board had during their Long-Range Planning and Budget Preview Workshop, lots of difficult things the Board is facing and a lot of good discussion came from the workshop; she congratulated both Jasper and Victoria Groves Elementary School for being recognized as California Distinguished Schools; this award provides public recognition of the hard work that we know our educators and school staff do every day to help our students achieve at their highest levels.

Board member Malinda Hurley… Saturday, March 29th provided feedback on eight student art pieces that were entered in the Rancho Cucamonga Community and Arts Foundation's 2025 Harmony of Hearts Young Art Exhibitions for Grades K-12 at the Goldy S. Lewis Community Center; Dr. Pierce was kind to accompany Trustee Hurley as they critiqued so many talented young artists' work that depicted the theme of our city's past, present, and future; Trustee Hurley is heartbroken and still processing the loss of our dear friend, kind colleague, spirited teacher, beautiful human being, Pamela Roberts; Pam and Trustee Hurley grew up together at Alta Loma High School, sitting next to each other everyday during PE, from freshman year to their senior year; the two would reconnect when Pam taught Trustee Hurley's daughter in Language Arts at Vineyard Junior High School; Trustee Hurley began substituting for Pam and she inspired Trustee Hurley to become a middle school single subject Language Arts teacher beyond her multiple subjects credential; eleven years later they reconnected when Trustee Hurley's son had Pam for Language Arts and she was his ASB Advisor; when Trustee Hurley was elected to the Board she was able to visit Pam's classroom and spend quality time with her outside of school; Trustee Hurley is grateful that Pam was a lifelong friend to her and her children's favorite teacher at Vineyard, as she continued to be for the thousands of students she taught over the 31 years she was a teacher in our District; Trustee Hurley thanked our crisis response team, Executive Cabinet and Richard Solano for providing mental health support; Trustee Hurley also thanked Principal Vetere and Counselor Jonet Thomas for the therapeutic activities for our students to help them through this tragic and emotional time; Trustee Hurley shared her prayers are with Pam's father, Dave Roberts, her friends, colleagues, her students and their families; this Angel on earth is now with the Angels in heaven.

Board member Eric Chung … sent prayers to the Roberts Family; attended Stork's Open House, it's always such an amazing time to see all the parents exposed to all the work that the kids are doing; thanked Dr. Smith for joining him; Member Chung is always so impressed with the quality of writing that is taking place at Stork; had the opportunity to attend the Harmony of Hearts Art Exhibition through the City of Rancho Cucamonga, and was able to comment on eight pieces of art, he was happy to see that the District had a few students participate in the exhibition.

Board member Brad Buller … commended fellow Board members for being out in the community; Member Buller attends many of the same events that this fellow Board members attend; expressed to the Roberts Family that his heart goes out to them, and the District will do all it can to try and honor everything Pam stood for as a person, as a teacher, and as a community member.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Smith congratulated both Jasper Elementary School and Victoria Groves Elementary School on their California Distinguished School Award. Superintendent Smith shared how schools earn the California Distinguished School honor. Schools are considered in two areas; the first consideration is having your scores in green or above on the California Dashboard and the second consideration is closing the achievement gap.

Superintendent Smith announced the District had 23 pieces of art this year in the city of Rancho Cucamonga's Harmony of Hearts Art Exhibition. The District had art represented from Vineyard Junior High, Alta Loma Junior High, Carnelian Elementary, Jasper Elementary, and Stork Elementary.

Superintendent Smith shared what a tragic and challenging two weeks its been. Her heart goes out to the Roberts Family and Pam was loved by all. Vineyard staff pulled together and got through one of the most difficult weeks that they have ever experienced and they are doing it together. Pam lives on through the lives of every student she touched, through every staff member she touched and personally touching Superintendent Smith. Superintendent Smith is grateful that the last three years she got to know Pam well. She knows Pam will be missed, but she hopes that we can find comfort in knowing she is someone who made a positive impact on the world and we don't even know what that multiplier will be yet.

Superintendent Smith is honored to share that Rudy Ontiveros is the San Bernardino County Classified Employee of the Year and he is now competing for the State Classified Employee of the Year.

Superintendent Smith wanted to clarify Board Bylaw 9006, because she believes there is a misconception or lack of understanding of how effective governance transpires. The Board understands how the governance team operates, but members of the public may not know or understand what goes into planning a Board meeting. Superintendent Smith shared that the Board receives the agenda five days in advance of each meeting. This window exists to give the Board time and space to deeply engage with the material; to read, reflect, ask questions and seek clarity before the Board is asked to vote on decisions that affect the entire school community. Superintendent Smith feels incredibly fortunate that the Board takes this responsibility seriously and, in the days, leading up to each meeting, they consistently demonstrate their commitment by asking thoughtful, strategic questions. These questions often require Executive Cabinet to provide data, draw connections across departments, and offer deeper context. When topics are complex, one-on-one meetings are arranged for Board members' needs. These meetings are not occasional occurrences, they happen regularly, and Superintendent Smith commends the Board for taking advantage of these opportunities to deepen their understanding.

When questions come in from one or more Board members, Superintendent Smith compiles those questions into a shared communication with the entire Board, so that everyone benefits. This process not only ensures transparency, but also strengthens the Governance team. This allows Board members to learn from one another, build on each other's insights, and walk into meetings aligned, informed, and ready to lead.

When Board members get to the meetings, they are able to vote with little to no discussion. That is not because they've been silenced, it's because they are informed; they've already done the

work. That's the kind of Board that the public should want, one that comes prepared, has already done the critical thinking, and governs with confidence and clarity.

Superintendent Smith shared that recently the Board has experienced some misleading comments like "the Superintendent doesn't let the Board speak" or "Trustees are muzzled." Superintendent Smith clarified that Board Bylaw 9006 does not prevent questions, it encourages preparation. It builds in respectful norms for communication so the governance team can function as a united, trusting team. Superintendent Smith reaffirmed publicly that the Board may ask questions at any time, seeking clarity is not only welcomed, but it's encouraged. Nowhere in Board Bylaw 9006 does it suggest that Trustees are restricted from asking questions.

Board Bylaw 9006 is not a new Bylaw, they are practices that the Governance team has followed for years. Superintendent Smith brought Bylaw 9006 forward on March 12th for a first reading and discussion to make sure the governance norms were still relevant and working for the entire Governance team. Since Superintendent Smith brought it forward, they have engaged in excellent discussion and revised the document together. When the Governance team feels the language reflects their best work, that's when Superintendent Smith will bring it forward for a second and final reading.

Associate Superintendent Eric Hart gave a few budget updates to the Board that he felt was prudent. The District receives about 3.4 million dollars from the Federal Budget. There's lots of talk about dissolving the Department of Education and what does this do to the District's funding. The types of funds the District receives are from the Title Programs, 1, 2, 3 and 4. These funds are for improving schools, teacher professional development, English learners and other students supports. The District also receives IDEA money, and money from the National School Lunch. So far there is no indication that this funding on the table is to be chopped, but the District is watching, because if it is cut, it would impact our programs, and the District would need to find a way to mitigate any of the disruption that would be caused by a loss of funding. On the State side, January budget came out and their projections are through the month of June. The January revenue came in slightly above the projection, which is good, but also in January, it started what the State calls a "fragile optimism" through the end of the year. The State doesn't know the impact of the Tariffs on the State economy. As we get closer to the May revise we will see what the Department of Finance and the Legislature think the impact will be. The District won't know until summer what the financial impact will be.

Associate Superintendent Hart shared that this is the third year in a row that the COLA has dipped from January until May, which has significant impact on the District's projections, as the District uses this to project the affordability in the future. Budgets are a struggle, not just for Alta Loma, but for many districts. This past interim session, 32 districts filed qualified budgets, which was an increase, and 7 districts filed negative.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Mrs. Davies, seconded by Mr. Chung, and carried unanimously to approve Consent Calendar items as follows.

Vendor Agreements

Approved agreements with the following vendors, and authorized Sherry Smith, and/or applicable administrators to sign all related documents:

1) Academic Entertainment; 2) Avalon Transportation; 3) Brick 4 Kidz; 4) Chip Enterprise (Kona Ice); 5) Little Parrot Farm; 6) Marc Griffiths Ventriloquist; 7) New Age Gaming; 8) Parrs Mobile Mini Golf; 9) Traveling Tidepools; 10) Visser Bus Services; 11) Wheels Squared BMX Show.

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 the following donation:
a) Donation of $250.00 from City Creek Enterprises to Banyan Elementary School's Student Fundraiser Account to be used to enhance the instructional program.
b) Donation of $185.32 from Melting Memories, LLC. to Banyan Elementary School's Student Fundraiser Account to be used to enhance the instructional program.

Board Policies
A second reading was held to amend Board Polices.
BP 0460 – Local Control and Accountability Plan
BP 0510 – School Accountability Report Card
BP 5113.1 – Chronic Absence and Truancy
BP 5144.1– Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process
BP 5147 – Dropout Prevention
BP 6142.92 – Mathematics Instruction

Principal – Alta Loma Elementary
During routine personnel items the Board approved Dr. Maureen Vass as the new Principal of Alta Loma Elementary. The newly appointed Principal – Alta Loma Elementary, Dr. Maureen Vass was introduced and congratulated by the Board and Executive Cabinet.

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Information Only
Public Disclosure of the Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement was presented to the Board.

Resolution No. 04-02-25
Moved by Dr. Hurley, seconded by Mrs. Davies, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution No. 04-02-25, State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, and authorize Superintendent Sherry Smith and/or Associate Superintendent Eric Hart to sign all related documents.

Transportation Services

Moved by Ms. Martinez, to table the Discontinuation of the General Education Home-to-School Transportation Services, effective July 1, 2025 for further discussion. There was no second, the motion died.

Moved by Mr. Chung for discussion purposes, and seconded by Mrs. Davies.
A discussion was held, Board members asked many clarifying questions and staff clarified some misinformation that is out in the community.

Trustee Chung amended his original motion for discussion to amend item M. 3 to cut the Visser Transportation Contract by 50% and continue to have General Education Home-to-School Transportation for some students for the 2025-2026 school year and allow staff to figure out how that can be possible.

Moved by Mr. Chung, seconded by Mrs. Davies, and carried with the following vote to approve the reduction in the Visser Transportation Contract by 50% and continue to have General Education Home-to-School Transportation for some of our students for the 2025-2026 school year and allow staff to figure out how that can be possible.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Certificated Employee Master Contract Agreement
Moved by Dr. Hurley, seconded by Mr. Chung, and carried unanimously to adopt the Certificated Master Contract Agreement: Article V – Teaching Hours; Article VI – Class Size; Article XI – Transfer Procedures; Article XII – Reassignment; Article XX – Employee Compensation; Article XXI – Extracurricular and Special Assignment Pay, as required.

BOARD INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Board Policies
A first reading was held to amend Board Policy.
BP 4040 – Employee Use of Technology

Future Agenda Items
Resident Subs Update

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The date of the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 6:00 PM at the Alta Loma School District Support Center, 9390 Base Line Road.

ADJOURNMENT
The Board adjourned to closed session at 8:24 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 meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM in honor and remembrance of Pamela Roberts, an outstanding teacher in our community.