MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 10, 2026

The Board of Education of the Artesia Public School District met in regular session in the Lowell M. Irby Board Room at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER — Mr. Bowman, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL — A Roll Call was taken with the following members present:

JEFF BOWMAN	President
DAVID CONKLIN	Member
KRISTY CROCKETT	Member
BEN HARVEY	Vice President - **Absent**
CHERIE WIDMAYER	Secretary

Staff attending the meeting in person included Darian Jaramillo, Superintendent, Tammy Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability, Halee Goff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Clint Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, and Mykol Hodges, Secretary to the Board. Other staff members that attended in person: Brandon Brabson, Matt Conn, Cari Jowers, Mitzi McCaleb, J. R. Null, Scott Simer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The pledge to the United States flag and the official salute to the New Mexico flag were led by Kristy Crockett.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Mr. Bowman asked if there were any corrections, deletions, or changes to the agenda. Mr. Conklin made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS
There were no Special Presentations or Recognitions presented at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Mrs. Jaramillo requested approval of the Consent Agenda Items, which included the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 13, 2026; Ms. Widmayer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, which was seconded by Mr. Conklin. The motion passed unanimously.

ASST. SUPT. OF FINANCE/OPERATIONS REPORT

A. Mr. Taylor, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, asked the Board to approve the monthly Bills, the Budget Report, the Budget Adjustments, the Fund Balance Report, the Temporary Loans Report, and the Fixed Assets Report as presented. A motion was made by Ms. Widmayer, and it was seconded by Mrs. Crockett to approve the monthly Bills, the Budget Report, the Fund Balance Report, the Budget Adjustments, the Temporary Loans Report, and the Fixed Assets Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. ***Seek Approval of 2026-2027 Amended To and From Transportation Contract**
Mr. Taylor, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval of the 2026–2027 amended To and From Transportation Contract with Kaiser Incorporated. Mr. Conklin made a motion to approve

the 2026–2027 amended To and From Transpiration contract, and Ms. Widmayer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Seek Permission to Issue Request for Bids or Cooperative Quotes for Purchase of Two School Fleet Vehicles

Mr. Taylor sought permission, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, to issue a request for bids or cooperative quotes for the purchase of two new school fleet vehicles. The new vehicles will replace two existing fleet vehicles that have accumulated more than 150,000 miles. Mrs. Crockett made a motion to approve permission to issue a request for bids or obtain cooperative quotes for the purchase of two new school fleet vehicles, and Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Seek Approval of Donation of Two Vehicles to Artesia High School Automotive Program

Mr. Taylor, with the concurrence of Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval to accept the donation of two vehicles from HF Sinclair to the Artesia High School Automotive Program. The donated vehicles will support the program by providing students with hands-on opportunities to develop mechanical skills and receive automotive training. The donated vehicles are identified as Unit 481 – 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup and Unit 492 – 2008 Ford Expedition XLT. Ms. Widmayer made a motion to approve the acceptance of the two donated vehicles for the Artesia High School Automotive Program, and Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. *Seek Approval of Authorization for Superintendent of Schools to Approve Maintenance Budget Adjustment Request for Routine Budgets.

Mr. Taylor, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to approve Maintenance Budget Adjustment Requests for routine budget maintenance within applicable budget functions in the Operating Budget Management System Uniform Chart of Accounts. This authorization does not apply to Budget Adjustment Request increases, decreases, or transfers, which will continue to require Board approval. Mr. Conklin made a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to approve Maintenance Budget Adjustment Requests as presented, and Ms. Widmayer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. *Seek Permission to Obtain Bids or Cooperative Quotes for Districts Technology Replacement Rotation for Teacher Laptops

Mr. Taylor, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval to obtain bids or cooperative quotes for the district's technology replacement rotation for teacher laptops. Ms. Widmayer made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Mrs. Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. *Seek Permission to Issue Request for Qualifications for Furniture Fixtures and Equipment for Career Center 2

Mr. Taylor, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought permission to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for furniture, fixtures, and equipment for Career Center 2. Ms. Widmayer made a motion to approve the request, and Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Construction Update

Mr. Simer provided the Board with an update on several district construction and maintenance projects. He expressed how pleased he has been with the vendors, both locally and throughout the state, noting that they have worked very well together and have kept the projects moving efficiently. He provided an update on the progress of the Career Center 2 (CC2) building and shared updated photos of the suites at Bulldog Bowl and the Junior High School project, which was completed approximately one week ahead of schedule. He also shared photos of the newly installed LED lighting. Mr. Simer reported that the Hermosa reroofing project is progressing well and is currently approximately one month ahead of schedule.

ASST. SUPT. OF ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY\DIRECTOR OF CURRICULM & INSTRUCTION

Mrs. Goff reported on the district's back-to-school professional development. Principals began by meeting with staff at their school sites, while Mrs. Goff and Mrs. Jaramillo visited each campus and observed positive learning and collaboration. Training included Canvas, Synergy, and SAVVAS, the district's newly adopted math curriculum. Wednesday's professional development would focus on Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) and active shooter training. Teachers were also provided time to prepare their classrooms before welcoming students on Thursday.

A. Report on APS Mentor Program for New Teachers
Mrs. Goff reported on the district's Teacher Induction Mentoring Program, which began Friday with 18 new teachers and 15 mentor teachers. Mentors and mentees will participate in monthly training, coaching, and feedback sessions designed to support teachers throughout their first year. She shared positive feedback from a new teacher who expressed appreciation for the welcoming staff and district facilities.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. STAFF AND OPERATIONS ITEMS: Mrs. Jaramillo announced the following:

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:
None for this meeting

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Mrs. Jaramillo sought approval of a leave of absence for Pamela Herring, a cafeteria cook at Grand Heights Early Childhood Center, for the 2026–2027 school year. Mrs. Crockett made a motion to approve the leave of absence, and Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESIGNATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Gail Melpolder — Orientation/Mobility Specialist, SPED
- Jacob Padilla — SLP, SPED
- Heather Lieb — ACCESS Ed. Asst., AJHS

EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Corina Abalos — Crossing Guard, Yeso
- Diocelina Arroyo — Cook Helper, Cafeteria
- Madison Anderson — Teacher, Yucca
- Max Seidel — Teacher, Yucca
- Kenevan Bailey — Math Teacher/Coach, AJHS
- Krystal Braswell — ACCESS Ed. Asst., AJHS

CURRENT JOB POSTINGS:

- DD Pre-School Educational Assistant – Grand Heights ECC
- Piano Accompanist & Choral Educational Asst. – Artesia High School
- Speech Therapist (SLP) – Artesia Public Schools
- Cafeteria Cook Helper (5 Hours) Grand Heights ECC
- Cafeteria Cook Helper (5 Hours) Hermosa
- 2026-2027 – Substitute Teachers – Artesia Public Schools
- 2026-2027 – Substitute Cafeteria Assistants & Substitute Custodians – APS
- Activity Bus Drivers – Artesia Public Schools
- School Bus Drivers – Artesia Public Schools via Kaiser, Inc.

B. *Seek Approval of Policy Services Advisories 273-278

Mrs. Jaramillo sought approval of the policy modifications included in Policy Services Advisories 273–278. She reminded the Board that the advisories were presented for a first reading in July and that no revisions were recommended by the Board at that time. She explained that the advisories include new policies as well as revisions to existing Board policies. Copies of the current policies, proposed revisions, and a brief explanation of each advisory were provided in the Board packet. Mr. Conklin made a motion to approve Policy Services Advisories 273–278 as presented, and Mrs. Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Policy Advisory 273 – GBGC Employee Assistance (Revision):** Updates the Employee Assistance policy to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by clarifying the criteria for requiring employee medical examinations and expanding the types of licensed health care providers authorized to conduct those examinations.

- **Policy Advisory 274 – KDB Public's Right to Know (Revision):** Revises the Public's Right to Know policy and request form to better align with New Mexico's Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) and clarify existing language.

- **Policy Advisory 275 – GCIA Teacher Residency Program (New APS Policy):** Establishes a Teacher Residency Program policy consistent with the Teacher Residency Act, as amended by House Bill 30, and clarifies that residency stipends are not paid directly by school districts.

- **Policy Advisory 276 – JICJ Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices in Schools (Revision):** Updates the policy to incorporate Public Education Department guidance requiring annual digital citizenship instruction for students, including education on screen time and social media safety.

- **Policy Advisory 277 – JLCEC Cardiac Emergency Response Plan; Automated External Defibrillators (Revision):** Revises the policy to comply with updated state law requiring cardiac emergency response plans, employee AED training, and accessible automated external defibrillators at school athletic activities.

- **Policy Advisory 278 – JLF Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection (Revision):** Updates the policy to reflect current state laws and regulations regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect, required staff training, and applicable legal references.

C. Report on Artesia Public Schools Strategic Plan 2026-2027

Mrs. Jaramillo reported on the revised APS Strategic Plan for the 2026–2029 school years, noting that it has been streamlined and focuses on three main goals that build upon one another: improving attendance, creating opportunities for teacher learning and student engagement, and increasing the graduation rate. She emphasized that the Strategic Plan is a working document and may be revised as needed.

D. *Seek Approval to Move October Board Meeting from October 12 to October 19

Mrs. Jaramillo sought approval to reschedule the October 12, 2026, Board of Education meeting to October 19, 2026, due to the Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day holiday. Artesia Public Schools will be closed on October 12 in observance of the holiday. Ms. Widmayer made a motion to approve rescheduling the October Board of Education meeting from October 12 to October 19, 2026, and Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Update on Various Events and Activities in the District/PED/Legislation

Mrs. Jaramillo reported on several NMHSCA recognitions. Sandra Pulido received the Level 2 Milestone Award for achieving 200 softball wins, and Coach Crandall was named Assistant Coach

of the Year for golf. Coach Cooper and L.G. Henderson were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Mrs. Jaramillo also shared highlights from the administrative retreat and New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders (NMCEL) events.

9. **Public Forum** – None for this meeting

10. Dates to Remember
    - August 10-12 Staff Professional Development Days
    - August 13 First Day of School
    - September 7 No School in Observance of Labor Day
    - September 14 Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting – 6:00 pm
    - September 21 NMSBA Region VI Meeting in Eunice

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
    None for this meeting.

12. **ADJOURNMENT** – The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Cherie Widmayer, Secretary