MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 9, 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
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: Matt Conn, Jeremy Maupin, Mitzi McCaleb, Scott Neel, JR Null, Scott Simer, RheaLynn Kaufman, Kate DeHoyos, Chanda Crandall, Susie Parker, Marsha Molina, Kaci Whitmire, Michael Mondragon and Lynn Worley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The pledge to the United States flag and the official salute to the New Mexico flag were led by Mrs. 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, and Mr. Harvey seconded the motion. Mrs. Jaramillo noted a grammatical error in Item E under the Assistant Superintendent of Finance/Operations Report, stating that “interment” should be corrected to “internet services.” The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS
Representatives from HF Sinclair, Debbie Rowland, Richard Pinson, and David Bellinger, presented Artesia Public Schools with a check in support of the District’s partnership with HF Sinclair. The contribution recognizes their continued support of the District’s STEM programs, the CE2 building, and initiatives involving the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED).

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Mrs. Jaramillo requested approval of the Consent Agenda Items, which included the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 5, 2026, Ms. Widmayer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, which was seconded by Mrs. Crockett. 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, and the Temporary Loans Report as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Harvey, and it was seconded by Mr. Conklin to approve the monthly Bills, the Budget Report, the Fund Balance Report, the Budget Adjustments, and the Temporary Loans Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Seek Approval of Cooperative Contract Listing

Mr. Taylor, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval to continue utilizing the following purchasing cooperatives: Allied States Cooperative by Educational Service Center 19, Cooperative Educational Services (CES), OMNIA Partners, Equalis Group, The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), and Sourcewell. Mr. Taylor explained that this approval would allow the District to remain in compliance with Section 13-1-135 of the New Mexico Procurement Code but would not eliminate the need to bring future purchases through these cooperatives before the Board for approval. He also noted that the District intends to submit the list of purchasing cooperatives to the Board for approval on an annual basis. Mrs. Crockett made a motion to approve the continued use of the purchasing cooperatives as presented. Ms. Widmayer seconded the motion.

C. *Seek Approval of Cooperative Proposal for Special Materials Testing for Roselawn Elementary Construction

Mr. Taylor, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval of a cooperative proposal from Smith Engineering Company totaling $211,766.19 for special materials testing at Roselawn Elementary School. Mr. Harvey made a motion to approve the cooperative proposal from Smith Engineering Company for special materials testing at Roselawn Elementary School and Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. This will come from HB33 funds. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Seek Approval of two Resolutions for New Mexico Schools Insurance Authority for Benefits Eligible Employees

Mr. Taylor, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval of two resolutions for the New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority (NMPSIA) regarding benefits for eligible employees. Due to the implications of HB 47, the first resolution addresses reinstating previously waived benefits, while the second addresses restoring coverage options previously lost due to competing lines of coverage. NMPSIA Additional Life coverage was included in both resolutions following the October open enrollment period. Mr. Conklin made a motion to approve both resolutions, and Mrs. Crockett seconded the motion.

E. *Seek Permission to Obtain Bids or Cooperative Quotes for Internet Services

Mr. Taylor concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval to obtain bids or cooperative quotes for District internet services. Mr. Conklin made a motion to approve obtaining bids or cooperative quotes for District Internet Services and Mrs. Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A. *Seek Approval of the School Safety Plans

Mrs. Kiemle concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval of the District's School Safety Plans. Copies of each school's plan were provided to the Board for review, with certain safety protocols and procedures remaining confidential. This is the first year the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) has required school boards to formally approve these plans. Mr. Harvey made a motion to approve the school safety plans and Ms. Widmayer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Seek Approval of District's Literacy Plan 2026-2027

Ms. Kiemle, concurred by Mrs. Jaramillo, sought approval of the District's K–5 Literacy Plan for 2026–2027. The plan highlights improvements in student reading proficiency and outlines goals to strengthen literacy achievement through targeted instruction, teacher training, dyslexia screening, and family involvement. The plan was submitted to the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) and accepted without revisions. Mr. Conklin made a motion to approve the District's Literacy 2026-2027 plan and Ms. Widmayer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. First Reading of Revisions to Board Policy I-7350 Graduation Requirements

Mrs. Goff presented the first reading of revisions to Board Policy I-7350, Graduation Requirements. The proposed changes would reduce the number of credits required for graduation from 50 to 25, with each class worth 0.5 credit instead of 1 credit. These revisions would align the District with NMPED requirements and other area schools while providing greater consistency for transfer students.

D. Report on K-3 Read-At-Home-Plans
Mrs. Goff also provided an update on the K–3 Read-at-Home Plans, established under Senate Bill 37, the High-Quality Literacy Act. The program requires schools to provide families with individualized literacy plans, reading progress updates, and take-home literacy materials four times per year. School principals will serve as Literacy Champions to coordinate the program. NMPED will send students books 4 times a year. NMPED has partnered with Just Right Reader to provide specialized book packages for parents to utilize at home. November 13 should be the first shipment and go home with students on November 20.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

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

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Emilio Gonzales	Maintenance

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS:
None for this meeting

RESIGNATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Yolanda Sandoval	Educational Assistant, GHECC
Ashley Dilley	SpEd Teacher, Roselawn

EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Makenzie Kormendy — SpEd Educational Assistant, District
- Maria Nava — DD Pre School Educational Assistant, GHECC

CURRENT JOB POSTINGS:

- D-Level Special Education Teacher – Roselawn Elementary
- Gifted Teacher Part-Time (.40) – Artesia Public Schools
- Volunteer Application 2026-2027
- Activity Bus Drivers – Artesia Public Schools via B&G, Inc.
- School Bus Drivers – Artesia Public Schools via Kaiser, Inc.
- 2026-2027 – Substitute Cafeteria Assistants & Substitute Custodians – APS
- Speech Therapist (SLP) – Artesia Public Schools

B. *Seek Approval of NMSBA Policy Service Advisories 279-281
Mrs. Jaramillo sought approval of NMSBA Policy Service Advisories 279-281. Mrs. Jaramillo sought approval of Policy Service revisions to Advisories 279–281, which were presented for first reading at the October Board meeting. The revisions address current legal requirements regarding religious expression in public schools and include Policy ACD – Commitment to Religious Neutrality, Policy JHCB – Released Time for Religious Instruction, and Policy JJAB – Limited Open/Closed Forum. These updates are intended to ensure compliance with state and federal laws while protecting students' rights to religious expression. Mr. Harvey made a motion to approve the NMSBA Policy Service Advisories 279-281 and Mrs. Crockett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Report on 40th Day Student Enrollment
Mrs. Jaramillo reported that the District had submitted its 40-day student enrollment report. A chart was provided showing enrollment trends over the past nine years, reflecting a continued decline in student

enrollment. The District is down 80 students compared to last year's 40-day count and approximately 207 students over the past nine years. The chart also highlighted kindergarten enrollment trends, showing a decrease from 321 students in the 2020–2021 school year to 254 students this year. Mrs. Jaramillo noted that declining enrollment is a concern nationwide, with contributing factors including lower birth rates and increased enrollment in charter schools, private schools, and homeschooling. She also shared that kindergarten enrollment nationwide is projected to decline by approximately 32% by 2028.

D. Update on Various Events and Activities in the District/PED/Legislation
Mrs. Jaramillo informed the Board of the upcoming District Showcase Assembly scheduled for December 1, 2026, and the Roselawn Elementary Groundbreaking Ceremony on December 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. She also highlighted recent student achievements, including both boys' and girls' soccer teams winning district championships and advancing to state playoffs, both cross-country teams winning district titles, and volleyball earning the sixth seed in the state tournament. Mr. Maupin provided an update on district athletic activities. Additionally, the band performed well at the state competition, although they did not advance to the finals, and nine students earned spots in the All-State Choir.

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

10. Dates to Remember
    - November 11 Veterans' Day (Program at Estelle Yates Auditorium)
    - November 23-27 No School – Thanksgiving Holiday Break
    - December 1 District Showcase Assembly – 10:00 am
    - December 3-5 NMSBA Annual Convention in Albuquerque
    - December 9 Groundbreaking for Roselawn Elementary – 10:00 am
    - December 14 Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting – 6:00 pm
    - December 18 End of Quarter2/Semester 1
    - Dec 21 – Jan 1 Winter Break (Staff Returns 01/04/27-Students Return 01/05/26)

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

12. ADJOURNMENT – The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

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Cherie Widmayer, Secretary