



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

4400 Cathedral Oaks Road
P.O. Box 6307
Santa Barbara, CA 93160-6307

REGULAR MEETING
May 9, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

UNAPPROVED

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1. **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the County Board of Education was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Board President Judy Frost.

2. **Spanish Interpretation/Interpretación**

The president announced that Spanish interpretation of the board meeting was unavailable due to unexpected circumstances.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The vice president led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Roll Call**

Board Members Present

Vedamarie Alvarez Flores
Marybeth Carty
Michelle de Werd
Nadra Ehrman
Judith Frost
Joe Howell
Bruce Porter

Staff Members Present

Susan Salcido, superintendent
Austin Payne, legal counsel
Anna Freedland, executive assistant

Ellen Barger	Kirsten Escobedo	Steve Keithley	Steve Torres
Camie Barnwell	Nicole Evenson	Don Lockwood	
Bridget Baublits	Anne Flores	Luis Medina	
Tracie Cordero	Isabel Guerrero	Amy Ramos	

Others Present

Nancy Barclay, Classified School Employee of the Year
Laura Branch, 2025 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year
Marianne Heuchert, Classified School Employee of the Year
Kara Lane, Classified School Employee of the Year
Mike Ostini, Personnel Commissioner
Deborah Smith, Classified School Employee of the Year
Greg Wolf, 2024 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year
Friends, family members, and colleagues of the honorees

5. Changes to the Agenda

None.

6. President and Board Comments

The president and board members commented on various topics, including:

- The president shared about upcoming events: Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara Awards Ceremonies on May 21 (Santa Barbara) and May 22 (Santa Maria); Allan Hancock College Foundation scholarship event on May 23; SBCEO's Education Celebration on May 23; Mother's Day on May 12.
- Board Member Carty congratulated the superintendent on her recent award, "2024 Women of Achievement," from the Association of Women in Communications Santa Barbara. She also shared about a recent First 5 Santa Barbara County education session.
- Board Member Howell briefly commented on the Tradart Foundation's "The Big Show" student woodworking competition and construction technology event being held in the SBCEO Auditorium that evening.
- Board Member de Werd shared that she missed last month's board meeting due to serving on a jury. She shared about a recent California School Boards Association (CSBA) webinar about the transition from the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) to the CSBA. Mrs. de Werd also acknowledged receipt of 41 emails that she, the board, and the superintendent received (in April) from SBCEO staff members regarding various concerns. She expressed appreciation for the staff members and gratitude for them writing.
- Board Member Alvarez Flores shared about the Strawberry Industry Appreciation event in Santa Maria, hosted by the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, that she attended.

7. Public Comments

None.

RECOGNITIONS

8. Santa Barbara County Classified School Employees of the Year Recognition

The superintendent provided background on the Classified School Employee of the Year program. Dr. Salcido and the members of the board announced the 2024 Santa Barbara County Classified School Employees of the Year and presented them with certificates of recognition:

- Marianne Heuchert, Orcutt Union School District, clerical and administrative services category
- Nancy Barclay, Lompoc Unified School District, custodial and maintenance services category
- Deborah Smith, Goleta Union School District, health and student services category
- Kara Lane, Orcutt Union School District, paraprofessional services category

9. Teacher of the Year Announcement

The superintendent announced the 2025 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year, Laura Branch, a science teacher at Ernest Righetti High School. The superintendent and Board President Frost presented Mrs. Branch with a plaque on behalf of the board.

Board adjourned for a brief recess at 2:44 p.m. Board reconvened at 2:59 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

10. Superintendent’s Report

The superintendent’s report was presented as an information item. Dr. Salcido also shared the following information:

- SBCEO’s Battle of the Books – The superintendent showed a 1-minute photo and video montage of recent student events hosted by SBCEO, including the Battle of the Books event in the south county, which was covered by National Public Radio (NPR).
- Tradart Foundation’s “The Big Show” student woodworking competition and construction technology show – The event was being held that evening in the SBCEO Auditorium. Dr. Salcido reminded the board that Frank Schipper, who founded the event, sponsored the Marvin Melvin

CTE Award, which would be awarded at the SBCEO Education Celebration on May 23.

- ACSA Region 13 Administrator Awards Ceremony – The event was held last week in Ventura. Cold Spring School District Superintendent/Principal Dr. Amy Alzina is a regional and state honoree. The Erik Frost Memorial Leadership Award was given to Paul Bommersbach of Lompoc Unified School District.
- May Revise – The superintendent reported that Governor Newsom’s May Revise to the state budget would be announced on May 10. She shared that, on May 29, the Capitol Advisors group would hold an in-person workshop on the May Revise at SBCEO and offer virtual workshops on May 29 and 30.
- Search for preschool facilities (Early Care and Education, and Special Education) – The superintendent reminded the board that SBCEO was actively seeking 4-6 classroom spaces for preschools. She reported that since last month’s report, SBCEO staff had spoken with staff at Allan Hancock College, Supervisor Nelson’s and Supervisor Lavangnino’s offices, and the Santa Maria city manager, and had 1 site visit.
- SBCEO employee meetings and negotiations – Dr. Salcido provided a brief summary of the employee meetings held recently. The superintendent also reported that SBCEO’s negotiations process was in the final stages of solidifying the next 3-year contracts with the unions.
- Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) – The superintendent reported on a student field trip to the Pismo Preserve and on additional supports for students and staff due to recent student behavioral impacts at Peter B. FitzGerald Community School.

CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved all consent items:

11. Minutes of Meeting Held April 11, 2024

12. Registration of Credentials and Other Certification Documents: Issuance of Temporary County Certificates

Registration of credentials and other certification documents registered in the Santa Barbara County Education Office from March 7, 2024 to April 6, 2024, and the issuance of temporary county certificates for that same time period.

13. Acceptance of Donations

Acceptance of donations for the following department:

- Teacher Programs and Support

14. Declaration of Surplus

Declaration of surplus for the following departments:

- Administrative Services
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Early Care and Education
- School Business Advisory Services

Motion to approve all consent items:

MOVED: **Mrs. Alvarez Flores** SECONDED: **Mrs. Carty** VOTE: **Passed 7-0**

ACTION ITEMS

15. Reimburse Expenses for Board Members to Attend the SBCEO Education Celebration

The board approved the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses for board members to attend the SBCEO Education Celebration, May 23, 2024, in accordance with Board Policy 9250.

MOVED: **Mrs. Carty** SECONDED: **Mrs. Alvarez Flores** VOTE: **Passed 6-1**
Porter voted no

16. Reimburse Expenses for Board Members to Attend the State of Vandenberg Space Force Base

The board approved the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses for board members to attend the State of Vandenberg Space Force Base luncheon, May 17, 2024, hosted by the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, in accordance with Board Policy 9250.

MOVED: **Ms. Ehrman** SECONDED: **Mrs. Carty** VOTE: **Passed 5-2**
de Werd and Porter voted no

INFORMATION ITEMS

17. Report by the Board Organization Committee

Board Organization and Development Committee Chair Howell reported on the recent committee meeting about board governance planning and training options. He stated that the committee recommended enhancing the board webpage, creating an onboarding handbook for board members, and planning a future board working session. The board agreed that the committee should continue to

work on the first 2 items but wait to plan a board working session until after the board election in November.

18. Personnel Report

The certificated and classified personnel reports were presented as an information item.

DISCUSSION ITEM

19. Discussion about Expulsion Appeal Hearing Proceedings

In anticipation of an expected expulsion appeal hearing at the June 14, 2024 board meeting, the superintendent and legal counsel shared about the proceedings of an expulsion appeal hearing, including details for the closed session. The board discussed and asked questions about the proceedings to the superintendent and legal counsel.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

20. Future agenda items

The following were mentioned as potential future agenda items:

- Discussion about board meeting start time.
- Discussion about conflict of interest related to SBCEO-administered non-profit organizations.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) use, management or protocol in education.

ADJOURNMENT

21. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m. to the next regular meeting to be held Friday, June 14, 2024 in Santa Maria at 2:00 p.m.

MOVED: Mrs. Carty

SECONDED: Mrs. Alvarez Flores VOTE: Passed 7-0

Judith Frost, President
County Board of Education

Dr. Susan Salcido, Secretary
County Board of Education