

SANDABS

San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Schools

SANDABS Executive Committee

Karen Gray
SANDABS Co-Chair
CSBA Director of Region 16
At-Large Trustee
Silver Valley Unified

Cali Binks
SANDABS Vice-Chair
East Valley
Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified

Cindy Gardner
SANDABS Vice-Chair
SBCSBA President
At-Large Trustee
Rim of the World Unified

Ted Alejandre
County Superintendent

Jason Angle
East Valley
CRY-ROP

Ricky Alyassi
West End
West End SELPA

Christina Behringer
Desert/Mountain
Snowline Joint Unified

Don English, Ed.D.
West End
Chaffey Joint Union High

Dan Flores
East Valley
Colton Joint Unified

Israel Fuentes
East Valley
Colton Joint Unified

Ryan McEachron
Desert/Mountain
County Board of Education

Frank Miranda, Ed.D.
East Valley
Colton Joint Unified

Douglass Moss, Ph.D.
West End
Mountain View

Trenae Nelson
Desert/Mountain
Apple Valley Unified

Amy Nguyen-Hernandez, Ed.D.
West End
Central

Eric Swanson
SBCSBA Legislative Chair
At-Large Trustee
Hesperia Unified

Cary Willborn
West End
Chaffey Joint Union High

SANDABS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

2:02 to 3:40 p.m.

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chair Cali Binks called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed a quorum through roll call attendance of SANDABS Executive Committee members.

Establishment of a Quorum

Desert/Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley

Executive Committee:

Trenae Nelson, Apple Valley Unified
Ryan McEachron, County Board of Education
Christina Behringer, Snowline Joint Unified

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) Staff:
Nailea Ndrekaj, Project Specialist, Communications and IGR

Dorothy Inghram Learning Center, San Bernardino

Executive Committee:

Cali Binks, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified
Israel Fuentes, Colton Joint Unified
Cindy Gardner, Rim of the World Unified
Frank Miranda, Colton Joint Unified
Jason Angle, East Valley CRY-ROP
Dan Flores, Colton Joint Unified

SBCSS Staff:

James Fields, Senior Manager, IGR and Communications
Jennifer Loa, Project Specialist, Communications and IGR

West End Educational Service Center, Rancho Cucamonga

Executive Committee:

Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent
Don English, Chaffey Joint Unified
Sherman Garnett, Upland Unified
Amy Nguyen-Hernandez, Central

West End Educational Service Center, Rancho Cucamonga (cont.)

Douglas Moss, Mountain View
Cary Willborn, Chaffey Joint Union High

SBCSS Staff:

Jenny Owen, Director, Communications and IGR
Victoria Gauci, Communications and IGR

Executive Committee Members Absent:

Karen Gray, Silvey Valley Unified
Eric Swanson, Hesperia Unified

2.0 Public Comments [Informational/Discussion]

Members of the public were provided the opportunity to provide comment on agenda items and non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Executive Committee.

Desert/Mountain Educational Service Center

No public comment.

Dorothy Inghram Learning Center

No public comment.

West End Educational Service Center

One community member was present for public comment. Comments were made during Agenda Item 9.0.

3.0 Approval of December 11, 2024, Minutes [Discussion/Action]

The SANDABS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2024, were included with the agenda and were presented for approval by the Executive Committee. There were no comments from the Executive Committee regarding the minutes.

Cindy Gardner moved to approve the December 11, 2024, SANDABS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Jason Angle seconded. Motion passed.

Aye: Ted Alejandre, Jason Angle, Cali Binks, Cindy Gardner, Frank Miranda, Ryan McEachron, Ricky Alyassi, Douglas Moss, Cary Willborn, Christina Behringer, Don English, Amy Nguyen-Hernandez, Dan Flores, Trenae Nelson.

Nay: None

Motion Passed: 14-0

4.0 County Superintendent of Schools Update [Informational/Discussion]

County Superintendent Ted Alejandre provided the following updates to the Executive Committee

- The Student Advisory Panel is an integral part of the San Bernardino Community Vital Signs Initiative, providing students a platform to share their insights and collaborate on initiatives that shape their academic and campus experience. County Superintendent Ted Alejandre invited members of the Executive Committee to serve on the panels taking place in Needles, Baker Valley, and the East Valley, High Desert, and West End regions.

- The San Bernardino County School Boards Association, in partnership with SBCSS, held its Annual Meeting on February 3, 2025. Eight school districts in San Bernardino County received California School Boards Association Golden Bell Awards for their impactful and exemplary programs.
- Student events are well underway throughout the county, with recent successful events including the Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and Honor Band Concerts. These events continue to showcase the talent and hard work of our students across a variety of academic and extracurricular disciplines.

5.0 Recognition of Outgoing Executive Committee Member [Informational/Discussion]

Outgoing Executive Committee member Sherman Garnett from Upland Unified School District was recognized for his four years of dedicated service on the committee. County Superintendent Ted Alejandre shared Board Member Garnett's contributions have been invaluable and expressed his gratitude for his commitment and leadership.

6.0 SBCSBA Annual Meeting and Election of SANDABS Trustee Representatives [Informational/Discussion]

SBCSBA held elections for the SANDABS trustee representatives during its Annual Meeting on February 3, 2025. The term for each regional trustee representative is two years. The following trustees were elected as a regional representative:

- Regional Representatives:
 - Daniel Flores, Colton Joint Unified, East Valley Region
 - Ryan McEachron, County Board of Education, Desert/Mountain Region
 - Cary Willborn, Chaffey Joint Union High, West End Region

7.0 Annual Election of SANDABS Officers [Discussion/Action]

In accordance with Article VI – Officers of the SANDABS Bylaws, the annual election of officers for the SANDABS Executive Committee were conducted at the February meeting. The term for an officer is one year and will expire in February 2026. Officers may serve one or more years at the pleasure of the SANDABS Executive Committee.

The following SANDABS Executive Committee members expressed interest in serving:

- Karen Gray as Trustee Co-Chair
- Trenae Nelson as Superintendent Co-Chair
- Cindy Gardner as Trustee Vice-Chair
- Cali Binks as Superintendent Vice Chair

Frank Miranda moved to accept all interested Executive Committee members as nominees and elect them to the respective officer positions. Israel Fuentes seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Aye: Ted Alejandre, Jason Angle, Cali Binks, Cindy Gardner, Frank Miranda, Ryan McEachron, Ricky Alyassi, Douglas Moss, Cary Willborn, Christina Behringer, Don English, Israel Fuentes, Amy Nguyen-Hernandez, Dan Flores, Trenae Nelson.

Nay: None

Motion Passed: 15-0

8.0 Review of Legislation and Activities by Legislative Advocates [Informational/Discussion]

8.1 Washington D.C. Update

Kevin Gordon, President, and Caitlin Jung, Partner, with Capitol Advisors Group, discussed the SANDABS Federal Advocacy Report and provided the following federal education updates on legislative, budget, and policy issues:

- Governor Gavin Newsom signed a special session bill providing \$2.5 billion in reserved funding for fire mitigation costs for state and local governments. The expectation is that federal funding will replenish these reserves.

8.2 Sacramento Update

Kevin Gordon, President, and Caitlin Jung, Partner, with Capitol Advisors Group, discussed the SANDABS Video Update and provided the following state education updates on legislative, budget, and policy issues:

- There are no final budget numbers, but a forecast shows a \$700 million revenue decline, which is less than expected. A significant factor is Governor Gavin Newsom's announcement that Los Angeles and Ventura counties will be exempt from tax obligations until October. A full scope of state revenue will be delayed, but the funds will show eventually.
- Governor Gavin Newsom proposed a one-time, discretionary \$1.8 billion block grant. While the trailer outlines priorities, it does not specify requirements or the extent of its discretionary nature.
- Governor Gavin Newsom has taken a conservative approach in anticipation of changes to revenue by placing a hold on \$1.6 billion of Proposition 98 funding. While this approach is in preparation of a potential decline in state revenue, there are concerns regarding withholding funds based on estimates. In addition to the \$1.8 billion in discretionary funding, the state could have a total of \$3.4 billion in funding if the Governor decides to revise his approach in his May Revision or by July 1.

9.0 Adoption of Positions on Pending Legislation [Discussion/Action]

Rita Fernandez-Loof expressed concerns about proposing new legislation. She commented on Alta Loma School District's Measure G, which was not passed.

The addendum was distributed to the Executive Committee and made available for public viewing. Caitlin Jung and Kevin Gordon introduced and discussed the addendum to Agenda Item 9.0 outlined below.

State Legislative Proposals

Recommend: Oppose Unless Amended

- 9.1 Assembly Bill (AB) 65 by Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry (D-Woodland): School and community college employees: paid disability and parental leave.

Recommend: Watch

- 9.2 AB 49 by Assembly Member Muratsuchi (D-Torrance): School sites and day care centers: entry requirements: immigration enforcement.

- 9.3 Senate Bill (SB) 48 by Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach): Immigration enforcement: schoolsites: prohibitions on access, sharing information, and law enforcement collaboration.
- 9.4 SB 98 by Senator Pérez (D-Burbank): Elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education: immigration enforcement: notification.

Cindy Gardner moved to adopt the recommended positions for Agenda Items 9.1-9.4 as provided by Capitol Advisors Group. Dan Flores seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Aye: Cindy Gardner, Cali Binks, Ted Alejandre, Ricky Alyassi, Jason Angle, Christina Behringer, Don English, Dan Flores, Ryan McEachron, Frank Miranda, Douglass Moss, Trenae Nelson, Amy Nguyen-Hernandez, Cary Willborn

Nay: None

Motion passed: 14-0

Federal Legislative Proposals

- 9.5 There were no additional developments on Agenda Item 9.5.

10.0 Emerging Advocacy Items [Informational/Discussion]

Members of the Executive Committee were invited to share information and/or updates on emerging challenges or best practices within their region

- 10.1 Dan Flores discussed Governor Gavin Newsom's Zero-Emission by 2035 Executive Order. The cost of transitioning school buses is a concern, and a pilot program with northern districts showed clear challenges, including limited range, high costs, technology issues, and repair difficulties. These challenges have been incorporated into the state's future platform for consideration.
- 10.2 Amy Nguyen-Hernandez expressed school safety concerns regarding school sites having to be open to the public when they are being used as voting sites.

11.0 2025 SANDABS State and Federal Platforms [Discussion/Action]

Capitol Advisors Group presented the second draft of the 2025 SANDABS State and Federal Legislative Platforms for review, discussion and approval.

Ricky Alyassi moved to approve the 2025 State and Federal Legislative Platforms. Frank Miranda seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Aye: Cindy Gardner, Cali Binks, Ted Alejandre, Ricky Alyassi, Jason Angle, Christina Behringer, Don English, Dan Flores, Ryan McEachron, Frank Miranda, Douglass Moss, Trenae Nelson, Amy Nguyen-Hernandez, Cary Willborn

Nay: None

Motion passed: 14-0

12.0 Elected Officials Reports [Informational/Discussion]

Kimberly Mesen, District Director, from the office of County Supervisor Paul Cook, shared the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved a contract with the University of Science and Medicine to provide pediatric care at the Apple Valley Arterial Head Start school program in order to prevent a lapse in the program's services. She also shared Supervisor Cook was appointed as the Chair of the Federal Affairs Commission where he will oversee the county's lobbying efforts to pursue federal grants and funding.

Corrine Mora, Field Representative, from the office of Congressman Jay Obernolte, shared information on the Laken Riley Act and the Congressman's reintroduction of legislation to strengthen the 988-suicide prevention hotline.

Patricia Acosta, External Affairs Manager, and Sarah Farouq, Community Outreach Specialist, from the office of Attorney General Rob Bonta, shared valuable resources on the rights and protections of undocumented immigrants including guidance on immigration scams, legal assistance and complaints, and collaboration with educators.

13.0 Future Agenda Items [Informational/Discussion]

There are no future agenda items to discuss.

14.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the SANDABS Executive Committee will be held on March 12, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- **Desert/Mountain Educational Service Center**
17800 Highway 18, Indigo Room, Apple Valley, California 92307
- **Dorothy Inghram Learning Center**
670 East Carnegie Drive, Room C, San Bernardino, California 92407
- **West End Educational Service Center**
8265 Aspen Avenue, Belden Room, Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730