



BOARD MINUTES
March 18, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER IN PUBLIC SESSION – The CalAPS regular board meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, by Brad Carihfield. In attendance were President – Brad Carihfield, Vice President – Amie Stewart, Clerk – Erik Linstead, Member – Alfonso Morales and CalAPS Interim CEO - Arlene Whitney. The meeting was called to order in Bellflower Unified School District Building A – 16703 S Clark Ave, Bellflower, CA 90706

REPLACEMENT PAGES – NONE.

ROLL CALL – Brad Carihfield, Amie Stewart, Erik Linstead and Alfonso Morales were present along with CalAPS Interim CEO Arlene Whitney.

CalAPS BOARD COMMUNICATION/INTRODUCTIONS – NONE.

CalAPS STAFF COMMUNICATION/INTRODUCTIONS – Arlene updated the board about CTE Awareness Month this past February, the CalAPS team provided the instructors with a T-shirt that highlighted the CTE pathways with the theme “In Our CTE Era” along with a light afternoon meal. Both were delivered to their classrooms to celebrate their hard work and commitment.

Arlene shared that our SkillsUSA regional competitions wrapped up in mid-February. From the regional competitions, 13 students qualified to state competition in April. Students and Advisors are continuing to come in on Saturday’s to practice and prepare for their competitions.

Additionally, Arlene and eight of the CalAPS instructors attended the Educating for Careers conference in Sacramento. During the conference, staff received valuable insights; professional development and networking opportunities that will help them continue strengthening our CTE program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION – NONE.

VISITORS’ AGENDA ITEMS – NONE.

ACTION ITEMS

STAFF CORRECTIONS – Arlene made two corrections to the agenda. The first correction was the inclusion of the resolution in the board members’ binders therefore; the resolution was added to the binder for board member reference regarding the Approval of Appointment.

The second correction is the addition of Item 508 - Board Bylaw 9330 – “Participation in Organizations by the Board” to the Consent Agenda. This item was included at the request of the Board President to allow for a discussion and action on the Board participation in professional organizations, reimbursement policies, and Board Member compensation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Approval of the minutes from the January 14, 2025 Board Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yes: 4(Linstead, Morales, Stewart, Crihfield)

No: 0

The motion carried

MAJOR ACTION – Approval of Appointment of the “Interim Chief Executive Officer” to “Chief Executive Officer” for California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS)

The Board approved the appointment of the Interim Chief Executive Officer to Chief Executive Officer for CalAPS. This action affirms the agreement between the Bellflower Unified School District and CalAPS to provide administrative services through a BUSD administrator. The agreement outlines the terms of employment, including duties and responsibilities related to the strategic direction, operational oversight, and continued development of career pathways and educational initiatives.

During the discussion, Ms. Stewart inquired about health and welfare benefits to ensure the appointee was aware of and agreed to any changes. Brad asked whether the agreement was an annual contract requiring yearly review. Mrs. Whitney clarified that the agreement is subject to review after three years. Mr. Crihfield also noted that the Board would continue to work on the CEO’s evaluation during closed session.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yes: 4(Linstead, Stewart, Morales, Crihfield)

No: 0

The motion carried

CONSENT AGENDA – Item 101 and Item 508 WITHHELD from Consent Agenda

Agenda – The Board Approves the Consent Agenda

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yes: 4(Linstead, Morales, Stewart, Crihfield)

No: 0

The motion carried

Withheld for Discussion and Action – Item 101 – Calendar 2024 – 2025 and Item 508 - Board Bylaw 9330 - Participation in Organizations by the Board

Item 101 – Calendar 2024 - 2025

Mrs. Whitney informed the Board of potential scheduling conflicts with end-of-year events that may impact board member availability. Mayfair High School’s Senior Awards and Scholarship Night is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, during which BUSD board members traditionally attend and the Board President addresses the graduating class. Additionally, Mayfair Middle School’s Awards Night is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14.

A scheduling conflict also exists with the June Board meeting, currently set for Tuesday, June 10, which coincides with Firebaugh High School’s commencement ceremony.

In response, Mrs. Whitney proposed rescheduling the May and June CalAPS Board meetings to Tuesday, May 20 and Tuesday, June 17, respectively. After discussion, Board President Crihfield asked the Board to vote on the updated meeting calendar. The Board voted to approve the revised meeting dates as presented. Arlene updated the board about CTE Awareness Month this past February, the CalAPS team provided the instructors

with a T-shirt that highlighted the CTE pathways with the theme “In Our CTE Era” along with a light afternoon meal. Both were delivered to their classrooms to celebrate their hard work and commitment.

Arlene shared that our SkillsUSA regional competitions wrapped up in mid-February. From the regional competitions, 13 students qualified to state competition in April. Students and Advisors are continuing to come in on Saturday’s to practice and prepare for their competitions.

Additionally, Arlene and eight of the CalAPS instructors attended the Educating for Careers conference in Sacramento. During the conference, staff received valuable insights; professional development and networking opportunities that will help them continue strengthening our CTE program.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yes: 4(Stewart, Morales, Linstead, Crihfield)

No: 0

The motion carried

Item 508: Review of Board Bylaw 9330 – Participation in Organizations by the Board and Board Member Compensation.

Mrs. Whitney reviewed Board Bylaw 9330, which outlines the Board’s role in participating in local, county, state, and national educational organizations, and provides guidelines for reimbursement of professional development expenses.

At the request of President Crihfield, the Board held a discussion on how the bylaw pertains to direct Board member compensation. While the current bylaw addresses reimbursement for educational expenses, it does not include provisions for stipends or other forms of compensation.

President Crihfield proposed a monthly stipend of \$240 for CalAPS Board members, citing similar practices among other JPAs and a desire to recognize the time and commitment involved. He noted that while some JPAs offer additional forms of compensation such as health and welfare benefits, this proposal is limited to a flat stipend. He also expressed that this could encourage long-term participation and serve as a gesture of appreciation.

Board members engaged in discussion:

- Mr. Morales requested a comparison with a similar JPA. Arlene shared that College & Career Advantage, a JPA of similar size, provides stipends and implemented theirs in January 2025.
- Ms. Stewart expressed concern that the proposed amount was too high given the responsibilities of CalAPS Board members.
- Mr. Morales compared the proposal to his experience in Lynwood, where he receives \$540/month for participating in two meetings monthly, and agreed that \$240 could be a reasonable starting point.
- Ms. Stewart asked whether CalAPS could afford the stipend. Arlene responded that she would consult with the fiscal specialist and attorney to explore options.
- Mr. Linstead suggested providing members the option to donate the stipend to a nonprofit or scholarship fund, which Brad supported.

Board members also discussed logistics, such as:

- Which CalAPS budget the funds would come from.
- Whether the stipend would be issued monthly or only for meetings attended.
- Whether this would create conflicts with other board memberships.

Mrs. Whitney agreed to research further, consult with legal counsel and fiscal staff, and bring back a draft proposal for the Board's consideration. Board President motioned to direct the Chief Executive Officer to consult with legal counsel and fiscal staff to research and draft a proposed amendment to Board Bylaw to include provisions for Board member compensation and to present the draft proposal for review and possible action.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yes: 3(Stewart, Morales, Carihfield)

No: 0

Obstain: 1 (Linstead)

The motion carried

NON-ACTION – NONE.

VISITOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NONE.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION – NONE.

INFORMATION ITEMS – NONE.

CLOSED SESSION – The Board went into closed session at 6:29pm and returned to open session at 6:48pm.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:33pm

The March 18, 2025 regular meeting of the CalAPS Board adjourned at 6:33 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 5:30pm.