



BOARD MINUTES
May 20, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER IN PUBLIC SESSION – The CalAPS regular board meeting was called to order at 6:44 PM. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, by Board President Brad Crihfield. The meeting took place in the cafeteria of Ramona Elementary School located at 9351 Laurel St, Bellflower, CA 90706.

REPLACEMENT PAGES – NONE.

ROLL CALL

Present

Brad Crihfield, President
Amie Stewart, Vice President
Maria Lopez, Member

Absent

Erik Linstead, Clerk
Alfonso Morales, Member

Also present was Arlene Whitney, CalAPS CEO.

CalAPS BOARD COMMUNICATION/INTRODUCTIONS – Ms. Lopez, Ms. Stewart, and President Crihfield all shared heartfelt sentiments during the event. Ms. Lopez congratulated the students and parents for their commitment to the CalAPS program, emphasizing how it plants seeds for future decision-making and career choices. Ms. Stewart echoed support for each student's path to success and thanked everyone for attending. President Crihfield, despite having recently undergone surgery, chose to attend the meeting because he did not want to miss the student recognition, demonstrating his strong support for CalAPS students.

Board President Crihfield proposed reorganizing the board meeting agenda so that student and staff recognition takes place after the conclusion of board business.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve this reorganization of the agenda, and Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CalAPS STAFF COMMUNICATION/INTRODUCTIONS – Arlene Whitney shared with the board that since the April Board meeting, CalAPS students achieved notable successes and participated in several meaningful events. Julian Luna and Dylan Becerra earned silver medals at the SkillsUSA State Competition, highlighting both student dedication and instructor support. Teacher advisors were commended for their extra efforts in preparing students.

Mrs. Whitney also shared recent activities and events that reflect CalAPS' continued commitment to student engagement, industry collaboration, and regional partnership building:

- She attended the CTE Symposium at Cerritos College, where she connected with regional partners and explored current trends in Career Technical Education

- She participated in a student wellness event at Bellflower High School, hosted by Bellflower Unified School District, where celebrity chef Jamie Oliver was in attendance to promote healthy living and student wellness initiatives.
- On May 7, Mrs. Whitney visited the LA County Fire Museum, where she toured the facility and engaged in discussions with museum volunteers about sustaining and expanding the partnership to support CalAPS' Fire Fighting course.
- CalAPS hosted its second annual Student Fashion Show, which featured student-designed and modeled clothing and student artwork. Refreshments were provided by the Baking and Pastry course at the Bellflower site under the direction of Instructor Mrs. San Martin.

Lastly, Mrs. Whitney shared that cookies at the Board meeting were prepared and served by students from the Lynwood site under the guidance of instructor Ms. Munoz.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE.

VISITORS' AGENDA ITEMS – NONE.

ACTION ITEMS

STAFF CORRECTIONS – NONE.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **Approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2025 Board Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2025 Board Meeting was made by Ms. Lopez and seconded by Ms. Stewart. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Brad Carihfield, President
 Yes Amie Stewart, Vice President
 Yes Maria Lopez, Member

- **Approval of the minutes from the April 8, 2025 Board Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025 Board Meeting was made by Ms. Lopez and seconded by Ms. Stewart. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Brad Carihfield, President
 Yes Amie Stewart, Vice President
 Yes Maria Lopez, Member

MAJOR ACTION – Approval for the Board Member Stipend

- A motion to approve Board Member Stipend was made by Ms. Stewart and seconded by Ms. Lopez. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Brad Carihfield, President
 Yes Amie Stewart, Vice President
 Yes Maria Lopez, Member

CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of the Consent Agenda

- A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Ms. Lopez and seconded by Ms. Stewart. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Brad Carihfield, President
Yes Amie Stewart, Vice President
Yes Maria Lopez, Member

DISCUSSION AND NON-ACTION – NONE.

VISITOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NONE.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION – Board approved a reorganization of the agenda at the start of this meeting to move student and staff recognitions to follow the conclusion of official board business.

INFORMATION ITEMS – President Carihfield asked Mrs. Whitney to “walk the board through” a review of the 2025 – 2026 CalAPS Budget draft.

CTE programs succeed through a blend of federal, state, and local funding, which supports the development of modern, industry-relevant curricula, provides advanced equipment, and fosters partnerships with businesses. These investments enhance students’ education by combining academic knowledge with practical skills, preparing them to be strong candidates in today’s workforce. One major source of support is the K12 Strong Workforce Program (K12 SWP), which funds the growth of CTE programs from kindergarten through 12th grade. CalAPS currently holds two K12 SWP grants for the 2025–26 school year—“Empowering Tomorrow’s Workforce” and “Expanding Pathways”—to strengthen existing courses and expand offerings in areas such as cybersecurity and film/video production.

CalAPS also receives a Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP) grant, totaling \$646,009, aimed at enhancing the aviation and automotive pathways. This grant supports salaries, classroom supplies, and hands-on learning through 2029. Additional K12 SWP grants awarded in December 2023 and 2024 support 11 industry sectors, including new programs in mental and behavioral health, early childhood education, alternative fuels, AI & technology, and urban farming. These funds help upgrade equipment, support staff, expand work-based learning, and promote dual enrollment opportunities.

The 2025–26 CalAPS budget reflects necessary increases due to rising costs and expanded services. Certificated salaries were increased by 14% and classified salaries by 10%, with an additional 5% for fringe benefits. Contracted services, particularly transportation, also saw a 10% increase to maintain equitable access for students attending after-school programs. Investments in equipment for fire, EMT, and automotive programs were also included.

Despite these cost increases, CalAPS continues to use grant funding strategically to minimize expenses for participating districts while improving program quality. The organization remains dedicated to seeking new funding opportunities to expand access, improve instruction, and prepare students for college and career success.

The Board was also informed of an upcoming overnight student travel opportunity. Four students who have completed the Fashion Design and Merchandising pathway, accompanied by two certificated staff and one CalAPS management staff, will travel to New York City from June 24–28, 2025. The trip will provide students with real-world industry exposure and enrich their classroom learning through immersive experiences.

CLOSED SESSION – NONE.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned without objection at 7:00 PM.

The May 20, 2025 regular meeting of the CalAPS Board adjourned at 7:00 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 5:30 PM.