



Board of Education Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the July 21, 2025 Board of Education Meeting
[Meeting Video \[YouTube\]](#)

Board of Education: Narcis Brasov (President) • Dr. Rob Cancio (Vice President) • Espie Free • Norma Amezcua • Jose Rios • Dr. Lorena Vidaurre • Becky Langenwalter

Pledge of Allegiance

This meeting's guest for the Pledge of Allegiance was **Marisol Christie**, a highly accomplished student at Benton Visual & Performing Arts Magnet. Marisol, a rising 9th grader, has excelled in art, theater, and vocal performance, earning numerous awards and recognitions during her time at Benton. Marisol also performed the Star Spangled Banner at Benton's 8th grade promotion ceremony, and also was recognized by faculty and her peers for her respect and kindness during her middle school years.



Public Announcement of Actions Taken by the Board in Closed Session

The Board appointed the following individuals to management positions:

Diana Huizar, Director, Special Education

Leticia Rodriguez, Program Administrator, Special Education



Jose Gutierrez, Assistant Director, Maintenance & Operations
Kelly L. Garcia, Assistant Principal, Hutchinson Middle School

Newly Appointed District Management Employees

Dr. Michael Gotto, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, introduced three new members of the District Management Team.

Tania Magaña was introduced as the new Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services. Ms. Magaña's educational career began in 2010 working as an Alternative Education educator. Since that time, she has supported student achievement, working as a transition TOSA with the San Mateo County Office of Education, intervention teacher, assistant principal, and most recently principal of Los Alisos Middle School. Ms. Magaña is well experienced in leading the site-based initiatives on instructional improvement and restorative practices, fostering authentic trust based relationships with education partners and cultivating inclusive achievement, achievement driven environments that support student growth.



Adrian Valdez was introduced as the new Chief of School Safety. Mr. Valdez began his professional career in 1993 working as an account manager for Brian Edwards Publications, Inc. Since that time, he has developed himself professionally by working as a project manager for RR Donnelley, compliance auditor for the US Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, special agent and Assistant Special Agent in Charge for the US Post Office, Office of Inspector General. Mr. Valdez is well experienced in public communication, strategic planning, investigative and



security procedures, management, operations and conflict resolution Welcome to Norwalk-La Mirada Mr. Valdez!



Otto Fernandez was introduced as the new Manager, Warehouse. Mr. Fernandez began his professional career in 2000, working as a customer service representative for Berkeley Designs. Since that time, Mr. Fernandez has developed himself professionally by working as a shipping and receiving clerk, custodian and senior stock clerk in the Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District. Mr. Fernandez is well experienced in warehouse operations, oversight of shipping and receiving procedures and long-range scheduling and planning.





Employee/PTA Representatives' Reports

The Board received a report around the activities and upcoming events of the labor partners.

Parent-Teacher Association

Dr. Cathy Alvarez, Secretary for the Parent-Teacher Association gave an update to the Board. Dr. Alvarez thanked community partners and volunteers for their support and highlighted the success of PTA's summer leadership training. Planning is underway for the upcoming **Welcome Back Luncheon** on August 28, hosted with support from the La Mirada Kiwanis and Mr. Rosewood's. Dr. Alvarez also announced officer training scheduled for August 9 and encouraged trustees, staff, and families to consider joining their local PTAs to strengthen engagement and community connections.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Natasha Baker gave an update to the Board. Dr. Baker praised the efforts of staff who worked throughout the summer to align **transportation, instructional services, and after-school opportunities** with student needs. Dr. Baker noted that expanded ELOP programs will be a central focus this fall and emphasized the importance of ensuring equity and access across all campuses. Dr. Baker also formally welcomed new members of the executive leadership team and thanked the Board for its ongoing collaboration in preparing for a successful school year.

Board Governance Handbook

[Board Governance Handbook](#)

The Board unanimously approved the updated **Board Governance Handbook**, which includes the District's mission and vision statements developed in collaboration with families and community partners. Trustees highlighted the handbook as a reflection of district values and a guide for leadership.

Action Item Highlights

- Measure G project agreements including storm drain repair for the La Mirada athletic fields and an irrigation re-route for the Elementary Schools Playground Project.



- An amendment for the agreement for additional architectural services related to the District's Transportation Department Garage Doors Improvements Project.
- After school program agreements.
- Agreements with YMCA of Greater Whittier to provide a homework support program for Eastwood, Escalona, and Nuffer Elementary Schools and a sports program for Gardenhill Elementary School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.