



## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

**REGULAR MEETING**  
August 14, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

*The Santa Barbara County Board of Education held this meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at the following two locations, which were connected via videoconference: SBCEO South County Office, 4400 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA, and SBCEO North County Office, 402 Farnel Road, Santa Maria, CA*

### UNAPPROVED

### GENERAL FUNCTIONS

**1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the County Board of Education was called to order at 3:02 a.m. by Board President Marybeth Carty.

**2. Spanish Interpretation/Interpretación**

The president announced that Spanish interpretation of the board meeting was available online via Zoom.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Roll Call**

Board Members Present

Vedamarie Alvarez Flores (Santa Maria)  
Katya Armistead (Santa Barbara)  
Marybeth Carty (Santa Barbara)  
Nadra Ehrman (Santa Barbara)  
Judith Frost (Santa Maria)  
Sarah Anne Read (Santa Maria)  
Guy Walker (Santa Barbara)

Staff Members Present

Susan Salcido, superintendent (Santa Barbara)  
Austin Payne, legal counsel (Santa Barbara)  
Felicita Torres, legal counsel (via Zoom)  
Anna Freedland, executive assistant (Santa Barbara)

Ellen Barger	Kirsten Escobedo	Don Lockwood	Shannon Yorke
Camie Barnwell	Jenny Fernandez	Delaney Patrick	
Bridget Baublits	Mari Gonzales	Elise Simmons	
Marc Cunningham	Isabel Guerrero	Steve Torres	

Others Present

Francisco, A/V technician consultant  
Vivana Marsano, interpreter (via Zoom)  
Regina Santos-Moreno, interpreter (via Zoom)  
Parties involved in interdistrict attendance transfer appeal

**5. Changes to the Agenda**

None.

**6. President and Board Comments**

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

- The recent passing of former board member Dr. Peter R. MacDougall.
- Board Member Read congratulated the Cabrillo High School Aquarium, in Lompoc, for receiving the 2025 Superintendent’s Award for Excellence in Museum Education, a statewide award.
- Board Member Alvarez Flores shared about the start of the school year for Santa Maria-Bonita School District, including a lunch for all district employees at the Santa Maria Fairgrounds and an afternoon of professional development for educators. She also shared that the district had a group of future special educators who would complete their residency in June and a group of future bilingual educators as well.

**7. Public Comments**

None.

**ACTION ITEM**

**8. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearing – Closed Session**

The appeal hearing regarding the denial for interdistrict attendance by the Hope School District was scheduled at the request of the parent of Student T26-01 and Student T26-02. Board President Carty presided. Director of Child Welfare and Attendance Dr. Elise Simmons provided introductory comments. Since the parent of Student T26-01 and Student T26-02 had previously requested a closed session hearing, the board adjourned to closed session and the hearing began at 3:11 p.m.

Present were: Board members, County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Salcido, Associate Superintendent Bridget Baublits, County Education Office Counsel Austin Payne, Director of Child Welfare and Attendance Dr. Elise Simmons, Administrative Assistant Jenny Fernandez, Hope School District Superintendent Dr. Anne Hubbard, the parent of Student T26-01 and Student T26-02, the partner of the parent, and Executive Assistant Anna Freedland.

After hearing statements by both the appellant and the respondent school district, Board President Carty declared the hearing closed for board deliberations.

At 3:45 p.m. the board adjourned closed session and reconvened to open session and reported the board action.

### **Open Session**

The president reported the following motion on Student T26-01 and Student T26-02 was made and passed:

MOTION: Uphold the decision of the Hope School District and deny the interdistrict attendance transfers for Student T26-01 and Student T26-02.

MOVED: **Mr. Walker**

SECONDED: **Mrs. Alvarez Flores**

**Ayes: Alvarez Flores / Armistead / Carty / Ehrman / Frost / Read / Walker**

**Noes: None**

**Absent: None**

**Abstain: None**

VOTE: **Passed 7-0-0-0**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **9. Superintendent's Report (Attachment)**

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

- Appreciation for frontline staff at Cuyama Joint Unified School District (CJUSD) – The superintendent thanked the frontline staff at CJUSD for their work with their school community related to the Gifford Fire.
- Introduction of SBCEO’s new associate superintendent of Human Resources (HR) – Dr. Salcido introduced Gina Branum, new associate superintendent of HR.
- Allan Hancock College’s (AHC) Hancock Honors – Dr. Salcido shared that AHC would hold its Hancock Honors event on September 6, 2025 and that one of SBCEO’s Operation Recognition program graduates, Dr. Henry Davis, would be recognized.
- Op-ed: Standing with our students and families in a time of uncertainty – The superintendent mentioned the copies of her recent op-ed at board member places. She highlighted a couple of sections of the piece. She shared that SBCEO was working with school district superintendents about their concerns. She also shared the SBCEO website with resources.
- Federal funding update – Dr. Salcido reported that the previously impounded federal funds for education were released. She stated that the amount of federal funding for Santa Barbara County school districts and SBCEO totaled \$12.4 million.
- Information Technology Services (ITS) department update – The superintendent reminded the board that she shared with them the ITS audit report. She shared that the ITS department would be restructured. Dr. Salcido expressed appreciation to Sharon Van Gundy, former administration of ITS, and Sam Van Gundy, former senior software engineer of ITS, for their years of service and dedication. She reported that a chief technology officer (CTO) position had been created and that applications were being accepted until Sunday, August 17, 2025 at midnight. The superintendent stated that the position was created while working closely with the ITS staff, and that the CTO would be part of her cabinet team and would report directly to Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services Steve Torres. Dr. Salcido shared that work was being done to define the “tiers” in the ITS department, which were related to service and work, and that the department would expand from 15 staff members to 17, as a start.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) workshop for the community – Dr. Salcido shared that SBCEO would host an AI workshop for the community on September 30, 2025, in the evening, in multiple locations (SBCEO, in the Santa Ynez Valley, and at the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District). She expressed appreciation to Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Ellen Barger, and her team, for bringing Ken Shelton to speak on AI.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The board approved all consent agenda items:

**10. Minutes of Special Meeting Held June 12, 2025**

**11. Minutes of Meeting Held June 12, 2025**

**12. Minutes of Meeting Held June 18, 2025**

**13. 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 May 7, 2025 to July 6, 2025, and the issuance of temporary county certificates for that same time period.

**14. Acceptance of Donations**

Acceptance of donations for the following department:

- Teacher Programs and Support

**15. Declaration of Surplus**

Declaration of surplus for the following departments:

- Career Tech ROP
- Communications
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Educational Technology Services
- Human Resources
- Information Technology Services
- Maintenance and Operations
- Partners in Education
- School Business Advisory Services
- School Insurance Program for Employees (SIPE)
- Special Education
- Teacher Induction Program

**16. Issuance of High School Graduation Diploma**

Issuance of a high school graduation diploma to the following students:

*Dos Puertas School*

- Student CSIS # 2794657961 – June 24, 2025

*Peter B. FitzGerald Community School*

- Student CSIS # 3930719062 – June 10, 2025

- Student CSIS # 2963658284 – June 10, 2025

Motion to approve all consent items:

**Ayes: 7**                      **Noes: 0**                      **Absent: 0**                      **Abstain: 0**  
MOVED: **Mrs. Frost**                      SECONDED: **Mr. Walker**                      VOTE: **Passed 7-0-0-0**

**PRESENTATION**

**17. Presentation on the Federal Funding Outlook in Education**

The director of policy and outreach at WestEd, Alicia Kielmovitch, provided a brief presentation to the board, via Zoom, on the federal funding outlook in education.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**18. Public Hearing on Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance**

The public hearing was opened at 4:40 p.m. regarding the Santa Barbara County Education Office’s compliance with regulations regarding the availability of textbooks and instructional materials as required by the Williams Case Settlement. With no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 4:41 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**19. Recommended Adoption of Resolution Regarding Textbook and Instructional Materials Compliance**

The board adopted Resolution No. 2601, the Santa Barbara County Education Office’s compliance with regulations regarding the availability of textbooks and instructional materials as required by the Williams Case Settlement.

**Ayes: 7**                      **Noes: 0**                      **Absent: 0**                      **Abstain: 0**  
MOVED: **Dr. Armistead**                      SECONDED: **Ms. Ehrman**                      VOTE: **Passed 7-0-0-0**

**20. Recommended Approval of Award of Bid**

The board approved the award of SBCEO 2025-RFP-001 for the health management system software and implementation to Paradigm Healthcare Services, LLC. Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services Steve Torres and Director of Student and Community Services Shannon Yorke provided a brief presentation to the board about this item.

**Ayes: 7**                      **Noes: 0**                      **Absent: 0**                      **Abstain: 0**  
MOVED: **Mr. Walker**                      SECONDED: **Dr. Armistead**                      VOTE: **Passed 7-0-0-0**

**21. Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) Membership**

The board considered whether to approve the membership in the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

MOTION: In lieu of joining the ACCBE right now, send a board member to one of their meetings to report back and give the full board their impression.

MOVED: **Mr. Walker**

MOTION: Approve membership for the board in ACCBE for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

**Ayes: 2                      Noes: 5                      Absent: 0                      Abstain: 0**  
MOVED: **Mrs. Carty**                      SECONDED: **Dr. Armistead**                      VOTE: **Failed 2-5-0-0**

After discussion, the board agreed to refer the matter back to the superintendent to have her make a recommendation to them on how they may want to proceed.

**22. Reimburse Expenses for Board Members to Attend the California School Boards Association (CSBA) County Board Member Services Conference, September 2025**

The board approved the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses for board members to attend the California School Boards Association’s County Board Member Services Conference, September 5-7, 2025, in Monterey, if requested, in accordance with Board Policy 9250.

**Ayes: 7                      Noes: 0                      Absent: 0                      Abstain: 0**  
MOVED: **Mr. Walker**                      SECONDED: **Ms. Ehrman**                      VOTE: **Passed 7-0-0-0**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**23. Personnel Report**

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

**24. Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report**

The Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report indicating no complaints filed for the period of March 16, 2025 through June 15, 2025, for Juvenile Court and Community Schools, and Special Education, was presented to the board as an information item.

**25. Ethics Training Requirement for Board Members**

Per Assembly Bill 2158, board members are now required to complete ethics training by January 1, 2026, and every two years thereafter. Instructions to board members on how to complete the training were provided.

**26. Correspondence**

May 2, 2025 correspondence from the California Department of Education confirming acceptance of the Santa Barbara County Education Office 2024-25 Second Interim Report was presented as an information item.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**27. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Government Code § 54956.8) – Closed Session**

The board held a closed session conference with real property negotiator. The closed session began at 5:23 p.m. and present were board members; Dr. Susan Salcido, county superintendent of schools; Bridget Baublits, associate superintendent; Steve Torres, associate superintendent; Kirsten Escobedo, associate superintendent; Marc Cunningham, director of facilities; Felicita Torres, legal counsel (via Zoom); Austin Payne, legal counsel; and Anna Freedland, executive assistant.

Properties: 1) two properties in Santa Maria, CA; 2) property in Goleta, CA. Agency designated representatives: Dr. Susan Salcido, superintendent, and Steve Torres, associate superintendent. Negotiating parties: [confidential] for Santa Maria properties and the Goleta property. Instructions to negotiators regarding price, terms, and conditions.

There was no action taken.

At 6:35 p.m. the board adjourned closed session and reconvened to open session.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**28. Future agenda items**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**29. Adjournment**

Prior to adjournment, the president noted that a special board meeting had recently been scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2025, in Santa Maria, to hear a few interdistrict attendance transfer appeals in a timely manner.

The board meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. to the special meeting to be held Thursday, August 21, 2025, and then to the next regular meeting to be held Thursday, September 11, 2025.

**Ayes: 7**                      **Noes: 0**                      **Absent: 0**                      **Abstain: 0**  
**MOVED: Mr. Walker**                      **SECONDED: Ms. Ehrman**                      **VOTE: Passed 7-0-0-0**

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Marybeth Carty, President  
County Board of Education

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Dr. Susan Salcido, Secretary  
County Board of Education