Santa Ana Unified School District
1601 East Chestnut Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92701

MINUTES

Santa Ana Board of Education
Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bustos called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Board members present were Ms. Brazer Aceves, Ms. Magdaleno, and Ms. Lebsack with Dr. Alvarez absent.

Mr. Bustos announced the closed session agenda items including Personnel Matters, Existing Litigation, Anticipated Litigation, and Conference with Real Property Negotiators.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public comments for closed session items.

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Special Board meeting recessed to closed session at 5:07 p.m.

4. RECONVENE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 5:54 p.m.

Cabinet members present were Superintendent Perez, Ms. Flores, Mr. Hacker, Ms. Barquin, and Mr. Bustamante.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Superintendent Perez.

6. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Bustos read the following statement: I want to recognize that our District and school campuses are located in the Village of Pasbenga. I want to acknowledge that this land we refer to as Orange County, is the unceded and traditional lands of the Gabrielino Tongva Nation, and the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation. These lands were taken through a process of colonization, physical, and cultural genocide. I want to pay my respect to elders, both past and present, as well as the Tongva and Acjachemen Youth who have attended, are currently attending our schools, or in the neighboring districts.

7. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

There were no closed session action items to report.

8. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public comments on agendized or non-agendized items.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

9.1 Approval of Listing of an Agreements/Contracts with Santa Ana Unified School District for 2025-26 School Year

The Board reviewed and discussed approval of agreements for the 2025–26 school year with Capturing Kids' Hearts and Project Kinship. Board members expressed strong support for both contracts, highlighting the organizations' significant contributions to social-emotional learning, student well-being, and staff support.

Approve the Listing of Agreements/Contracts with Santa Ana Unified School District for the 2025-26 School Year.

Motion by Ms. Brazer Aceves, second by Ms. Magdaleno
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5-0
Yes: Mr. Bustos, Ms. Brazer Aceves, Ms. Magdaleno, Ms. Lebsack

10. PRESENTATION

10.1 Facilities Planning Session

The Board held the first of several facilities planning sessions, introduced by Dr. Perez and presented by Mr. Ron Hacker with the District's Director of Construction, Dennis Chavez, Senior Planners Julie Malloy and Yvette Miranda, Director of Planning and Design Jeremy Cogan, Director of Maintenance and Operations Gabriel Camberos, Coordinator of Energy and Sustainability, and Chief Technology Officer Mark Rodriguez. Staff reviewed major recent Measure I projects, including the Valley High School CTE facility, Valley Performing Arts Center renovation, Saddleback High School Media Lab, Jefferson Elementary classroom and MPR replacement, Santa Ana High School library and media lab modernization, K–8 classroom upgrades, and Garfield Elementary library transformation. The 2024 Facilities Master Plan, identifying over $3 billion in districtwide needs, was presented along with strategies to prioritize projects, maximize state matching funds, and address deferred maintenance. Presentations also covered solar energy system restoration, modernization eligibility timelines, declining enrollment impacts, and opportunities for program-driven optimization. The Chief Technology Officer outlined a proposal to expand security camera coverage and migrate to a cloud-based system, requiring increased network bandwidth.

Ms. Lebsack raised concerns about ongoing facility issues based on her past experiences as a teacher, including sprinkler flooding at multiple schools and the prolonged use of loud portable air conditioning units. She asked whether these issues had been addressed. She inquired about the cost-effectiveness and maintenance of solar panels and confirmed that despite past setbacks, they remain a sound investment. She also highlighted a smaller but meaningful issue: the accumulation of playground balls on rooftops, suggesting this be addressed to support students' physical activity. Ms. Lebsack also questioned how Expanded Learning Programs are utilizing classroom space and whether those programs overlap with empty or underutilized rooms. Ms. Brazer Aceves thanked staff for their detailed presentation and emphasized the importance of including input from students, families, and staff in the facilities planning process. She praised the District's efforts to incorporate these voices through visual surveys and community feedback tools. She requested that the community be provided clarification on how underutilized classrooms contribute to additional district costs. While voicing concerns about increased student surveillance, she expressed her support for the item based on staff assurances that the footage will be used solely for student safety. She requested details on how deferred maintenance can prevent larger emergency costs, underscored that declining enrollment is a statewide issue, and highlighted the importance of designing educationally adequate spaces, maintaining program-first planning, and maximizing bond funds through matching state grants.

Ms. Magdaleno expressed appreciation for the facilities upgrades at Pio Pico and Lowell Elementary Schools and asked for clarification on how school sites are selected for modernization. She confirmed that the Facilities Master Plan is publicly accessible and praised the team's community engagement efforts. She requested more information about the Measure I Citizens Bond Oversight Committee and the Community Budget Advisory Committee, encouraging public participation. Ms. Magdaleno reiterated the importance of leveraging state matching funds to stretch local bond dollars and emphasized aligning upgrades with academic goals. She concluded by requesting updates on student participation in expanded learning programs and how those spaces are being utilized. Mr. Bustos emphasized the scale of deferred maintenance and the urgency of addressing it through Measure I funds. He noted that half of the District's classrooms are underutilized and asked staff to clarify that this does not mean smaller class sizes. He raised questions about balancing safety upgrades, like surveillance cameras, with student privacy. He underscored the need to think creatively about restructuring underused buildings and supported the E-rate submission and bandwidth upgrade proposal. He also requested updates on declining enrollment and asked how Santa Ana's experience compares to other districts.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Regular Board meeting recessed back to closed session at 7:31 p.m.

RECONVENE THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 10:23 p.m. p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Bustos adjourned the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

12. FUTURE MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is August 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Secretary, SAUSD Board of Education
Superintendent of Schools