MINUTES

MERCED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 18, 2025

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Merced County Office of Education Board Room
632 W. 13th Street, Merced, CA 95341

I. Opening

A. Board Chairperson, Dennis Hanks, called the meeting of the Merced County Board of Education to order at 3:00 PM.

B. Members present were Geneva Brett, Frank Fagundes, and Ryan Heller. Rodrigo Espinosa was absent.

C. Others present: Emily Tietjen, Nathan Quevedo, Lynn Arevalo, Sandra Aguilar, Dominique H. Coronado, Rosa Casillas, Michelle Mann, Sonia Ramos, Candace Watterson, Noemi Gomez, Angelica Martinez, Maritza Laureano, Nely Garcia, Rosa Hartman-Lunsford, Jennifer Sturgeon, Maria Angelica Velazquez, Laura Andrews, Laura Fong, Cristina Vara, Guadalupe M. Gonzalez. Janet Riley, Maria Cuevas, Yolanda Campos, Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Steve M. Tietjen, County Superintendent

D. Introduction of Trustee Area #2 Board Member, Ryan Heller

II. Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

III. Consent Agenda: Items listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine administrative functions and will be acted on by the Board in one motion and one vote. Any items under the Consent Agenda may be discussed; however, if the item needs further clarification and discussion, it may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of the Board or the Superintendent and considered separately. Information concerning Consent Agenda items will be provided to each Board member for study before the meeting. It is understood that the Superintendent recommends approval of all consent items unless otherwise noted. *(Board Bylaw 9322)*

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 16, 2025, were approved.

B. Approved Retirement Resolution No. 2025-26 Honoring Janet Riley

C. Approved Resolution No. 2025-25 Recognizing September 2025 as School Attendance Awareness Month

D. Authorized Payment to the California School Boards Association for Membership Dues, July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, in the total amount of **$11,324.00**
- California School Boards Association (CSBA) = $9,244.00
- Education Legal Alliance (ELA) = $2,080.00

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Geneva Brett** seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0. Rodrigo Espinosa was absent

IV. Written Communications

A. Correspondence Received By Chairperson: None.
B. Correspondence Received By Board Members: None.
C. Correspondence Received By Superintendent: None.

V. Call for Public Comments on Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

The public was invited to address agenda items, submit items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board for future consideration, or speak to issues related to the function and operation of the County Board of Education.

No public comments were made.

VI. Future Agenda Items: Public Hearing - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and Textbooks

VII. Superintendent's and Board Members' Report (Information/Discussion Only)

A. Board Member's Report *(if any)*: Geneva Brett requested a presentation from the Special Education department on their student services.

B. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Steve Tietjen provided the following information.
1. Report on MCOE Kickoff
2. Merced County Education Foundation Fundraiser- October 18, 2025
3. Merced Cal-SOAP 2024-25 Shawn McCall, Program Manager, Ed Services
4. Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) – Presentation done by Bina Lefkovitz via Zoom.

VIII. Business Items for Action

A. Uniform Complaint Report Summary
Presented by Director Emily Tietjen, with Educational Services
It was recommended that the Board of Education review and approve the Uniform Complaint Report Summary for the Quarterly Period April 2025 through June 2025

Geneva Brett moved, and **Frank Fagundes** seconded the motion to approve the Uniform Complaint Report Summary for the Quarterly Period April 2025 through June 2025. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0. Rodrigo Espinosa was absent.

B. Nominations for CSBA Director-at-Large
Presented by Steve M. Tietjen
It was recommended that the Board of Education review, make a nomination, and approve the Call for Nominations for CSBA Directors-at-Large, for African American, American Indian, and County.

No action was taken since the Board made no nominations.

C. Filing of 90 Day Waiver for Five-Year Plan – Lee Andersen Education Center
Presented by Steve M. Tietjen
It was recommended that the Board of Education approve **Resolution No. 2025-27** to approve the Filing of the 90 Day Waiver for the Five-Year Plan for the planning and construction costs of two (2) modular classrooms at the Lee Andersen Education Center.

Geneva Brett moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded the motion to approve **Resolution No. 2025-27** approving the Filing of the 90 Day Waiver for the Five-Year Plan for the planning and construction costs of two (2) modular classrooms at the Lee Andersen Education Center. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0. Rodrigo Espinosa was absent.

D. State Building Funds Application – Lee Andersen Ed. Center
Presented by Steve M. Tietjen
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **Resolution No. 2025-28** approving the State Facility Program Application with the State Allocation Board (SAB) for the planning and construction costs of two (2) modular classrooms at the Lee Andersen Education Center.

Ryan Heller moved, and **Geneva Brett** seconded the motion to approve **Resolution No. 2025-28** approving the State Facility Program Application with the State Allocation Board (SAB) for the planning and construction costs of two (2) modular classrooms at the Lee Andersen Education Center. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0. Rodrigo Espinosa was absent.

E. Use of General Fund and State Facility Program Savings for Financial Hardship Facility Project – Lee Andersen Ed. Center
Presented by Steve M. Tietjen
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **Resolution No. 2025-29** approving the interfund borrowing to cover the planning and construction costs of the two (2) modular classrooms at the Lee Andersen Education Center.

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded the motion to approve **Resolution No. 2025-29** approving the interfund borrowing to cover the planning and construction costs of the two (2) modular classrooms at the Lee Andersen Education Center. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0. Rodrigo Espinosa was absent.

F. California Environmental Quality Act – Lee Andersen Ed. Center
Presented by Steve M. Tietjen
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **Resolution No. 2025-30,** approving the exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approving the Filing and Recordation of a Notice of Exemption as submitted for the construction of two (2) modular classrooms at the Lee Andersen Education Center

Geneva Brett moved, and **Frank Fagundes** seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-30 approving the exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approving the Filing and Recordation of a Notice of Exemption as submitted for the construction of two (2) modular classrooms at the Lee Andersen Education Center. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0. Rodrigo Espinosa was absent.

XXIII. Adjournment

Ryan Heller moved, and **Geneva Brett** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting of the Merced County Board of Education at 3:58 PM. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0. Rodrigo Espinosa was absent

Respectfully submitted,

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Secretary to the Board of Education

SMT/mc