MINUTES
MERCED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 15, 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 regular meeting of the Merced County Board of Education to order at 3:00 PM.

B. Members present were Dennis Hanks, Geneva Brett, Frank Fagundes, Rodrigo Espinosa, and Ryan Heller.

C. Others present: Emily Tietjen, Erika Davalos-Lemus, Nestor Herriquez, Marta Gracian, Tammy McNece, Manuel Cavazos, Nathan Quevedo, MikeeD Love-Asenjo, Laura Andrews, Stephanie Richardson, Cristina Vara, Laura Fong, Maria Cuevas, Yolanda Campos-Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Steve M. Tietjen-County Superintendent

II. Flag Salute – Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

III. Presentation:

A. Presentation of Plaques to MCOE Outstanding Classified, Certificated, and Management Employees for the Quarter ending September 2025

1. Classified Employee: Marta Gracian, Educational Services
2. Classified Employee: Soua Xiong, Special Education
3. Certificated Employee: Kristine Lindsey, Educational Services
4. Management Employee: Patrick Beiswanger, Special Education

Outstanding Employee Awards were presented to Marta Gracian, Educational Services, Outstanding Classified Employee; Outstanding Classified Employee, Souz Xiong, Special Education; Certificated Employee Kristine Lindsey with Educational Services; and Outstanding Management Employee Patrick Beiswanger, Special Education.

IV. 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 Regular Meeting on August 18, 2025
B. **Resolution No. 2025-31** Recognizing October 12-18, 2025, as the Week of the School Administrator
C. **Resolution No. 2025-32** Proclaiming October 2025 as Character Education Month
D. Retirement Resolution:
   1. **Resolution No. 2025-33** Honoring Mikee-D Love-Asenjo

Rodrigo Espinosa moved, and **Geneva Brett** seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

V. Written Communications

A. Correspondence Received By Chairperson: None.

B. Correspondence Received by Board Members: Board member Rodrigo Espinosa has moved but continues to live in the area he represents.

C. Correspondence Received by Superintendent: None.

VI. 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.

VII. Future Agenda Items

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

A. Board Member's Report *(if any)*: None

B. Superintendent's Report:
1. Excellence in Education @ Merced Theatre – October 2, 2025
2. Career Industry Day @ Merced Fairgrounds – October 16, 2025
3. Merced County Education Foundation Fundraiser - October 18, 2025
4. MCSBA Conference – October 10-12, 2025 - Monterey, CA

C. Presentation – Special Education Programs & SELPA – Laura Fong

IX. Business Items for Action

A. Public Hearing – Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and Textbooks

1. Review Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2025 in Schools Operated by the Merced County Office of Education in compliance with Education Code 60119. Presented by Director of Educational Services, Tara Hill.
2. Open Public Hearing: Dennis Hanks opened the public hearing. No comments were made.
3. Close Public Hearing: Dennis Hanks closed the public hearing.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **Resolution No. 2025-34,** Declaration of Sufficient Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in **Schools Operated by the Merced County Office of Education**

Geneva Brett moved, and **Frank Fagundes** seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-34 Declaration of Sufficient Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in Schools Operated by the Merced County Office of Education as submitted. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

B. Public Hearing – Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and Textbooks

1. Review Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at Merced Scholars Charter Schools Operated by the Merced County Office of Education in compliance with Education Code 60119. Presented by Director of Educational Services, Tara Hill.
2. Open Public Hearing: Dennis Hanks opened the public hearing. No comments were made.
3. Close Public Hearing: Dennis Hanks closed the public hearing.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **Resolution No. 2025-35,** Declaration of Sufficient Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at **Merced Scholars Charter School** Operated by the Merced County Office of Education

Ryan Heller moved, and **Frank Fagundes** seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-35 Declaration of Sufficient Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at Merced Scholars Charter School Operated by the Merced County Office of Education as submitted. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

C. Public Hearing – Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and Textbooks

1 Review Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at Come Back Charter School Operated by the Merced County Office of Education in compliance with Education Code 60119, presented by the Director of Educational Services, Tara Hill.

2. Open Public Hearing: Dennis Hanks opened the public hearing. No comments were made.

3. Close Public Hearing: Dennis Hanks closed the public hearing.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **Resolution No. 2025-36,** Declaration of Sufficient Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at **Come Back Charter School** Operated by the Merced County Office of Education

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Rodrigo Espinosa** seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-36 Declaration of Sufficient Instructional Materials and Textbooks for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at Come Back Charter School Operated by the Merced County Office of Education as submitted. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

D. CSBA 2025 Annual Education Conference & Trade Show

It is recommended that the Board of Education authorize Board Members to attend the CSBA Annual Education Conference & Trade Show, Dec. 3-5, 2025.

Geneva Brett moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded a motion to authorize the Board Members to attend the CSBA Annual Education Conference & Trade Show.

The Board identified closed session agenda item(s) and proceeded into Closed Session. The public was invited to comment on identified items before adjournment into Closed Session.

The Board proceeded into Closed Session.

X. Closed Session

Conference with real property negotiator, property management, Rick Marchini, Negotiator of Real Property/Land Development issues, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8.

The Board will proceed into an Open Session.

XV. Adjournment

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Rodrigo Espinosa** seconded the motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Merced County Board of Education at 4:20 PM. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

SMT/mc