



Board of Education Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the August 18, 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 Jose Manso, a community leader and retired longtime NLMUSD educator at Dolland Elementary who is currently a substitute teacher in the District.



Recognitions

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Baker recognized Edith and Pablo Luna, owners of SoCal Barbers, for their extraordinary service to Norwalk families. The Lunas have provided thousands of free haircuts to local students across multiple districts, including Norwalk-La Mirada, Little Lake, and Compton Unified. They are key contributors to the McKinney-Vento Collaborative, supporting students in need year-round. Mr. Luna shared his goal of opening an after-school barbering program to teach students a lifelong trade and give back to the community.



Newly Appointed District Management Employees

Dr. Michael Gotto, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, a new member of the District Management Team.

Dr. Philip Sanchez was introduced as the **new Principal of Los Alisos Middle School**. Dr. Sanchez, whose career began in 1995 as a special education aide. Since that time, he has supported student achievement by serving in various roles, including teacher ELA instructional coach, Assistant Principal Elementary and as a most recent assistant principal of Ladera Vista Junior High School. Dr Sanchez is well experienced in coordinating school wide assessments, overseeing daily school operations, implementing differentiated instruction to meet diverse student needs and fostering student success by setting strategic goals aligned with district initiatives. Welcome to Norwalk-La Mirada Dr. Sanchez!





Employee/PTA Representatives' Reports

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

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

Andrea Garcia, President of the PTA Council, gave an update to the Board. The PTA Council announced that the Principals and Presidents Welcome Back Luncheon will be held on August 28, and all Board members are encouraged to attend. The Council invited Board members and administrators to join their local PTAs to help strengthen support across the district.

Membership continues to grow, with plans to reestablish one or two additional PTA units this year. A new districtwide PTA newsletter, led by student communications member Danielle, will highlight achievements from individual school units and recognize the dedication of parent volunteers. Ms. Garcia also expressed interest in meeting individually with Board members to discuss ways to strengthen parent engagement within each trustee area and improve connections between families, schools, and District leadership.

California School Employees' Association (CSEA)

Martha Jauregui, President of CSEA, gave an update to the Board. Ms. Jauregui commended CSEA Chapter 404 for its hard work in preparing schools for the new school year. Ms. Jauregui also highlighted concerns in staffing and operations including vacant positions, technology & support, ELOP Implementation and the new OneForm system. Ms. Jauregui emphasized that new administrative initiatives must honor the Master Agreement and include early consultation with the union before implementation. She also reiterated the Chapter's commitment to collaboration but stressed that action, not words, is needed to support staff effectively.

Teachers' Association of Norwalk-La Mirada (TANLA)

Maureen Quiros Gray, President of TANLA, gave an update to the Board. Ms. Quiros Gray reported on new teacher orientation and TANLA's **11th annual "Caring Beyond the Classroom" event**, which distributed **1,400 backpacks** filled with school supplies. She thanked the Board, Superintendent, community sponsors, and volunteers for their support and highlighted the district's spirit of collaboration as the **2025–26 school year** begins.

Superintendent's Report

[Welcome Back Norwalk-La Mirada!](#)

Superintendent Dr. Natasha Baker shared appreciation for a successful start to the new school year and premiered a welcome-back video featuring Board members, students, and staff. Dr. Baker emphasized ongoing focus on:



- Parent and community engagement
- Instructional support and collaboration
- Student readiness and safety

Dr. Baker also encouraged families to join PTA councils and participate in school events across the District.

Action Item Highlights

Crossing Guard Services (Item 16A)

- The Board discussed the \$663,000 contract renewal for citywide crossing guard services.
- Trustees acknowledged the importance of student safety and ongoing challenges in recruitment.
- While noting a cost reduction from the previous year, members requested exploration of in-district staffing options for the future

School Resource Officers (Item 16B)

- Discussion centered on security coverage at Norwalk and John Glenn High Schools.
- Trustees expressed interest in securing an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) for Norwalk High due to higher enrollment.
- Superintendent Baker and School Safety Chief Adrian Valdez leadership noted ongoing collaboration with the City of Norwalk and Sheriff's Department to strengthen safety measures

After-School Yoga Program (Item 16J)

- Trustees debated introducing a yoga-based after-school enrichment program for elementary students.
- While some raised concerns over participation comfort and religious roots, staff clarified the program is secular and focused on mindfulness and stress reduction.
- The motion did not pass

Chess Academy (Item 16K)

- The Board approved a contract for Chess Academy enrichment, providing up to 100 students per session an opportunity to participate in three 10-week instructional sessions throughout the year.
- Trustees praised the program's academic and cognitive benefits and requested future cost-per-student breakdowns for evaluation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.