

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**09/22/2025 05:30 PM**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CARUTHERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**CARUTHERS HIGH MEDIA CENTER**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance

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**Board Members**

James Cummings, Board President  
Valori Gallaher, Board Clerk  
Darren Gilmore, Board Member  
Kathy Spate, Board Member  
Mario Alvarado Jr., Board Member

**Administration**

Orin Hirschhorn, Superintendent  
Susan McCoy, Chief Administrative Officer  
Debra Haney, Chief Business Official  
Alisha Cogburn, CES Principal  
Gerrett Suarez, MES Principal  
Tod Tompkins, MARC Principal  
Barry Watts, CHS Principal

- 1. CALL TO ORDER by President James Cummings at 5:31 PM**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 25, 2025**

Motion made by: Darren Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

## 6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. **Alisha Cogburn** – Professional Development/Counseling and Health Interns/College Night
2. **Gerrett Suarez** – Staff/Student Expectations/Instruction-Reading/Attendance Awards/SSC Mtg
3. **Barry Watts** – FCCLA Chapter/Food Pantry/Sports/DA & JDA
4. **Tod Tompkins** – Unified Soccer/Adult School Updates

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **STUDENTS** – Student Board Representative Marelly Velazquez Cisneros highlighted the upcoming events at Caruthers High - Disney Themed Homecoming/Senior Recognition Dates/Rallies/Blood Drive
2. **PUBLIC** - None
3. **STAFF** - None

## 8. BUSINESS

### 1. **Public Hearing - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials**

### 2. **Review/Approve - Resolution #2025-12 - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials**

Motion to approve Resolution #2025-12 - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

### 3. **Review/Approve - 2024/2025 Application for Exemption from Required Expenditures for Classroom Teachers Salaries**

Motion to approve the 2024/2025 Application for Exemption from Required Expenditures for Classroom Teachers Salaries as presented.

Motion made by: Darren Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. – Yes

### 4. **Review/Approve - Resolutions #2025-13 - #2025-16 - Teacher Authorizations - Caruthers High**

Motion to approve Resolutions #2025-13 - #2025-16 - Teacher Authorizations - Caruthers High as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

**5. Review/Approve - 2025/2026 Certificated Substitute Teacher Rates**

Motion to approve the 2025/2026 Certificated Substitute Teacher Rates as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

**6. Review/Approve - Board Policy Updates - June/August 2025 - Second Reading**

Motion to approve Board Policy Updates - June/August 2025 as presented.

Motion made by: Darren Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

**7. Review/Approve - Resolution #2025-17 - Declaration of Emergency Repair Project - Caruthers High Room 701**

**Kathy Spate moved to approve/ratify Agenda items 8.7 through 8.10 based upon flooring issues. Valori Gallaher seconded. Motion Carried.**

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

**8. Review/Ratify - 2025/2026 GC Builders Proposal - Caruthers High Room 701 Emergency Repair Project**

**9. Review/Approve - Resolution #2025-18 - Declaration of Emergency Repair Project - Caruthers Elementary Room 701**

**10. Review/Ratify - 2025/2026 GC Builders Proposal - Caruthers Elementary Room 701 Emergency Repair Project**

**11. Review/Approve - 2025/2026 Gonzalez Architects Proposal for Services - Monroe Elementary**

Motion to approve the 2025/2026 Gonzalez Architects Proposal for Services - Monroe Elementary as presented.

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Darren Gilmore

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

**12. Review/Approve - 2025/2026 Fresno County Board of Education - Agreement to Lease Ground Space from Caruthers Unified**

Motion to approve the 2025/2026 Fresno County Board of Education - Agreement to Lease Ground Space from Caruthers Unified as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

**13. Review/Ratify Memorandum of Understanding - State Center Adult Education Consortium**

Motion to ratify Memorandum of Understanding - State Center Adult Education Consortium as presented.

Motion made by: Darren Gilmore

Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

**14. Review/Approve - Financials**

Motion to approve the Financials as presented.

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. – Yes

**9. CONSENT AGENDA (may be done with one motion)**

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.3 as presented. Kathy Spate moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 and 9.2 – 9.3 was moved to Closed Session for further discussion.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

- 1. Review/Approve - Warrants**
- 2. Review/Approve - Purchase Order Report**
- 3. Review/Approve - Inter-district Transfer Requests**

**10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Partnership with Easton/Caruthers Baseball/Softball Update

**11. CLOSED SESSION 6:19 PM**

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

- 1. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS SECTION 54957** Public Employee Appointment/Employment Title: Administration/Certificated/Classified Formal Compliant – citing Board Policy 1312.3 **SECTION 54957** Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release Title: Administration/Certified/Classified **SECTION 54957** Public Employee Evaluation Title: Superintendent – Orin Hirschhorn **SECTION 54957.6** Conference with Labor Negotiator Agency Negotiator: Orin Hirschhorn Employee Organization: CUTA, CSEA **SECTION 54957.6** Conference with Labor Negotiator Agency Negotiator: Orin Hirschhorn Unrepresented Employee(s) Classified Confidential/Site Administrators/Superintendent
- 2. OPEN SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

The Board reconvened at 8:15 PM taking action to deny one Interdistrict Attendance Request.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado, Jr.

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

**12. ITEMS FOR EMERGENCY CONSIDERATION**

**13. ADJOURNMENT 8:30 PM**

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Darren Gilmore

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes