UPDATED AGENDA
MERCED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 30, 2026

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Merced County Office of Education - 632 West 13th Street, Merced, CA 95341 – Board Room

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

[These proceedings may be recorded.]

I. Open

A. Call to Order at _____ PM by Chairperson _____

B. Roll Call:

Geneva Brett, Chairperson	_____
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson	_____
Rodrigo Espinosa, Member	_____
Dennis Hanks, Member	_____
Frank Fagundes, Member	_____

C. Others Present: _____

II. Flag Salute - Pledge 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 prior to 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 December 15, 2025

B. **Resolution No. 2026-01** Recognizing February 2026 as Black American History Month

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

IV. Written Communications

A. Correspondence Received By Chairperson

B. Correspondence Received By Board Members

C. Correspondence Received By Superintendent

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

During this portion of the agenda, the public is invited to address the Board on any item of interest that is within the Board's jurisdiction *(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54954.3)*. The Board shall conduct no discussion, deliberation, or action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as authorized by law raised (*Education Code 35145.5, Government Code 54954.2)*. Members of the public are limited to five minutes on each topic or agenda item, and public participation cannot exceed 20 minutes total for each topic or agenda item *(Government Code 54954.3; Board Bylaw 9322 & 9323)*.

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

A. Board Member's Report *(if any)* — Board Members

B. Superintendent's Report — Steve M. Tietjen

VII. Business Items for Action

A. Outstanding Employee Selection Committee — Steve M. Tietjen, *County Superintendent*

It is recommended that the Board of Education select a Board Representative to serve on the *Outstanding Employee Selection Committee*.

Nominee:_____

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

B. MCSBA Executive Committee — Steve M. Tietjen, *County Superintendent*

It is recommended that the Board of Education select a Board Representative to serve on the *Merced County School Boards Association (MCSBA) Executive Committee*. (current rep: Geneva) [2-year term, expires 2027]

Nominee:_____

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

C. Head Start Policy Council — Steve M. Tietjen, *County Superintendent*

It is recommended that the Board of Education select a Board Representative to serve on the *Head Start Policy Council*. (current rep: Rodrigo) [2-year term, expires 2027]

Nominee:_____

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

D. Merced County Committee on School District Organization — Steve M. Tietjen, *County Superintendent*

It is recommended that the Board of Education select a Board Representative to serve on the *Merced County Committee on School District Organization*. (current rep: Geneva) [4-year term, expires 2029]

Nominee:_____

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

E. Merced County Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule

Steve M. Tietjen
County Superintendent

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Merced County Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule for July 2026 through June 2027.

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

F. Come Back Charter School Renewal Petition, through June 30, 2031

Sherre Vernon
Coordinator, Ed. Services

In compliance with Education Code 47605 and 47607, the Merced County Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the provisions of a petition of the Come Back Charter School: A California Public Charter School. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the renewal petition beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2031.

Renewal Petition with RED LINE Changes *Petition with Signed Assurances & Appendices*

1. Open Public Hearing
2. Close Public Hearing

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

G. School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) 2024-2025

Sherre Vernon
Coordinator, Ed. Services

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Cards for the following:

- Valley Community School Atwater
- Valley Community School Los Banos
- Valley Community School Merced
- Merced County Juvenile Hall Court School
- Merced Scholars Charter School
- Come Back Charter School

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

H. School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) 2024-2025

Maria Duran-Barajas
Director, Special. Ed.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Cards for the following:

- Merced County Special Education
- Floyd A. Schelby School

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

VIII. Adjournment: _____ PM

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

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Availability of Documents for Public Inspection: Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the Merced County Office of Education to all or a majority of the members of the Merced County Board of Education less than 72 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection in the Superintendent's Office at the Merced County Office of Education, 632 West 13th Street, Merced, CA 95341, during normal business hours. The agenda is made available on our website: www.mcoe.org *(Government Code 54957.5) (Board Bylaw 9320 & 9322)*

Merced County Board of Education

Consent Agenda



Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

MINUTES DRAFT VERSION
MERCED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 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, and Rodrigo Espinosa.

C. Others present: Maria Rosie Martinez, Malik Turner, Samantha Stacey, Joyce Darbo, Monica Garza, Elycia Pimentel, Elena Saavedra, Maria Duran-Barajas, Stephanie Richardson, Laura Fong, Cristina Vara, Stacy Shasky, Kristina Steverson, Marisa Etheridge, Todd Beal, Martin Macias, Rosa Barragan, Laura Andrews, Martin Fregoso, Maira Barajas, Maria Cuevas, Yolanda Campos-Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Steve M. Tietjen-County Superintendent

II. Flag Salute – Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

III. Annual Reorganization

A. Nomination and Selection of Chairperson for 2026: **Ryan Heller** moved and **Rodrigo Espinosa** seconded the nomination of Geneva Brett for the position of Chairperson for 2026. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

B. Nomination and Selection of Vice Chairperson for 2026: **Frank Fagundes** moved, and **Rodrigo Espinosa** seconded the nomination of Ryan Heller for the position of Vice Chairperson for 2026. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0

IV. Presentation

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

1. Classified Employee: Daisy Aguilar, Special Education
2. Classified Employees: Ceci Perez, Educational Services
3. Certificated Employee: Antonietta Bernal, Superintendent's Office
4. Management Employees: Joseph Oh, Special Education

Outstanding Employee Awards were presented to Daisy Aguilar, Outstanding Certificated Employee with Special Education; Ceci Perez, Outstanding Classified Employee with Educational Services; Joseph Oh, Outstanding Management Employee with Educational Services; and Antonietta Bernal, Outstanding Classified Employee with the Superintendent's Office.

V. 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 November 17, 2025
B. Retirement Resolution:
   1. **Resolution No. 2025-40** Honoring Susan Camargo

Dennis Hanks moved, and **Frank Fagundes** seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

VI. Written Communications

A. Correspondence Received By Chairperson: None.

B. Correspondence Received By Board Member: None.

C. Correspondence Received By Superintendent: None.

VII. 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 comments made.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

A. Selection of new Board of Representatives to serve on:

- Outstanding Employee Selection Committee
- Merced County School Boards Association Executive Committee (MCSBA)
- Head Start Policy Council
- Merced County Committee on School District Organization

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

A. Board Member's Report: Frank Fagundes mentioned that he attended the Weaver Boosters' Annual Gala dinner at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, December 13th, and he was impressed by the great performance by the students.

B. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Tietjen shared that he, along with Geneva, Frank, and Rodrigo, attended the CSBA conference in Sacramento on Dec. 3-5, 2025. The conference offered a variety of interesting sessions. One session in particular, PACE

X. Business Items for Action

A. Schelby Agriculture Scholarship for 2025-2026

Presented by Superintendent Steve Tietjen.
It was recommended that the Board of Education review the Schelby Agriculture Scholarship for 2025-2026, approve payment of $200 to Merced College Foundation, and authorize Merced College Foundation to select the recipient.

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded a motion to approve payment of $200 to Merced College Foundation and authorize Merced College Foundation to Select Recipient. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

B. Resolution and Letter of Agreement – Federal Building/Bell Station

Presented by Superintendent Steve Tietjen.
It was recommended that the Board of Education approve **Resolution No. 2025-41** and the Memorandum of Agreement, which approves the purchase of the former Merced Federal Building/Bell Station.

Ryan Heller moved, and **Rodrigo Espinosa** seconded a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2025-41** and the Memorandum of Agreement approving the purchase of the former Merced Federal Building/Bell Station. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

C. Salary Increases for Two Unrepresented Employees

Presented by Deputy Superintendent Martin Fregoso.
It was recommended that the Board of Education approve compensation increases for the following two positions: Payroll Supervisor and Financial Services Supervisor. The recent salary study found that these two positions were 48% and 35% below the means for similar positions in comparable agencies.

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded a motion to approve the compensation increases for the following two positions: Payroll Supervisor and Financial Services Supervisor.

D. 2025-2026 First Interim Report

Martin Fregoso presented the 2025-2026 First Interim Report for Board review and approval. It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the First Interim Report, the Criteria and Standards Review, and authorization of the Certification of Interim Report

1. Approval of First Interim Report
   i. Form 01I-School Services General Fund Budget Revisions
   ii. Form 09I-Charter School Fund Budget Revisions
   iii. Form 11I-Adult Education Fund Budget Revisions
   iv. Form 12I-Child Development Budget Revisions
2. Approval of Criteria and Standards Review, Form 01CSI
3. Authorize the County Superintendent to sign the Certification of Interim Report (CI)

Dennis Hanks moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded a motion to approve the First Interim Report, the Criteria and Standards Review, and authorization of the Certification of Interim Report. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

IX. Adjournment

Ryan Heller moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting of the Merced County Board of Education at 3:50 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

Merced County Board of Education
Geneva Brett, Chairperson
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson
Rodrigo Espinosa, Member
Dennis Hanks, Member
Frank Fagundes, Member

Merced County Office of Education
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Resolution No. 2026-01

PROCLAMATION
BLACK AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
February 2026

Whereas, Americans of African descent helped develop our nation in countless ways, those recognized, unrecognized, and unrecorded;

Whereas, Black American history reflects a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride in its struggle to equally share in the opportunities of a nation founded upon the principles of freedom and liberty for all people;

Whereas, Black American citizens have participated in every American effort to secure, protect, and maintain the essence and substance of American democracy, as reflected by California Education Code Section 37221 (d), which establishes March 5 as *African American Day* to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Crispus Attucks, the first Black American martyr of the Boston Massacre;

Whereas, Barack Hussein Obama achieved a barrier-breaking accomplishment when he was inaugurated as the first Black American President of the United States on January 20, 2009;

Whereas, the Merced County Board of Education recognizes that each student needs an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people; and

Whereas, the history and contributions of Black American citizens have been consistently overlooked, misinterpreted, and undervalued in the curriculum of public education institutions prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

Whereas, the *History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve* states that the history curriculum of community, state, region, nation, and world must reflect the experiences of people and of different racial, religious, and ethnic groups, which are integrated at every level; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Merced County Board of Education proclaims the Month of February 2026, as *Black American History Month* and encourages all educational communities to commemorate this occasion with appropriate instructional activities.

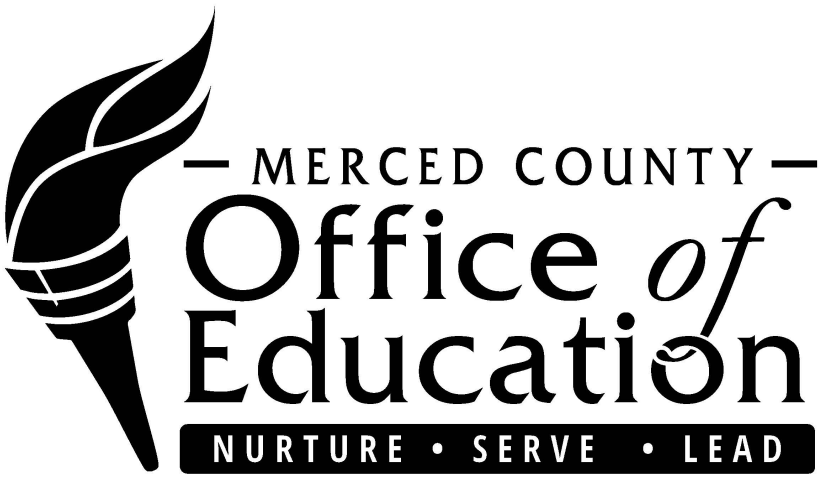
Adopted this **30th** day of **January**, **2026,** by the following vote:

AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

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

Merced County Board of Education

Business Items for Action



Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education
Regular Meeting Schedule
July 2026 – June 2027
DRAFT

All meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Date	Description	Deadline for Submitting Agenda Items
July 2026	*No Meeting Held* *	----------
08/17/2026	3rd Monday of August	8/10/26
09/21/2026	3rd Monday of September	9/14/26
10/19/2026	3rd Monday of October	10/12/26
11/16/2026	3rd Monday of November	11/9/26
12/21/2026	3rd Monday of December - **Annual Organizational Meeting**	12/14/26
01/19/2027	Moved to 3rd Tuesday of January * *(3rd Monday is a holiday)*	1/11/27
02/16/2027	Moved to 3rd Tuesday of February * *(3rd Monday is a holiday)*	2/8/27
03/15/2027	3rd Monday of March	3/8/27
04/19/2027	3rd Monday of April	4/12/27
05/17/2027	3rd Monday of May	5/10/27
06/14/2027	2nd Monday of June – **Special Meeting** *for Public Hearing – LCAP Budget*	----------
06/21/2027	3rd Monday of June	6/14/27

Deadline for Submitting Agenda Items: By Noon the Monday Before the Meeting

* 3rd Monday of the month except for January, February & June (due to holidays) [No meeting held in July]

Board Approved: January 30, 2026

MERCED COUNTY
Office of Education
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County Superintendent of Schools

Come Back Charter School (CBCS)

Renewal Petition

January 30, 2026

Public Hearing

Come Back Charter School

- Serves up to 2023 adults 18+ seeking a high school diploma, including:
  - Court and Community School students who have aged out and/or dropped out
  - Adults in custody
  - Other adults in Merced County who have not earned a high school diploma
- Partners with WorkNet, the local administrator of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA)



Come Back Charter School

- Provides academic counseling support to ensure access to career and college opportunities
- Utilizes an independent study approach across five campuses in the county
- Employs highly qualified teachers using a standards-aligned curriculum
- Provides extracurricular experiences that enrich students' community exposure and engagement



DASS Metrics

Dashboard Alternative School Status Metrics

DASS Alternative Metrics	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Access to Broad Course of Study	100%	100%	100%
1-year DASS Graduation Rate	31.1%	40.5%	Pending
Attendance rate measured by P2	No Data	80%	86.30%
Pupil Suspension Rate	0%	0%	0%
School Climate Data			
Students Feel Safe At School	No Data	100%	100%
Students Receive Support from Staff	No Data	92%	100%
Student Sense of belonging	No Data	93%*	86%
Student sense of Engagement	No Data	No Data	70%

Enrollment Trajectory

Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026+
Capacity	30	45	60	75	120	150	150	150	220

In 2024-2025 CBCS had an ADA of approximately 105 students and 76 graduates.

Attendance & Budget Summary

Average Daily Attendance	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Enrollment Capacity	30	45	60	75	120	150	150	150
Average Daily Attendance (ADA)	25	70	70	56	68	94	105	85

Budget	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Total Revenues	$292,633	$880,462	$1,117,705	$1,187,654	$1,673,931	$2,354,154	$2,920,634	$3,452,397
Total Expenditures	$291,806	$641,008	$768,366	$978,856	$1,006,895	$1,420,319	$1,745,345	$2,508,686
Estimated Ending Balances	**$827**	**$239,454**	**$349,339**	**$208,798**	$667,036	$933,835	$1,175,289	$943,711

*School year in progress

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Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

School Accountability Report Card

School Administrators

Valley Community Schools & Juvenile Court School
- **Atwater:** Cindy Gentry
  - *Assistant Principal: April Amaral*
- **Los Banos:** Dana Reyes
- **Merced:** Derrek Dean
- **Juvenile Hall:** Kristen Concepcion

Come Back Charter
- **Atwater:** Derrek Dean (Interim: Sherre Vernon)

Scholars
- **Non-Classroom Based:** Cindy Gentry
  - *Assistant Principal: April Amaral*
- **Dual Language Academy:** Lee Vang

MERCED COUNTY
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County Superintendent of Schools

Demographics

Student Group (Other)	CBCS	Scholars	Juvenile Hall	Atwater	Los Banos	Merced
English Learners	10.20%	7.50%	30.00%	26.20%	36.90%	7.10%
Foster Youth	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	1.60%	0.60%	2.00%
Homeless	3.10%	2.40%	0.00%	16.40%	5.00%	13.10%
Migrant	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.30%	0.00%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	96.10%	79.90%	100.00%	94.30%	90.00%	94.90%
Students with Disabilities	3.10%	16.50%	30.00%	11.50%	12.50%	17.20%

Credentialing

2023-2024	CBCS	Scholars	Juvenile Hall	Atwater	Los Banos	Merced
Fully (Preliminary or Clear) Credentialed for Subject and Student Placement (properly assigned)	19.84%	28.91%	17.14%	39.71%	51.43%	42.77%
Intern Credential Holders Properly Assigned	0%	15.32%	0%	0%	1.43%	0.00%
Teachers Without Credentials and Misassignments (“ineffective” under ESSA)	0%	16.21%	0%	28.78%	26.16%	41.32%
Credentialed Teachers Assigned Out-of-Field (“out-of-field” under ESSA)	80.16%	29.58%	81.90%	31.37%	20.80%	15.91%
Unknown/Incomplete/NA	0%	9.75%	0%	0%	0.00%	0.00%

Class Size

Generally under 10 for hybrid/daily (4-7 range)

Independent Studies (involving asynchronous work) do not have “class size” as each student works 1-on-1 with a teacher during the weekly appointment.



Demographics

Student Group (Other)	CBCS	Scholars	Juvenile Hall	Atwater	Los Banos	Merced
Systems (Gas Leaks, Mechanical, Sewer)	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Interior Surfaces	Good	Good	Poor	Good	Poor	Poor
Cleanliness	Good	Good	Poor	Good	Fair	Good
Electrical	Good	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Good
Restrooms & Fountains	Good	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair
Safety	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good
Structural	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Good
External	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Good
Overall	**Good**	**Fair**	**Fair**	**Fair**	**Poor**	**Fair**

2024/25 School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs)
Merced County Special Education and Floyd A. Schelby

5 Main Sections in the SARC with sample information:

1. About This School (Mission and Enrollment)

2. Conditions of Learning
- Teacher Placement and Credentials
- Instructional Materials
- School Facility Conditions

3. Pupil Outcomes
- CAASPP results
- Career Technical Education
- Physical Fitness Test Results

4. Engagement
- Opportunities for Parental Involvement
- School Safety Plan

5. Other SARC Information
- Class Sizes, Support Staff FTE, Staff Salaries
- Professional Development