MINUTES
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, Ryan Heller, 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