

REGULAR MEETING
01/26/2026 05:30 PM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CARUTHERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CARUTHERS HIGH MEDIA CENTER

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Board Members

James Cummings, Board President
Valori Gallaher, Board Clerk
Darren Gilmore, Board Member - Absent
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**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Valori Gallaher made the motion to approve the Agenda and move Business item 8.1 to the first order of business prior to Administrative Reports and Communications.

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes
Valori Gallaher - Yes
Darren Gilmore - Absent
Kathy Spate - Yes
Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 15, 2025**

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes
Valori Gallaher - Yes
Darren Gilmore - Absent
Kathy Spate - Yes
Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 1. **Alisha Cogburn** – Perfect Attendance/Data-Performance Results/Teacher Evaluations/SDC Classroom
- 2. **Gerrett Suarez** – Data Review-Growth Discussions/Parent-Community Events/Social-Emotional Learning
- 3. **Barry Watts** – AA Degree Pathway/ROP Events/Senior Night/Football Coach
- 4. **Tod Tompkins** – Early Graduates/Counselors Assistance-College and Job Options

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. **STUDENTS-** Student Board Rep Marley Velazquez Cisneros – Winter Formal/Homecoming-Senior Night

FFA Students – Fair Events/Accomplishments/Welding Competition/AG Day/ National FFA Week/FFA Convention/Caruthers FFA Banquet

Ben Higuchi – Thanked the Board for their support of the Music programs/Project Oscar Support
- 2. **PUBLIC** - None
- 3. **STAFF** - None

8. BUSINESS

- 1. **Review/Approve - 2024/2025 Caruthers Unified Financial Audit/Presentation - Linger, Peterson & Shrum - Bret Harrison**

Bret Harrison went over the 2024/2025 Financial Audit – Overall good audit – good cooperation from staff - noting one audit finding regarding attendance and addressed the current status of the districts reserves. Motion to approve the Caruthers Unified Financial Audit/Presentation - Linger, Peterson & Shrum as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher
Voting:
James Cummings - Yes
Valori Gallaher - Yes
Darren Gilmore - Absent
Kathy Spate - Yes
Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

- 2. **Review/Approve - GASB Statement Number 75 - Actuarial Valuation and Supplemental Schedules**

Motion to approve GASB Statement Number 75 - Actuarial Valuation and Supplemental Schedules as presented.

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher
Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate
Voting:
James Cummings - Yes
Valori Gallaher - Yes
Darren Gilmore - Absent
Kathy Spate - Yes
Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

3. Review - Local Control and Accountability Plan - Mid Year Report

Superintendent Hirschhorn went over the plan – currently on track with all goals.

4. Review/Approve - School Accountability Report Cards - Caruthers Elementary/Monroe Elementary/ Caruthers High/MARC High

Motion to approve the School Accountability Report Cards - Caruthers Elementary/Monroe Elementary/Caruthers High/MARC High as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Absent

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

5. Review/Approve - Board Policy Updates - November 2025 - Second Reading

Motion to approve Board Policy Updates - November 2025 - Second Reading as presented.

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Absent

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

6. Review - Board Policy Updates - January 2026 - First Reading

7. Review/Approve - Update on Resolution #2025-24 - Declaration of Emergency - Caruthers Elementary 800 Wing Project

Motion to approve the Update on Resolution #2025-24 - Declaration of Emergency - Caruthers Elementary 800 Wing Project as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Absent

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. – Yes

8. Review/Approve - AT&T Contract Extensions

Motion to approve the AT&T Contract Extensions as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Absent

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. – Yes

9. Review/Approve - Financials

Motion to approve the Financials as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Absent

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 9.5 as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Absent

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

1. Review/Approve - Warrants

2. Review/Approve - Purchase Order Report

3. Review/Approve - Inter-district Transfer Requests

**4. Review/Approve - Overnight Field Trip Requests - Caruthers High -
Drama/Careers in Education**

5. Review/Approve - Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

District Office Parking Lot Update/Multi-Purpose Room Update-Flooring Issues/Caruthers Education and Community Activity Center Update-Funding/Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Candidate Discussion/State Budget – Caruthers Budget – looking to cut One-Million beginning with the 2026/2027 budget – no major drops in enrollment

11. CLOSED SESSION 6:22 PM

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher
Voting:
James Cummings - Yes
Valori Gallaher - Yes
Darren Gilmore - Absent
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 8:38 PM taking no action on any Closed Session Agenda items.

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado, Jr
Voting:
James Cummings - Yes
Valori Gallaher - Yes
Darren Gilmore - Absent
Kathy Spate - Yes
Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

12. ITEMS FOR EMERGENCY CONSIDERATION

13. ADJOURNMENT 8:39 PM

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Valori Gallaher
Voting:
James Cummings - Yes
Valori Gallaher - Yes
Darren Gilmore - Absent
Kathy Spate - Yes
Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes