SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

4400 Cathedral Oaks Road
P.O. Box 6307
Santa Barbara, CA 93160-6307

REGULAR MEETING
March 12, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

UNAPPROVED

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the County Board of Education was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Board President Nadra Ehrman.

2. Spanish Interpretation/Interpretación

The president announced that Spanish interpretation of the board meeting was available online via Zoom.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Vedamarie Alvarez Flores
Katya Armistead
Marybeth Carty
Nadra Ehrman
Judith Frost
Sarah Anne Read
Guy Walker

Staff Members Present

Susan Salcido, superintendent
Austin Payne, legal counsel

Anna Freedland, executive assistant

Gina Branum	Kirsten Escobedo	Amy Ramos	Araceli Vasquez
Marc Cunningham	Don Lockwood	Steve Torres	

Others Present

Connie Alexander, Gateway Educational Services
Audrey Gamble, Gateway Educational Services
Viviana Marsano, interpreter (via Zoom)
Hugo Santos-Gomez, interpreter (via Zoom)

5. Changes to the Agenda

None.

6. President and Board Comments

The president and board members commented on various topics, including:

- Board Member Carty and Board President Ehrman shared that they attended SBCEO's Employee Service Awards.
- Board Member Armistead shared that she visited schools in the Hope School District with Dr. Salcido and that she also read to a first grade class at Cleveland Elementary School in the Santa Barbara Unified School District.
- Board Member Frost shared that she toured Ralph Dunlap School with Dr. Salcido, specifically SBCEO's two deaf and hard of hearing classrooms located there.
- Board Member Read shared that she attended the Central Coast Budget and Legislative Update and that she planned to attend the county science fair. She also shared that the hospital she worked at was going to hold an interdisciplinary conference on artificial intelligence in healthcare.

7. Public Comments

None.

PRESENTATION

8. Presentation by Gateway Educational Services

Co-directors of Gateway Educational Services, Connie Alexander and Audrey Gamble, provided a presentation about their non-profit organization, serving students and families in Santa Barbara County.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

9. Superintendent's Report

The superintendent's report was presented as an information item. Dr. Salcido highlighted the following items in the written report:

- School visits many board members attended with the superintendent and Board Member Walker's surprise visit to the superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting.
- The Links, Incorporated induction luncheon – Dr. Salcido shared that Board President Ehrman and Board Member Armistead were inducted into Links, a service organization, and that she and a few board members were in attendance.
- Save the dates for the Santa Barbara County School Boards Association Annual Dinner and the SBCEO Education Celebration
- Required training by board members – The superintendent reminded the board that they must complete required training on child abuse prevention and mandated reported. She said the information on how to complete the training would be emailed again to the board.
- Required form submission by board members – Dr. Salcido reminded the board that they must submit the Form 700 – Statement of Economic Interests by April 1.
- I Madonnari Street Painting Festival – The superintendent offered the opportunity for board members to contribute to an SBCEO-sponsored chalk art square at the festival, if they would like. She said more information would be sent via email.
- Olive Grover Charter Petition – Dr. Salcido highlighted the letter at board member places that was SBCEO's public comment at the State Board of Education (SBE) meeting today. She shared the 3 considerations listed in the letter, which Associate Superintendent Bridget Baublits shared during her 1-minute in-person public comment at the SBE meeting. The superintendent reported that the SBE approved the Olive Grove Charter-Santa Barbara petition for 5 years and decided that SBCEO would be the authorizer. She said SBCEO staff would meet with Olive Grove Charter School staff in the coming weeks.

The superintendent also shared the following additional information:

- Board retreat – Dr. Salcido reminded the board that the date had been set for July 9. She said all board members had said that date worked for them. She shared that she found a facilitator for the retreat and that she would connect with Board Member Alvarez Flores about it further since she was the chair of the Board Organization and Governance Committee. The superintendent reminded the board that the location of the retreat

would be mid-county, in the Santa Ynez Valley, and take place in the morning.
- Supreme Court ruling – The superintendent asked Austin Payne, legal counsel, to share about the recent Mirabelli v. Bonta Supreme Court ruling.

CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved all consent agenda items:

10. Minutes of Meeting Held February 12, 2025

11. Registration of Credentials and Other Certification Documents: Issuance of Temporary County Certificates

Registration of credentials and other certification documents registered in the Santa Barbara County Education Office from January 7, 20206 to February 6, 2026, and the issuance of temporary county certificates for that same time period.

12. Acceptance of Donations

Acceptance of donations for the following department:

- Superintendent's Office

13. Declaration of Surplus

Declaration of surplus for the following departments:

- Early Care and Education
- Information Technology Services
- Juvenile Court and Community Schools
- Maintenance and Operations
- Transitional Youth Services

14. Issuance of High School Graduation Diploma

Issuance of a high school graduation diploma to the following students:

Dos Puertas School
- Student CSIS # 4135148403 – February 3, 2026
- Student CSIS # 3525276521 – February 3, 2026
- Student CSIS # 9711288371 – February 20, 2026

Motion to approve all consent items:

MOVED: **Mrs. Frost** SECONDED: **Mrs. Carty** VOTE: **Passed 7-0**

ACTION ITEMS

15. Recommended Approval of Second Interim Report

The Second Interim Report was presented by the Board Budget Committee Chair Walker and Associate Superintendent Steve Torres. It was approved as part of the budget monitoring process.

MOVED: **Dr. Armistead** SECONDED: **Mrs. Read** VOTE: **Passed 7-0**

16. Accept and File Annual Financial (Audit) Report

The board acknowledged receipt of the 2024-25 Annual Financial (Audit) Report and ordered it filed.

MOVED: **Mrs. Alvarez Flores** SECONDED: **Dr. Armistead** VOTE: **Passed 7-0**

17. Recommended Adoption of Resolution for Application for Waiver for Educational Interpreter Certification (Education Code § 33050)

The board adopted Resolution No. 2608 for the application for a waiver for educational interpreter certification.

Ayes: 7 **Noes: 0** **Absent: 0** **Abstain: 0**
MOVED: **Dr. Armistead** SECONDED: **Mrs. Frost** VOTE: **Passed 7-0-0-0**

INFORMATION ITEMS

18. Personnel Report

The certificated and classified personnel reports were presented as an information item.

19. Correspondence

February 23, 2026 correspondence from the California Department of Education confirming a positive certification of the Santa Barbara County Education Office 2025-26 First Interim Report was presented as an information item.

20. Update on Property Purchased in Santa Maria

Associate Superintendent Steve Torres and Director of Facilities Marc Cunningham provided a brief update on SBCEO's Santa Maria Airpark facility. They reported that the tenants vacated the property on February 27 and that escrow was officially closed on March 10. Mr. Torres stated that another test fit

was forthcoming as well as architectural plans, including design services. He also shared that he and Mr. Cunningham were looking into clean energy services.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

21. Future agenda items

The president mentioned the following future agenda item that was listed on the agenda:

- Board retreat: July 9, 2026, location in mid-county TBD

The following were mentioned as potential future agenda items:

- Presentation by the Lompoc Teen Center program manager regarding their teen leadership advocacy council and their upcoming advocacy trips
- Presentation by FUTURE For Lompoc Youth
- Information on Olive Crest Hope Refuge

ADJOURNMENT

22. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m. to the next regular meeting to be held April 9, 2026 in Santa Barbara.

MOVED: **Mrs. Carty** SECONDED: **Mrs. Read** VOTE: **Passed 7-0**

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Nadra Ehrman, President County Board of Education	Dr. Susan Salcido, Secretary County Board of Education