

**REGULAR MEETING
02/23/2026 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
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: 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 26, 2026**

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. **Alisha Cogburn** – ELPAC Testing/Student Advisory Meeting/AG Day at Caruthers High/8th Grade Registration/Playoffs-Girls Basketball
2. **Gerrett Suarez** – Behavior Lessons/I-Ready Training/Academic Assembly/Literacy Night/Movie Night/Soccer/Kindness Challenge Week/Site Visits
3. **Barry Watts** – Sports Playoffs/Military Test/Careers in Ed/DELAC
4. **Tod Tompkins** – Early Graduates/Unified Sports

7. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **STUDENTS** – Student Board Rep Marley Velazquez Cisneros – Homecoming/Valentine’s Spirt Week/Sadie’s Hawkins Dance 3/13/26.
2. **PUBLIC** – Emir O’Brien spoke to the Board regarding her platform in running for Fresno County Superintendent of Schools.

– Stephanie Huerta Alvarez as well as current and former Students and Parents addressed the Board regarding the Caruthers Unified Doctor’s Academy Program and the need to keep such a program at Caruthers High.
3. **STAFF** – None

8. BUSINESS

1. Review/Approve - 2025/2026 - Second Interim

Debra Haney went over the Second Interim and the various impacts to the current and upcoming 2026/2027 budgets. Motion to approve the 2025/2026 Second Interim 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

2. Review/Approve - Caruthers Unified 2024/2025 Audit Corrective Action Packet

Motion to approve the 2024/2025 Audit Corrective Action Packet 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

3. Review - Work Place Violence Prevention Plan

4. Public Hearing - Initial Bargaining Proposals - Caruthers Unified and Caruthers Unified Teachers Association

5. Public Hearing - Initial Bargaining Proposal - Caruthers Unified and California School Employees Association Chapter #792

6. Review/Approve - Initial Bargaining Proposals - Caruthers Unified and Caruthers Unified Teachers Association

Motion to approve Initial Bargaining Proposals - Caruthers Unified and Caruthers Unified Teachers Association as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Darren Gilmore

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

7. Review/Approve - Initial Bargaining Proposals - Caruthers Unified and California School Employees Association Chapter #792

Motion to approve Initial Bargaining Proposals— Caruthers Unified and California School Employees Association Chapter #792 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

8. Review/Approve - Resolution #2026-01 - California School Board Association - CTAG (Closing the Achievement Gap Campaign)

Kathy Spate went over the background of the proposed resolution. Motion to approve Resolution #2026-01 - California School Board Association - CTAG (Closing the Achievement Gap Campaign) 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. Review/Vote - California School Board Association - Delegate Assembly Candidates

Motion to vote for California School Board Association - Delegate Assembly Candidates as recommended.

Motion made by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Motion seconded by: Darren Gilmore

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

10. Review/Approve - Board Policy Updates - January 2026 - Second Reading

Motion to approve the Board Policy Updates - January 2026 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

11. Review - Board Policy Updates - February 2026 - First Reading

12. Review/Ratify - Caruthers Elementary Multi-Purpose Room Project Change Order #1 - Gym Floor

Motion to ratify Caruthers Elementary Multi-Purpose Change Order #1 - Gym Floor 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/Approve - Caruthers Elementary Multi-Purpose Room Project Change Order Update

Motion to approve the Caruthers Elementary Multi-Purpose Room Project Change Order Update 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

14. Review/Approve - Caruthers Unified Education and Community Activity Center Change Order Update

Motion to approve the Caruthers Unified Education and Community Activity Center Change Order Update 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

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

Motion to approve the update to 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 - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

16. Review/Approve - Financials

Motion to approve the Financials 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

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

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.3 as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Darren Gilmore

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 – Superintendent Hirsch Korn wanted to publically acknowledge and commend our Site Administration for our ranking 4th in the County in test scores for the 2024/2025 school year.

11. CLOSED SESSION 7:28 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**

- 1. Review/Approve - Contract for Employment - District Superintendent**

The Board reconvened at 9:38 PM taking action to approve the Contract for Employment – District Superintendent as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate

Motion seconded by: Darren Gilmore

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes

12. ITEMS FOR EMERGENCY CONSIDERATION

13. ADJOURNMENT 9:30 PM

Motion made by: Valori Gallaher

Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado, Jr.

Voting:

James Cummings - Yes

Valori Gallaher - Yes

Darren Gilmore - Yes

Kathy Spate - Yes

Mario Alvarado Jr. - Yes