



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1h

**Meeting Date:** April 30, 2026

**Subject:** Approve Minutes for the March 19, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

**Division:** Superintendent's Office

**Recommendation:** Approve Minutes for the March 19, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

**Background/Rationale:** None

**Financial Considerations:** None

**LCAP Goal(s):** Family and Community Empowerment

**Documents Attached:**

1. Minutes of the March 19, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting

<p><b>Estimated Time of Presentation:</b> N/A <b>Submitted by:</b> Cancy McArn, Interim Superintendent <b>Approved by:</b> Cancy McArn, Interim Superintendent</p>
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Putting  
Children  
First

# BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND WORKSHOP

**Thursday, March 19, 2026**

**4:45 p.m. Closed Session**

**6:15 p.m. Open Session**

**Board of Education Members**

*Tara Jeane, President (Trustee Area 1)*

*Taylor Kayatta, Vice President (Trustee Area 6)*

*April Ybarra, Second Vice President (Trustee Area 4)*

*Jasjit Singh (Trustee Area 2)*

*Jose Navarro (Trustee Area 3)*

*Chinua Rhodes (Trustee Area 5)*

*Michael Benjamin (Trustee Area 7)*

*Maggie Kemper, Student Board Member*

**Serna Center**

*Community Conference Rooms*

*5735 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue*

*Sacramento, CA 95824*

## ***MINUTES***

***2025/26-22***

*Allotted Time*

**1.0 OPEN SESSION / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 4:52 p.m.*

*Members Present:*

*President Jeane*

*Member Kayatta*

*Member Rhodes*

*Member Singh*

*Member Ybarra*

*Member Benjamin*

*Member Navarro arrived at 7:02 p.m.*

*Members Absent:*

*Student Member Kemper*

**2.0 ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS TO BE  
DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

*No public comment*

**3.0 CLOSED SESSION**

***While the Brown Act creates broad public access rights to the meetings of the Board of Education, it also recognizes the legitimate need to conduct some of its meetings outside of the public eye. Closed session meetings are specifically defined and limited in scope. They primarily involve personnel issues, pending litigation, labor negotiations, and real property matters.***

- 3.1 *Government Code 54956.9 - Conference with Legal Counsel:*
  - a) *Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of Government Code section 54956.9*
- 3.2 *Government Code 54957.6 (a) and (b) Negotiations/Collective Bargaining SCTA SEIU, TCS, Teamsters, UPE, Non-Represented/Confidential Management (Cancy McArn)*
- 3.3 *Government Code 54957 – Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint*
- 3.4 *Government Code 54956.8-Conference with Real Property Negotiators:*
  - a) *Property: 2401 Florin Road, Sacramento, California 95822*  
*Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs) 041-0073025-0000*  
*Agency Negotiator: Chris Ralston, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Support Services*  
*Negotiating Parties: Sacramento City Unified School District and SacRT*  
*Under Negotiation: Price and terms of potential sale of property (Chris Ralston)*
  - b) *Property: 5917 26th Street, Sacramento, California 95822*  
*Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs) 025-0251009-0000, 025-0251014-0000, 025-0251010-0000, 025-0251011-0000*  
*Agency Negotiator: Chris Ralston, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Support Services*  
*Negotiating Parties: Sacramento City Unified School District and all interested parties*  
*Under Negotiation: Price and terms of potential sale of property (Chris Ralston)*
- 3.5 *Education Code 35146- The Board will hear staff recommendation on the following student expulsion from 25-26: Expulsion #12 and #13 of the 2025/2026 school year*
- 3.6 *Government Code section 54957—Public Employee Performance Evaluation Title: Interim Superintendent*

**4.0 CALL BACK TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*The meeting was called back to order at 7:02 p.m.*

- 4.1 *The Pledge of Allegiance*
- 4.2 *Broadcast Statement*
- 4.3 *Stellar Student introduced by Board Member Jasjit Singh*

**5.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

*There were 2 announcements that came out of closed session.*

- *The Board approved the dismissal of classified employee EEID 38927 by a vote of 7-0.*

- *The Board approved the dismissal of certificated employee EEID 6742 by a vote of 7-0.*

## **6.0 AGENDA ADOPTION**

*The Board adopted the agenda unanimously.*

## **7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

*15 minutes*

*Members of the public may address the Board on non-agenda items that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Public comment may be (1) emailed to [publiccomment@scusd.edu](mailto:publiccomment@scusd.edu); (2) submitted in writing through the district's website at <https://www.scusd.edu/submit-public-comment>; or (3) provided in-person at the meeting. The submission deadline for written public comments shall be no later than noon on the day of the meeting. If you intend to address the Board in-person, please fill out a yellow card available at the entrance. Speakers may be called in the order that requests are received, or grouped by subject area. We ask that comments are limited to two (2) minutes with no more than 15 minutes per single topic so that as many people as possible may be heard. By law, the Board is allowed to take action only on items on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, refer a matter to district staff or calendar the issue for future discussion.*

*Abigail Mike  
Nicholas Dominiguez  
Phyllis Fogg  
Dwight Armstrong  
Lola Olcese  
Sophie Olcese  
Heather Simoni  
Bianca Vargas  
Peter Zullo  
Jessica Tudor Elliott  
Megan Morris  
Elia Bassin  
Lozen Miranda-Brightman  
Ana Taukolo  
Christina Narraez  
Tona Miranda  
Michael Viers  
Elfi  
Tamara Rosenfield  
Sequoia Coleman  
Joe Little  
Tiffany Colasanti  
Araceli Saucedo  
Jacqueline Inama de Aspeitia  
Dawn Orosco  
Ely Guara  
Christina Setzer  
Ingrid Hutchins  
Rocio Richards  
Nho Le-Hinds  
Nicole Montonye  
Katie McKenzie*

*Fumi Tamanana  
Rebecca Wall  
Jessica Langford  
Jennifer Butler  
Vidalyn Kern-Grey  
Blaire Murray  
Adrian Wall  
Gregory Collins  
Karen Fucanan  
Jeff Marculescu  
Melisa Claridad  
Rory Christiansen  
Brigette Logstan  
Christina Mova  
Josefa Ramos-Pérez  
Tan Tung  
Garrett Kirkland  
Elizabeth Sterba  
Chase Tafoya  
Bryan Strolf  
Steve Bruno  
Chanise  
Patrick Lowe-Slaton  
Jose Gutierrez  
Yumiko Trimmingham  
Karen Huynh*

**8.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**Action**  
2 minutes

**Generally routine items are approved by one motion without discussion. The Superintendent or a Board member may request an item be pulled from the consent agenda and voted upon separately.**

**8.1 Items Subject or Not Subject to Closed Session:**

**8.1a Approve/Ratification of Other Agreements, Bid Awards, Declared Surplus Materials and Equipment, Change Notices, and Notices of Completion (Lisa Grant-Dawson)**

**8.1b Approve Purchase Order Board Report for the period of January 15, 2026, through February 14, 2026 (Lisa Grant-Dawson)**

**8.1c Approve Donations to the District for the period of January 1-31, 2026 (Lisa Grant-Dawson)**

**8.1d Approve Business and Financial Report: Warrants, Checks and Electronic Transfers Issued for the period of January 1-31, 2026 (Lisa Grant-Dawson)**

**8.1e Approve Personnel Transactions (Jake Hansen)**

- 8.1f Approve West Campus University Tour in Reno, NV on April 10, 2026  
(Mary Hardin Young)
- 8.1g Approve West Campus Debate Tournament in Boston, MA April 10-14, 2026  
(Mary Hardin Young)
- 8.1h Approve Minutes for the January 15, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting (Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn)
- 8.1i Approve Minutes for the January 22, 2026, Special Board of Education Meeting (Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn)
- 8.1j Approve Minutes for the January 29, 2026, Special Board of Education Meeting (Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn)
- 8.1k Approve Staff Recommendation for Expulsions #12 and #13 of the 2025-26 School Year (David Van Natten)
- 8.1l Approve SETA Head Start Grant Refunding Application (Basic and TTA) Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (Erin Findley & Mikako Fisher Hill)
- 8.1m Approve 2025-2026 Transportation Plan (Chris Ralston)

*This is an action item.*

*Public Comment:  
Terrence Gladney*

*Board Comment:  
No Board comment.*

*The Board unanimously, by a vote of 7-0, with Member Kemper absent, approved the consent agenda, excluding item 8.1k. The Board approved expulsion #12 as a suspension, and amended #13 for recommendation of suspension by a vote of 7-0 with Member Kemper absent.*

## **9.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

### **9.1 Employee Organization Reports:**

- *SCTA- Nikki Davis Milevsky, President of the SCTA, presented a report focused on the severe impacts of proposed staffing cuts, specifically targeting the elimination of all Transitional Kindergarten (TK) aide positions. Representatives argued that these layoffs would leave the district out of compliance with state safety and educational standards, placing an undue burden on teachers and compromising student safety. Milevsky emphasized that the current "pink slips" disproportionately affect the district's lowest-paid employees—those who built their seniority and remained committed to the*

*bargaining unit—only to be potentially "bumped" by individuals returning from outside roles. She characterized these fiscal decisions as a failure to protect the people providing direct, vital services to the district's most vulnerable students.*

- *SEIU- Casey Thompson, field representative for the SEIU, focused on the disproportionate impact of budget cuts on the district's most essential, lower-wage workers. He argued that the proposed layoffs of custodial, maintenance, and nutrition services staff would compromise the safety and cleanliness of school facilities, directly affecting the student learning environment. Thompson expressed deep frustration that these "front-line" employees were being targeted for cuts while administrative costs and outside contracts remained high. He urged the Board to reconsider the fiscal solvency plan, emphasizing that a district cannot function effectively without the staff who keep schools running every day and calling for a budget that prioritizes people over "random" departmental percentages.*
- *TCS- No report*
- *Teamsters- No report*
- *UPE*  
*AFSA Local 154-AFL-CIO- Chase Tafoya mentioned the \$170.5 million deficit and called attention to the need for strong fiscal leadership. He emphasized the need for respect of labor groups and school communities to be spotlighted as a strategy. He mentioned the pink slips given out by the Serna Center. Tafoya then called for reform at the top levels of the central staff. He emphasized a domino effect that returned to students, impacting them negatively. He recommended a strategy grounded in fiscal responsibility and operational pragmatism.*

9.2 *Student Member Report (Maggie Kemper)- No report*

9.3 *President's Report (Tara Jeane)- No report*

9.4 *Information Sharing by Board Members-*

*Member Ybarra brought to attention constant messaging about campaign funding by the SCTA. She brought up her history as an advocate in the district and her commitment to advocacy that benefits all. She re-emphasized the fact that she did not get rich from her campaign funding or board stipends. Ybarra mentioned that she is also of a low-income background, and anyone is welcome to ask her how much she makes. She re-emphasized that she has a freedom of speech that she is entitled to which reflects how she advocates for teachers and students in her work as a trustee.*

*Member Singh reflected on the allegations against Cesar Chavez and on Women's History Month. He expressed hope moving forward on potential movement on re-naming the Cesar Chavez Elementary School with heavy reflection from the community.*

*Member Benjamin mentioned the spelling bee at Oak Ridge Elementary School this Saturday and invited members of the public to attend.*

*Member Rhodes mentioned the opportunity he shared with Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn to plant trees at Edward Kemble Park and shared reflections on the opportunity.*

## **10.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

### *10.1 Recognizing of Trans Day of Visibility (Elizabeth Sterba & Chanise Hendrix)*

*The Student Support & Health Services Department opened the presentation by recognizing the International Transgender Day of Visibility, emphasizing that while it is a day for celebration, it must also be a call to action for student safety. The presenters honored the legacy of Miss Major Griffin-Gracy and highlighted a sobering 2024 study indicating that anti-transgender legislation is linked to a 72% increase in suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary youth. They traced the district's history of advocacy, from the formation of the LGBTQ+ Task Force in 2011 to the current expansion of the LGBTQ+ Support Services program, which now supports 493 students with name and gender marker updates and oversees 19 GSA clubs. The briefing then turned to critical legislative updates that necessitate immediate district action. The presenters detailed the requirements of Senate Bill 760, which mandates at least one all-gender restroom at every K-12 site by July 1, 2026, and Assembly Bill 5, requiring LGBTQ+ cultural competency training for all certificated staff by July 2025. Crucially, they addressed a March 2026 Supreme Court decision that blocked California policies regarding student privacy and parental notification. While the District Legal team is currently reviewing the ruling's implications, the presenters reaffirmed SCUSD's unwavering commitment to maintaining affirming and supportive environments for all gender nonconforming students during this period of legal uncertainty. The presenters implored the Board to stand firm in their existing commitments as external legal and social pressures mount. They recommended that the Board prioritize three specific actions: reviewing and adopting the 2026 draft update to the Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming Student Board Policy, supporting the Facilities Department in completing all-gender restroom lock updates across all school sites, and implementing the PRISM training program district-wide. By ensuring policies and facilities are up to date, the district can continue to provide the "visibility and safety" that students deserve. This is an information item.*

#### *Public Comment:*

*Romel Antoine*

*Kacey Mantilla*

#### *Board Comment:*

*Member Ybarra thanked team leads for mentioning the Student Advisory Council and was in full support of the presentation. She mentioned the concerns of the Student Advisory Council regarding federal attacks on transgender students and individuals.*

*Member Kayatta thanked team leads for the presentation and reaffirmed his support for transgender students and support for students regardless of what they identify as.*

*Member Singh thanked the Board for their ongoing support of transgender individuals and affirmed that he never felt like this Board was against transgender students and individuals. He added that the Board did its best to support and uplift transgender lives in the district.*

*10.2 Recognition of National Women’s History Month, March 2026  
(Board President Tara Jeane)*

*President Jeane spotlighted important Women in the district in honor of Women’s History Month. This is an information item.*

*Public Comment:  
No public comment.*

*Board Comment:  
Member Singh re-emphasized gratitude for President Jeane and Member Ybarra, as well as Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn and Board Specialist Danielle Driscoll. He thanked his mother and wife and acknowledged that men often overlook women's contributions to society. He affirmed his appreciation for women leaders in education.*

*10.3 Homeless Education Services Program Update  
(Ashley Powers Clark)*

*Presented by Ashley Powers-Clark, the Homeless Education Services Program Update outlines the district's strategies and current status in supporting students experiencing housing instability under the McKinney-Vento Act. The presentation highlights a significant increase in the identification of students experiencing homelessness, totaling 2,354 students as of March 2026, which represents a nearly 20% increase from the previous year. Powers-Clark detailed the program's efforts to remove barriers to enrollment and attendance by providing essential services such as transportation assistance, school supplies, clothing, and coordination with community-based housing providers. The update also addresses the exhaustion of one-time ARP-HCY (American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth) funds, emphasizing the district's shift toward sustaining these vital supports through the General Fund and Title I set-asides. Powers-Clark stressed that stable educational environments are a primary predictor of long-term success for vulnerable youth and calls for continued inter-departmental collaboration to ensure these students receive equitable access to all district programs and services. This is an information item.*

*Public Comment:  
No public comment.*

*Board Comment:  
Member Kayatta thanked team leads for the support and service to the district’s homeless students. He thanked the departments involved for their commitment and advocacy for homeless youth in securing funding at the state and city levels. He also expressed gratitude for their work with a grassroots organization based in Sacramento.*

*Member Singh expressed gratitude to the team for their presentation and work with homeless youth. He thanked them for their initiatives and shared statistics that stuck out to him. He expressed appreciation for their work, understanding of the budgeting, and work on appropriations.*

*Member Ybarra added that the work of homeless youth services and the student support center was vital to the district's work, and expressed pride in being part of a district that understands and responds to the needs of homeless students. She thanked the team for their work. Member Jeane acknowledged the hardships of advocacy for homeless youth and thanked the team for their commitment to student support services.*

*10.4 Recommendation for Approval: Humanities Courses of Study and Adoption of Ethnic Studies Instructional Materials (Ashley Alexander)*

*Presented by Ashley Alexander, the recommendation for Ethnic Studies instructional materials outlines the district's plan to meet the California Assembly Bill 101 graduation requirement for the Class of 2030. The proposal highlights a structured adoption process involving a committee of educators and community members who evaluated resources based on their alignment with the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum and cultural responsiveness. Alexander recommended the textbook "Our Stories in Our Voices" due to its local relevance—having been authored by Sacramento scholars—and its thematic focus on the histories and social movements of historically marginalized groups. Beyond the curriculum itself, the presentation emphasizes that implementing these materials starting in the 2025–26 school year is designed to increase student engagement and a sense of belonging, particularly for high-need student populations, while requiring dedicated professional development to support teachers in navigating these critical topics. This is an action item.*

*Public Comment:  
No public comment.*

*Board Comment:  
Member Rhodes expressed excitement and said that he was ready to approve the course when possible.*

*Member Ybarra expressed excitement and raised a question about the future of the ethnic studies course and diversifying the curriculum to serve other minority groups.*

*Member Benjamin thanked Alexander for the presentation and expressed the importance of a curriculum that reflected the identities of students.*

*Member Kayatta thanked Alexander and the department for providing the necessary education for students and expressed appreciation for the development of the curriculum and for delivering for students.*

*Member Rhodes moved to approve the action item with a second from Member Benjamin. The Board voted to approve 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.*

*10.5 Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Update (Ashley Alexander)*

*Ashley Alexander addressed the literacy crisis, noting that 21% of U.S. adults are illiterate and California ranks lowest in the nation. Within SCUSD, 42% of third graders scored in the lowest ELA band for 2024-25. To combat this, the district adopted DIBELS 8th Edition to meet the state's*

*K-2 screening mandate starting in 2025-26. While the tool identifies at-risk students for immediate intervention, it is not a formal diagnostic tool for dyslexia or special education. The district has already trained 368 teachers and provides ongoing data support for specialists. Early results show promise, with some "Schools On-the-Move" achieving 50% growth among at-risk students. Next steps include district-wide structured literacy training (Ed Code 33319.6) and continued progress monitoring. This is an information item.*

*Public Comment:*

*No public comment*

*Board Comment:*

*Member Ybarra asked a clarifying question on SIPS and how individuals would work exclusively with students on reading skills. She thanked Alexander for her work and demonstration of hearing public comments related to literacy concerns.*

*Member Jeane asked a clarifying question about testing 5-year-olds on their literacy screening, what the effectiveness of test results did, and what expectations were assumed of child literacy before kindergarten.*

#### *10.6 Approve Contracts Report >\$15,000 (Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

*Lisa Grant-Dawson presented the contracts report for the month of January. The Contracts Report outlines significant contractual expenditures for the Sacramento City Unified School District aimed at achieving LCAP goals related to graduation, academic, and safety outcomes. The report requests a total allocation of \$3,590,980.17 from the General Fund and \$3,436,964.00 from the Building Fund, specifically covering agreements that exceed the \$15,000 reporting threshold. Submitted for approval on the Consent Agenda, the report underscores the district's administrative oversight of high-value vendor contracts and reflects a bid threshold of \$119,100. This is an action item.*

*Public Comment:*

*No public comment.*

*Board Comment:*

*No Board comment.*

*Member Rhodes motioned to approve this contract's report, with Member Ybarra seconding. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.*

#### *10.7 Approval of Consultant Agreement Form and Authorization of Services (Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

*Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn presented the Approval of Consultant Agreement Form. The session outlined a multi-layered strategy to address the Sacramento City Unified School District's urgent fiscal distress, noting that the district is projected to exhaust its cash flow by early fall of the 2026-2027 school year. The proposal highlighted several key initiatives, including a Central Office Restructuring Process, ongoing support from retired Chief Business Officers (CBOs) funded by the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), and technical assistance from the Financial Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT). A major component of the plan involves a*

*partnership with the HYA Corporation for strategic oversight and budget stabilization through September 2026 at a cost of up to \$400,000. Staff concluded with recommendations for the Board to approve the HYA contract and unfreeze the CBO position to initiate recruitment and hiring efforts immediately. This is an action item.*

*Public Comment:*

*Carl Pinkston*

*Terrence Gladney*

*Board Comment:*

*Member Kayatta thanked Interim Superintendent McArn for questioning the status quo and interrupting a decades-long district culture that had failed to address deep-seated fiscal issues. He acknowledged that while the proposed contract represented a "pivot" from constant cutting toward investing in the future, he was cautious about the potential cost, warning against being "pennywise and pound-foolish" if the district remained stuck at the bottom of a fiscal well. Kayatta emphasized that any restructuring needed to happen rapidly—ideally before final layoff notices were issued—to ensure the process was intentional rather than reactive. However, he stated that he was not yet ready to fully commit to the new contract until he could ruminate on the upcoming second interim report; consequently, he recommended tabling the contract for further review while urging the Board to "unfreeze" the Chief Business Officer (CBO) position to begin essential long-term planning.*

*Member Ybarra expressed strong support for Member Kayatta's perspective while commending the Interim Superintendent's leadership and responsiveness to the Board, staff, and constituents. She noted that although she was experiencing a high level of distrust in the district's overall fiscal processes, the current approach offered a greater sense of certainty as critical deadlines approached. Ybarra emphasized that she was hopeful for positive outcomes as the Board moved into deeper discussions regarding the district's restructuring and financial future.*

*President Jeane requested clarification on the specific scope of the proposed services, noting that while the plan appeared thorough, it included language stating that certain elements "may be selected." She asked the Interim Superintendent to elaborate on the reasoning behind this flexible wording and to explain how the district would decide which specific services to prioritize or omit within the contract.*

*Interim Superintendent McArn explained that the broad and flexible nature of the contract's scope is a deliberate response to the district's ongoing discovery of long-standing "deficiencies" that have accumulated over the years. She stated that because staff are still "uncovering rocks" and identifying the full extent of the district's struggles, the intent is to secure wraparound services that can adapt to support the current team as needs arise. McArn clarified that this support is intentionally expansive, moving beyond the business office to include critical areas like personnel and communications, providing the district with the collaborative expertise needed to address issues that they may not yet fully understand.*

*Member Rhodes expressed full support for Interim Superintendent McArns's efforts to reimagine the district's processes, commending the intentionality behind the proposed support structure. He noted that he was prepared to move forward with the plan immediately, but acknowledged the desire of his colleagues to review the upcoming second interim report first. Rhodes stated that he was comfortable allowing the Board more time to ensure they could make a comprehensive and*

*comfortable decision, while reiterating that the work presented was an excellent step toward the district's goals.*

*Member Kayatta moved to table the item, while unfreezing the hiring of the Chief Business Officer position. Member Singh seconded.*

*The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.*

*10.8 Approve Professional Auditing Services ending June 30, 2026  
(Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

*Lisa Grant-Dawson outlined the selection of professional auditing services for the Sacramento City Unified School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Per California Education Code 41020, the District must contract with an independent auditor by April 1st to ensure financial transparency and regulatory compliance. To streamline the process after a temporary one-year agreement for 2024-25, the District utilized previous RFP data to evaluate five firms: Harshwal & Company LLP, Crowe LLC, EideBailly, CWDL, and Christy White. Proposals ranged in cost from \$135,000 to over \$172,000, with varying team sizes and travel inclusions. Ultimately, staff recommended moving toward a multi-year agreement to foster a more consistent audit process, requesting the Board approve a total "not-to-exceed" budget authority of \$185,000 for the selected firm. This is an action item.*

*Public Comment:*

*No public comment.*

*Board Comment:*

*Drawing on his professional background as a former school district auditor, Member Kayatta advocated for a complete rotation of the district's audit firm to interrupt "entrenched" financial practices. He emphasized that a new audit shop—rather than just a new team within the same firm—would force staff to adapt to new data-gathering processes and a different analytical style, which he described as a true industry best practice. While acknowledging the need for a quick hire by April 1st, he recommended utilizing the results of the previous year's RFP rather than starting a new search. Kayatta specifically proposed moving forward with the firm CDWL, noting that the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) recently transitioned to them with positive results. He concluded that after decades with the same firm, this change is essential to "keeping the district fresh" and providing a more rigorous challenge to its financial culture.*

*Member Ybarra expressed support for Member Kayatta's recommendation to switch audit firms, noting that she had been weighing his past advice on this matter heavily. She remarked that making such a change would be appropriate given the district's current situation and the influx of community feedback received via email. Ybarra concluded that transitioning to a new firm aligns with the Board's vision for urgent reform and is a necessary step to help the district move forward effectively.*

*Member Navarro echoed the sentiments of his colleagues, emphasizing that rotating audit firms is a matter of fairness and a necessary safeguard against complacency. He argued that if staff becomes "too comfortable" with a specific auditor, the district risks missing critical issues, which would be a disservice to the community. Aligning with the Superintendent's call for outside help,*

*Navarro stressed the importance of bringing "another pair of eyes" to the district's financials to ensure absolute transparency.*

*Member Navarro concluded his remarks by formally moving to select CWDL as the district's new auditor. This was seconded by Member Ybarra.*

*The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.*

## **11.0 BOARD WORKSHOP/STRATEGIC INITIATIVE**

### *11.1 2025-26 Second Interim Financial Report (Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

*Lisa Grant-Dawson outlined a deteriorating fiscal position for the district characterized by a shift toward negative certification. Driven by a massive \$89 million increase in expenditures—primarily due to a \$56.2 million spike in employee benefits and rising Special Education costs—the district is now projecting a \$108.2 million deficit for the current year, which is expected to swell to \$394.8 million by 2027-28. Despite a modest \$8.1 million revenue increase from revised LCFF data and transportation adjustments, the structural deficit remains unaddressed, leading to a projected cash deficit by September 2026. To address these challenges, the district is launching new Fiscal Solvency Dashboards to increase budget transparency. It is mandated to provide additional Third Interim Reports in May and June 2026 to stabilize its financial future. This is an action item.*

*Public Comment:*

*Carl Pinkston*

*Terrence Gladney*

*Board Comment:*

*President Jeane directed staff to page 26 of the multi-year projection within the second interim report to address a specific budgetary concern. She questioned why the district's reserve for economic uncertainty was listed at zero for all three projected years, seeking an explanation for the absence of these critical emergency funds in the current fiscal outlook.*

*Board Member Kayatta expressed concern regarding the transparency and timing of the budget reporting, noting that the budget committee had not seen the report before it was made public. He highlighted that the report appeared to be a "moving target," as it was initially posted as "qualified" on Friday before being updated to a "negative" status. Kayatta questioned the level of oversight and internal review, asking for confirmation on whether the district's fiscal advisor had reviewed the multi-year projections in real time. He concluded by seeking clarification on the degree of coordination between staff and the Superintendent regarding how these critical numbers were finalized and presented to the Board.*

*Member Ybarra expressed profound frustration with the district's administrative processes, stating that she often feels "gaslit" by a system that appears to strategically corner the Board into staying a predetermined course. While acknowledging the legal constraints regarding employee confidentiality, she asserted her commitment to "speaking her truth" about the lack of authentic follow-through on Board directives. Ybarra critiqued the tendency of staff to interpret directives overly literally to avoid action rather than seeking clarification, noting the high level of professional expertise among staff should preclude such misunderstandings. Finally, she warned the community that she perceives outside agency recommendations as pushing the district toward*

*state receivership—a result all seven Board members are "fighting fiercely" to prevent—and insisted that the district must provide consistent, accurate reporting to remain fair to the students and families they serve.*

*Board President Jeane proposed holding a dedicated budget workshop to dive deeper into the second interim report, suggesting that the process could begin with the budget committee before determining if a full board meeting is necessary. She emphasized that the Board's frustration stems not just from the "negative" numbers themselves, but from the underlying processes and experiences that led to the current fiscal state. Jeane expressed support for Interim Superintendent McArn's "pivot" toward bringing in additional administrative and CBO support, stating that these resources are essential to uncovering financial data faster and making more informed decisions. She concluded by framing the upcoming fiscal solvency plan as an opportunity to "reimagine education," asserting that the goal should not be cutting to the district's detriment but restructuring for the ultimate benefit of the students.*

*Member Kayatta moved to approve the report, with Member Singh seconding. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.*

## **12.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS      Receive Information**

### *12.1 Receive Information: SCUSD Charter Schools 2025-26 P1 Enrollment Report (Amanda Goldman)*

*Amanda Goldman presented the enrollment report of the district's charter schools, both dependent and independent.*

*Public Comment:  
No public comment.*

*Board Comment:  
No Board comment.*

## **13.0 FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES / LOCATIONS**

- ✓ *April 16, 2026, 4:45 p.m. Closed Session, 6:15 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting*
- ✓ *April 30, 2026, 4:45 p.m. Closed Session, 6:15 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting*

## **14.0 ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 11:26 p.m.*

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*Cancy McArn, Interim Superintendent and Board Secretary*

*NOTE: The Sacramento City Unified School District encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Board of Education Office at (916) 643-9314 at least 48 hours before the scheduled Board of Education meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code § 54953.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)] Any public records distributed to the Board of Education relating to an open session item will be available for public inspection at the Serna Center, at 5735 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sacramento, during normal business hours or on the District's website at [www.scusd.edu](http://www.scusd.edu).*