



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1i

Meeting Date: April 30, 2026

Subject: Approve Minutes for the March 26, 2026, Special 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 26, 2026, Special Board of Education Meeting.

Background/Rationale: None

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): Family and Community Empowerment

Documents Attached:

1. Minutes of the March 26, 2026, Special Board of Education Meeting

Estimated Time of Presentation: N/A Submitted by: Cancy McArn, Interim Superintendent Approved by: Cancy McArn, Interim Superintendent
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**Putting
Children
First**

**Sacramento City Unified School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board Meeting**

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

Thursday, March 26, 2026

5:30 p.m. Closed Session

6:00 p.m. Open Session

Serna Center

Community Conference Rooms

5735 47th Avenue

Sacramento, CA 95824

MINUTES
2025/26-23

1.0 OPEN SESSION / CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

Members Present:

*President Jeane
Member Benjamin
Member Kayatta
Member Navarro
Member Rhodes
Member Singh
Member Ybarra*

Members Absent:

Student Member Kemper

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Members of the public may address the Board on-agenda items only. Public comment may be (1) emailed to 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. Individual with comments on general school district issues that are not listed on the agenda for this special board meeting may be addressed at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board. 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.

No public comment

3.0 CLOSED SESSION

*3.1 Government Code section 54957—Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: Interim Superintendent*

4.0 RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called back to order at 6:13 p.m.

5.0 REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

No report out

6.0 BOARD WORKSHOP

*6.1 Approval of HYA Consultant Agreement Form and
Authorization of Services: Fiscal Stabilization Plan
and Support (Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

Cancy McArn shared that the idea is to present a multi-component strategy to continue the District's efforts in addressing the fiscal condition, outline external partnership and internal investments to stabilize operations, and seek Board support for implementation. The staff recommendation is to approve the contract with HYA and unfreeze the Chief Business Officer position so the District can start recruitment and hiring. This was an action item.

*Public Comment:
No public comment*

*Board Comment:
Member Benjamin expressed gratitude for the proposal, stating that for the first time, there appears to be a cohesive plan in place. He highlighted the "team" concept introduced on slide four, noting that the magnitude of the district's challenges is too heavy for a single person to manage. He spoke in favor of the multicomponent strategy and visualized the strategic pillars as the means to close the current deficit. He emphasized the importance of identifying root causes to ensure long-term fiscal solvency and thanked the team for their hard work.*

Member Ybarra echoed Member Benjamin's sentiments and inquired about the project's overall cost and transparency. She asked Interim Superintendent McArn and the speaker if a timeline could be established with specific milestones. This would allow the Board and the public to track spending and progress effectively, ensuring transparency throughout the process.

Member Singh noted that while the Board has attempted to set plans for several months, execution remains the primary challenge. He stated that the district has not received the necessary support in the past, making this contract essential. He welcomed the addition of two retired CBOs and support for the CBO search and FCMAT processes.

However, he stressed the urgency regarding the May 15th staffing notification deadline, arguing that a clearer understanding of the budget would allow the Board to make more informed decisions regarding potential staff cuts. As an attorney, he noted the open-ended nature of the contract and emphasized the need for a clear "severance" understanding; if the partnership does not hit its milestones, the Board must be able to terminate the contract to preserve savings.

Member Singh concluded by stating that while the district is asking for help, it must maintain its local authority and not simply be told what to do by outside entities.

Member Navarro reiterated the Board's need for additional expertise and "more pairs of eyes" on the district's financial situation. He asked what arguments could be presented to the County to ensure they allow the district to move forward with these services.

Member Kayatta clarified for the record that this item was previously heard and has undergone significant due diligence. He acknowledged the Board's general resistance to outside contracting, particularly since past reliance on contractors in special education contributed to the current fiscal crisis. However, he distinguished this contract as a Board-led temporary solution to build internal capacity rather than a return to old operating procedures.

Using an analogy to special education, he compared the district's situation to a student whose needs cannot be met locally, requiring temporary outside support until internal capacity is built. He asked Interim Superintendent McArn how the work of HYA would be directed and how it would specifically help build capacity for current and future staff, such as the new CBO. He also asked the consultants for an "exit plan" and what they require from the Board to ensure success. He concluded by stating he would vote in favor to retain local control and avoid state receivership.

President Jeane inquired about the specifics of the services agreement, specifically the 1,000-hour limit and the hourly rate. She asked if the district could start with a smaller increment, such as 500 hours, to gauge effectiveness before extending. She also asked Interim Superintendent McArn about the process for prioritizing the "menu" of services listed in the contract and how the district will ensure that HYA's work does not duplicate efforts already occurring elsewhere.

Interim Superintendent McArn responded by emphasizing that the effort is a collective team approach rather than a collection of silos. She explained that the interim CBO has already generated a list of priorities. The flexibility in the contract scope is intentional because, while some needs are known, other issues may be discovered as the work progresses. She assured the Board that decisions on which services to utilize would be made collectively to ensure the right direction is taken.

In her closing comments, Member Ybarra noted that the interim CBO is currently overwhelmed by frequent information requests from the Board. Bringing in this team would provide the Board with the clarity it seeks while allowing staff to focus on their core duties and constituent communication. She expressed a need for more timely reports, noting that the Board is often under pressure to make serious decisions without receiving information in a timely fashion.

Finally, she characterized the district's current transparency efforts as "lifting up rocks" to find and address hidden problems. She thanked Interim Superintendent McArn for bringing this contract forward as a standalone item for transparency rather than hiding it in a consent agenda. She concluded by stating that state receivership is not an option, as it would strip the community of its voice in their students' education.

Member Ybarra made a motion to approve with a second Member Navarro. The Board voted 7-0.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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 24 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 less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting and relating to an open session item are available for public inspection at 5735 47th Avenue at the Front Desk Counter and on the District's website at www.scusd.edu