



Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

1. CLOSED SESSION

2. OPEN SESSION

A. Call the Meeting to Order

President Sylvester called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Board Members present: Board President Karen Sylvester, Board Vice President Lauren Gill, Board Clerk Bill Gorback, Board Trustees Cindy Goldberg and Lisa Powell, and Student Board Trustee Finneas Kerns.

Administration present: Dr. Mark McLaughlin, Superintendent; Dr. Victor Hayek, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services; Kenneth Loo, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional and Student Services; and Shauna Ashmore, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Announcements from Closed Session and Open Session Procedures

President Sylvester announced that the following items were discussed in Closed Session:

1B. Conference with Legal Counsel, Anticipated Litigation, Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). (One Case)

There was no Board action on this agenda item.

1C. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

Trustee Gorback made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement, seconded by Trustee Goldberg.

President Sylvester stated that during its recently concluded closed session, the Board voted to approve a settlement agreement resolving the employment of a permanent certificated employee, employee number 6094. **The vote was unanimous.** Under the terms of the agreement, the employee agrees to submit their irrevocable resignation from

the District. In exchange, the District agrees to allow the employee to remain in paid status during a specified period of time and render payment of an agreed-upon settlement amount to the employee. The employee waives and releases the District from any and all legal claims relating to or arising out of their employment with the District.

1D. Conference with Real Property Negotiators, Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8. The agency negotiator is Dr. Victor P. Hayek, Deputy Superintendent. The discussion item is price and terms of payment regarding 1335 Calle Bouganvilla, Thousand Oaks, California 91360. Negotiating Parties: Conejo Valley Unified School District; Dr. Kelly Simon for BRIDGES Charter School

No Board action was taken on this agenda item.

1E. Conference with Real Property Negotiators, Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8. The agency negotiator is Dr. Victor P. Hayek, Deputy Superintendent. The discussion item is price and terms of payment regarding 2000 La Granada Dr., Thousand Oaks, California 91362. Negotiating Parties: Conejo Valley Unified School District; Kristen Walker for MATES Charter School

No Board action was taken on this agenda item.

1F. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), Case OAH 2025090397

Trustee Goldberg made the motion to approve the Settlement Agreement for Case OAH 2025090397, seconded by Trustee Gorback. **Motion carried: 5-0.**

D. Approval of the Agenda

Recommended Action: Approve the agenda as amended, pulling items 4U, 4AN, and 4AR for a separate vote, and withdrawing items 4AA, 4AB, and 4AQ from the agenda altogether.

Moved by: Lauren Gill; seconded by: Lisa Powell

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

E. Student Recognitions

The Board and District staff recognized students for the following accomplishments:

- Newbury Park High School:
 - Girls Wrestling & Individual - Marmonte League Champions
 - Girls Wrestling - Individual CIF Champion
- Thousand Oaks High School:
 - Girls Basketball - Marmonte League Champions
- Westlake High School:
 - Girls Soccer - CIF Division II and Marmonte League Champions
 - Boys Basketball - Marmonte League Champions

F. Reports from Student Reporters

Student Board Reporters:

Century Academy: Celena Smith

Conejo Valley High School: Angeleen Pinn

Newbury Park High School: Darwin Rowland

Thousand Oaks High School: Jade Yakel reported for Kayden Studebaker

Westlake High School: Fiona Mercer

Students reported on: Students reported on a wide range of campus activities, including ASG/ASB events, performing arts productions and performances, athletic competitions and accomplishments, student elections, and community-building events such as Family Night, Future Panther Night, the All District Music Festival, and Unified Sports. Updates also included ongoing CAASPP and Advanced Placement (AP) testing, physical fitness testing, and college planning efforts. Students highlighted preparations for major end-of-year events including prom, grad night, graduation ceremonies, and senior activities, as well as participation in campus traditions, fundraisers, rallies and spirit weeks, field trips, and student recognition programs.

G. Report from Parent Organization - LGBTQ+ Advisory Council

LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Chairperson Jessica Bernacki reported on the committee's continued efforts to advance its mission of fostering an inclusive and safe learning environment, highlighting active representation from school sites and four subcommittees, the first community social meeting held in February, ongoing curriculum improvement work, plans to release an LGBTQ+ toolkit in May, and continued initiatives to support all students.

H. Comments - Public

President Sylvester announced that six (6) public comment requests were submitted, and each speaker received three (3) minutes to speak.

3. ACTION ITEMS - GENERAL

A. Student Services - Approval of Annual Resolution #25/26-37: In Support of National Mental Health Awareness Month

Trustee Powell expressed appreciation for the Mental Health and Wellness Services staff and commended students for sharing their personal stories at the previous Board meeting, and Trustee Kerns emphasized the importance of advocating for mental health at the national level.

Recommended Action: Approve Annual Resolution #25/26-37: In Support of National Mental Health Awareness Month, as submitted.

Moved by: Bill Gorback; seconded by: Lisa Powell

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

B. Student Services - Approval of Annual Resolution #25/26-38: In Support of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

There was no Board discussion on this agenda item.

Recommended Action: Approve Annual Resolution #25/26-38: In Support of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, as submitted.

Moved by: Lisa Powell; seconded by: Bill Gorback

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

C. Student Services - Approval of Annual Resolution #25/26-39: In Support of Jewish American Heritage Month

There was no Board discussion on this agenda item.

Recommended Action: Approve Annual Resolution #25/26-39: In Support of Jewish American Heritage Month, as submitted.

Moved by: Cindy Goldberg; seconded by: Lauren Gill

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

D. Student Services - Approval of Annual Resolution #25/26-40: In Support of National Speech-Language-Hearing Month

The Board discussed feedback received from the Ventura County Autism Society requesting more neurodiversity-affirming language in the resolution, noting plans to propose improvements for next year's resolution, while staff will review the suggested language with the Speech/Language Pathology team to consider potential revisions.

Recommended Action: Approval of Annual Resolution #25/26-40: In Support of National Speech-Language-Hearing Month, as submitted.

Moved by: Cindy Goldberg; seconded by: Bill Gorback

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

E. Human Resources - Approval of Annual Resolution #25/26-34 "National Teacher Appreciation Week" - May 4-8, 2026

Trustee Gill highlighted the importance of teachers using qualitative data and their professional expertise to understand and support each student's learning.

Recommended Action: Approve Annual Resolution #25/26-34 declaring May 4-8, 2026, as "National Teacher Appreciation Week," as submitted.

Moved by: Bill Gorback; seconded by: Lisa Powell

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

F. Human Resources - Approval of Annual Resolution #25/26-33: "National School Nurse Day" - May 6, 2026

President Sylvester and Trustee Gorback expressed their appreciation for school nurses and the complexity of their work.

Recommended Action: Approve Annual Resolution #25/26-33 declaring May 6, 2026, as "National School Nurse Day", as submitted.

Moved by: Lisa Powell; seconded by: Cindy Goldberg

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

G. Business Services - Approval of Resolution #25/26-30: Authorizing the Borrowing of Funds for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the Issuance and Sale of One or More Series of 2026-2027 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS)

Dr. Hayek responded to a Board member's request for clarification on borrowing funds, explaining that the annual authorization permits the district to access short-term borrowing, if necessary, to bridge potential cash flow gaps caused by the timing of tax collections.

Recommended Action: Approve Resolution #25/26-30: Authorizing the Borrowing of Funds for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the Issuance and Sale of One or More Series of 2026-2027 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS), as submitted.

Moved by: Cindy Goldberg; seconded by: Lisa Powell

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

H. Board of Education - 2026 CSBA Delegate Assembly Run-off Election

The Board discussed the candidates in the 2026 CSBA Delegate Assembly run-off election and reached consensus to submit Patty Learner as their selected candidate for the two-year Delegate Assembly term.

Recommended Action: Approve the submission of the 2026 Delegate Assembly Run-off Ballot for Subregion 11-B, selecting candidate Patty Learner for a two-year term beginning April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2028.

Moved by: Lauren Gill; seconded by: Cindy Goldberg

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

4. ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

These items are considered routine and will be approved in one action without discussion. If Board members request that an item be removed from Consent or a citizen wishes to speak to an item, the item will be considered under Action Items.

Recommended Action: Approve the Consent Agenda, as submitted.

Moved by: Bill Gorback; seconded by: Lisa Powell

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

The Consent Agenda included approval of Resolution #25/26-35: Resolution of the Conejo Valley Unified School District Ordering a Regular Governing Board Member Election, Ordering a Regular Governing Board Member Election, Ordering Consolidation with Other Elections, and Constituting "Specification of the Election Order" to be held on November 3, 2026. Pursuant to Education Code Section 5016(b), in the event of a tie vote, the Governing Board shall determine the winner by lot.

A. Board of Education - Approval of Minutes

B. Board of Education - Approval of Resolution #25/26-35: Resolution of the Conejo Valley Unified School District Ordering a Regular Governing Board Member Election, Ordering a Regular Governing Board Member Election, Ordering Consolidation with

Other Elections, and Constituting "Specification of the Election Order" to be held on November 3, 2026

- C. Human Resources - Personnel Assignment Orders**
- D. Human Resources - Approval of Contract Between the Conejo Valley Unified School District and SHC Services Inc. dba Supplemental Health Care**
- E. Human Resources - Approval of Student Teacher Agreement Between the Conejo Valley Unified School District and Vanguard University**
- F. Instructional Services - Approval of Contracts Under \$5,000**
- G. Instructional Services - Approval of Overnight Trip Request for Newbury Park High School Track and Field Competition**
- H. Instructional Services - Overnight Trip Request - Thousand Oaks High School ETHOS Students to the Youth Business Summit**
- I. Instructional Services - Approval of Renewal Contract with Grand Stand LLC for Newbury Park High School**
- J. Instructional Services - Approval of Amendments to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion**
- K. Instructional Services - Approval of Amendments to Administrative Regulation 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities)**
- L. Instructional Services - Approval of Renewal Contract with STAR Inc. for July 2026 Summer Learning Camp**
- M. Instructional Services - Approval of New Contract with Beweiss Coaching for Thousand Oaks High School**
- N. Instructional Services - Booster Organization Reauthorization - Thousand Oaks High School Orchestra**
- O. Instructional Services - Approval of Overnight Trip Request (Watercraft Field Trip) - Conejo Academy of Leadership and Language Immersion**
- P. Instructional Services - Approval of Renewal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Vista Real Public Charter, Inc. (High School 2026)**
- Q. Instructional Services - Approval of Renewal Contact with Skillify, LLC, for Thousand Oaks High School**
- R. Instructional Services - Approval of Renewal Contact with Skillify, LLC, for Westlake High School**
- S. Instructional Services - Approval of Renewal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Antelope Valley Learning Academy, Inc. (Elementary and Middle School)**
- T. Student Services - Approval of Amendment No. 03 to the Contract with Cultivate Recreation Therapy Services, LLC**
- U. Student Services - Approval of Contracts Under \$5,000**

Trustee Gill made the motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Goldberg. Trustee Powell stated that she had pulled the item from the Consent Agenda due to its connection to her

former employer and recused herself from the vote. There was no Board discussion on the item.

Motion carried: 4-0, with a recusal from Trustee Powell and a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

- V. Student Services - Approval of Renewal Contract for Inter-District Services for Physical Therapy Services with the Ventura County Office of Education**
- W. Student Services - Approval of Renewal Memorandum of Understanding with Simi Valley Unified School District**
- X. Student Services - Approval of Renewal Contract for Inter-District Services for Orientation and Mobility with the Ventura County Office of Education - 2026-2027 School Year**
- Y. Student Services - Approval of Amendment No. 01 to the Master SELPA Contract with First Steps for Kids, Inc.**
- Z. Student Services - Approval of New Contract with Restorative Consulting Services LLC**
- AA. Student Services - Approval of Renewal Contract for Inter-District Services for Physical Therapy with the Ventura County Office of Education - 2026-2027 School Year**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda as it was a duplicate.

- AB. Student Services - Approval of Renewal Contract for Inter-District Services for Orientation and Mobility with Ventura County Office of Education**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda as it was a duplicate.

- AC. Student Services - Ratification of Alternative Dispute Resolution (under \$50,000)**
- AD. Business Services - Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment**
- AE. Business Services - Approval of Purchase Order Report (POs exceeding \$5,000)**
- AF. Business Services - Approval of Purchase Order Report (POs under \$5,000)**
- AG. Business Services - Acceptance of Donations/Gifts**
- AH. Business Services - Approval of Transfer of Funds - March 2026**
- AI. Business Services - Ratification of Warrants - March 2026**
- AJ. Business Services – Measure I and Other Sources - Notices of Completion**
- AK. Business Services - Change Order 2 - Campus Modernization HVAC - Newbury Park High School - Western Allied Corp.**
- AL. Business Services - Approval of Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints**
- AM. Business Services - 2026-2027 District Fee Review: Transportation Fees**
- AN. Business Services - 2026-2027 District Facility Use Fees and Rules and Regulations**

Trustee Goldberg made the motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Goldberg. President Sylvester announced that one (1) public comment request was submitted, and that speaker received three (3) minutes to speak.

President Sylvester noted that fees have held stable with only a minimal increase and emphasized that the use of Facilitron ensures the equitable treatment of all facility users. Dr. McLaughlin clarified that the Facilitron program supports both athletics and classroom use by outside agencies.

Motion carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

AO. Business Services - Approval of the 2026-2027 Child Nutrition Services School Lunch Meal and A La Carte Pricing

AP. Business Services - Approval of Renewal Agreement with LunchAssist PRO

AQ. Business Services - Approval of a One-Year Contract for Employee Health Care Claims Audit Services

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

AR. Business Services - Approval of Music Together Contract for CVUSD Preschool

Trustee Gill made the motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Goldberg. Trustee Powell stated that she had pulled the item from the Consent Agenda due to its connection to her former employer and recused herself from the vote. There was no Board discussion on the item.

Motion carried: 4-0, with a recusal from Trustee Powell and a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Kerns.

AS. Business Services - Approval of Amendments to Administrative Regulation 3440 - Inventories

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS - GENERAL

A. Instructional Services - Update on Mobile Communication Devices Policy

Mr. Loo provided an update on the mobile communication devices policy, which outlined the development and implementation of mobile device policy BP 5131.8 in response to AB 3216, highlighting a collaborative and transparent process with input from multiple stakeholder groups and Board revisions prior to approval in March 2025. The policy allows student possession and use of mobile phones with guidance differentiated by grade level, and was communicated through district messaging, handbooks, and signage. Feedback from teachers was generally positive, noting reduced distractions but emphasizing the need for consistent enforcement, while SDAC input reflected varied experiences.

Mr. Loo responded to questions from Board members regarding whether calls for stricter policies reflect a need for clearer expectations or more consistent enforcement, and whether consequences are applied uniformly across sites. They also asked if high schools should adopt stricter "phones off and away" expectations, what "more strict" means in terms of discipline, and whether comparable districts include exceptions. Additional

questions focused on whether sufficient data, especially from pilot schools, exists to guide changes now or if the policy should remain as is and be revisited after another year, as well as how to address unintended impacts like increased Chromebook use.

B. Instructional Services - Update on District Grading Practices

Mr. Loo reported on the annual update of grading practices and provided background on the history and timeline of this work. He outlined the pillars of equitable grading, reviewed key aspects of current Board Policy and Administrative Regulations, summarized actions taken this year at the elementary and secondary levels and shared evidence from trainings, departmental trends, and survey results, including teacher feedback on grading practices, perceived student impact, consistency among colleagues, and needed supports. He concluded by outlining next steps for both elementary and secondary levels.

Board and District staff discussion focused on whether effective grading practices developed through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and International Baccalaureate (IB) training could be shared across the district, and emphasized the importance of teacher-led implementation, consistency, and articulation among school sites.

C. Board of Education - Discussion of Board Bylaw 9320 - Meetings and Notices

Dr. McLaughlin noted that the amendments incorporate updates from Gamut, which clarify meeting procedures including remote participation and communication limits, revise notice requirements, and align with SB 707 regarding emergency remote meetings. There was no Board discussion on this agenda item.

D. Board of Education - Discussion of New Board Bylaw 9320.1 - Remote Meetings and Attendance

Dr. McLaughlin noted that the new bylaw defines when the Governing Board and individual members may participate remotely, incorporating traditional remote attendance and aligning with SB 707 (2025) to allow remote participation for accommodations, just cause, and during declared emergencies. There was no Board discussion on this agenda item.

E. Board Committee Reports

Trustee Gill reported that she will attend the Technology Committee meeting on April 17, 2026, where the district's technology framework is expected to be discussed. Dr. McLaughlin added that the Technology Committee has increased both the frequency and duration of its meetings.

Trustee Powell reported on her attendance at the Conejo Valley Adult Education Committee meeting's first meeting, which provided an introductory overview of programming, highlighted inequities in Adult Education funding across districts, and discussed plans to expand offerings by adding electrical, HVAC, and plumbing courses, beginning with electrical.

President Sylvester reported on her attendance at the Coalition of Youth and Families meeting, where a Conejo Free Clinic representative shared information about a free dental screening on April 25th in partnership with Adelante, along with free vaccinations for students. Three community organizations presented on the programs and services they offer. There was also a brief debrief of the March 10th meet-and-greet, which received generally positive feedback, and Ms. Bowman is gathering additional input from counselors regarding the timing of future meet-and-greet meetings.

F. Comments - Board of Education

Board members provided comments.

G. Comments - Superintendent

Dr. McLaughlin provided comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A. Future Board Topics / Activities

Board members did not add any additional topics for discussion at future meetings.

President Sylvester noted that a discussion should occur soon regarding when the Board can expect to review the Technology Committee's work on technology-related policies and framework. Trustee Gill, a member of the Technology Committee, reported that the committee's scope has expanded and that it is uncertain whether policies will be ready by the start of the next school year.

B. Adjournment

President Sylvester adjourned the Open Session at 9:17 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m. - Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. - Open Session, at Conejo Valley High School in the CVUSD Board Room, 1402 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

5/6/26

Date



Board Clerk

5/6/26

Date



Superintendent

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwMRcdezDa6wbm8DhLrV-HQ>