AGENDA
MERCED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 18, 2026

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Merced County Office of Education - 632 West 13th Street, Merced, CA 95341 – Board Room
The meeting begins at 3:00 p.m.

[These proceedings may be recorded.]

I. Open

A. Call to Order at _____ PM by Chairperson _____

B. Roll Call:

Geneva Brett, Chairperson	_____
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson	_____
Dennis Hanks, Member	_____
Frank Fagundes, Member	_____
VACANT, Member	_____

C. Others Present: _____

II. Flag Salute - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

III. Presentation of Awards – Stacie Arancibia

A. Writing Festival Awards – Merced Scholars and Atwater Valley Community School

B. Seal of Biliteracy Awards – Merced Scholars Charter School

IV. Consent Agenda: Items listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine administrative functions and will be acted on by the Board in one motion and one vote. Any items under the Consent Agenda may be discussed; however, if the item needs further clarification and discussion, it may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of the Board or the Superintendent and considered separately. Information concerning the Consent Agenda items will be provided to each Board Member for study before the meeting. It is understood that the Superintendent recommends approval of all consent items unless otherwise noted. *(Board Bylaw 9322)*

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 20, 2026

B. Retirement Resolutions:

1. Resolution No. 2026-10 Honoring Janette M. Alvarado
2. Resolution No. 2026-11 Honoring Lucilia A. Arroyo
3. Resolution No. 2026-12 Honoring Shelly Vasquez
4. Resolution No. 2026-13 Honoring Sukhpal Sidhu
5. Resolution No. 2026-14 Honoring Tracie L. Angelo
6. Resolution No. 2026-15 Honoring Barbarita Cuellar

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

V. Written Communications

A. Correspondence Received By Chairperson

B. Correspondence Received By Board Members:

C. Correspondence Received By Superintendent

VI. Call for Public Comments on Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

During this portion of the agenda, the public is invited to address the Board on any item of interest that is within the Board's jurisdiction *(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54954.3)*. The Board shall conduct no discussion, deliberation, or action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as authorized by law raised (*Education Code 35145.5, Government Code 54954.2)*. Members of the public are limited to five minutes on each topic or agenda item and, public participation cannot exceed 20 minutes total for each topic or agenda item *(Government Code 54954.3; Board Bylaw 9322 & 9323)*.

VII. Future Agenda Items

A. Special Board Meeting, June 8, 2026 – Public Hearing: Adoption of 2026-2027 Merced County Office of Education Budget and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

VIII. Superintendent's and Board Members' Report (Information/Discussion Only)

A. Board Member's Report *(if any)* — Board Members

B. Superintendent's Report — Steve M. Tietjen

1. MCOE 2026 School Graduations

IX. Business Items for Action

A. Special Education Extended Year Calendar — Laura Fong, Assistant Superintendent

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Special Education Extended Year Calendars for June 2026 and July 2026

Motioned by_____ Seconded by_____ Vote_____

B. Williams Uniform Complaint Report Summary — Erika Davalos-Lemus

It is recommended that the Board of Education review and approve the Uniform Complaint Report Summary for the Quarterly Period January 2026 through March 2026

Motioned by_____ Seconded by_____ Vote_____

C. Filling Vacancy — Steve M. Tietjen

It is recommended that the Board of Education review and select the option relative to the Vacant Board Member Position – Area #4

Motioned by_____ Seconded by_____ Vote_____

X. Call for Public Comments: Identified Closed Session Agenda Items

During this portion of the agenda, the public is invited to address the Board on identified closed session items before adjournment into Closed Session.

The Board will proceed into a Closed Session.

A. **Closed Session** Conference with Real Property Negotiator, Rick Marchini, concerning real property transactions, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8.

B. **Closed Session** Pursuant to Education Code 35146, for the Board to Meet as Thurman Agricultural Scholarship Committee to Review Applications

The Board will proceed into an Open Session.

Announce the 2026 Thurman Agricultural Scholarship Recipient

Motioned by_____ Seconded by_____ Vote_____

XI. Adjournment: _____ PM

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____ Vote _____

Americans with Disabilities Act Assistance: Auxiliary aids and services include a wide range of services and devices that promote effective communication for individuals with disabilities. If you require such assistance, please notify the Office of the Superintendent at (209) 381-6601 as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to give primary consideration to expressed preferences or provide equally effective means of communication to ensure equal access to the meetings of the Merced County Board of Education.*(Government Code 54954.2) (Board Bylaw 9320 & 9322)*

Availability of Documents for Public Inspection: Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the Merced County Office of Education to all or a majority of the members of the Merced County Board of Education less than 72 hours before that meeting are available for public inspection in the Superintendent's Office at the Merced County Office of Education, 632 West 13th Street, Merced, CA 95341, during normal business hours. The agenda is made available on our website: www.mcoe.org *(Government Code 54957.5) (Board Bylaw 9320 & 9322)*

Merced County Board of Education

Presentation

MERCED COUNTY
Office of Education
NURTURE • SERVE • LEAD

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education

Consent Agenda

MERCED COUNTY
Office of Education
NURTURE • SERVE • LEAD

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

MINUTES DRAFT
MERCED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 20, 2026

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Merced County Office of Education Board Room
632 W. 13th Street, Merced, CA 95341

I. Roll Call:

A. Board Chairperson, Geneva Brett; Board Members, Ryan Heller, Dennis Hanks, and Rodrigo Espinosa. Frank Fagundes was absent.

II. Call for Public Comments: Identified Closed Session Agenda Items

The public was invited to address agenda items, submit items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board for future consideration, or speak to issues related to the function and operation of the County Board of Education.

The Board proceeded into a Closed Session

III. Closed Session Pursuant to Education Code 35146 to Hear Appeal of Denial of Interdistrict Attendance Request – **Appeal #2026-05**.

IV. Closed Session Pursuant to Education Code 35146 to Hear Appeal of Denial of Interdistrict Attendance Request – **Appeal #2026-06**.

V. Opening

A. Board Chairperson, Geneva Brett, called the regular meeting of the Merced County Board of Education to order at 3:03 PM.

B. Members present were Ryan Heller, Dennis Hanks, and Rodrigo Espinosa. Frank Fagundes was absent.

C. Others present: Stephanie Richardson, Abigail Richardson, Marisa Etheridge, Laura Fong, Maria Duran-Barajas, Matt Devins, Nora Saldana, Jasmine Del Rosario, Emma Salgado, Israel Salgado, Christina Vara, Laura Andrews, Israel Gonzalez, Elmira Mello, Richardo Olmos, Beatrice Nunez, Lidia Chavez, Anna Miller, Todd Beal, Tara Hill, Martin Fregoso, Nathan Quevedo, Yolanda Campos, Maria Cuevas, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Steve M. Tietjen, County Superintendent

VI. Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

VII. Presentation – Stacie Arancibia

A. Presentation of Certificates to the Merced High School Decathlon Team.
B. Recognition of the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee winner, Akshara Thummala

VIII. Consent Agenda: Items listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine administrative functions and will be acted on by the Board in one motion and one vote. Any items under the Consent Agenda may be discussed; however, if the item needs further clarification and discussion, it may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of the Board or the Superintendent and considered separately. Information concerning Consent Agenda items will be provided to each Board member for study before the meeting. It is understood that the Superintendent recommends approval of all consent items unless otherwise noted. *(Board Bylaw 9322)*

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 16, 2026
B. Retirement Resolution No. 2026-09 Honoring Nora Andrade de Saldana

Ryan Heller moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion carried with a vote of 4-0 *(Fagundes was absent)*.

IX. Written Communications

A. Correspondence Received By Chairperson: None.

B. Correspondence Received By Board Member: None.

C. Correspondence Received By Superintendent: None.

X. Call for Public Comments on Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

The public was invited to address agenda items, submit items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board for future consideration, or speak to issues related to the function and operation of the County Board of Education.

There were multiple comments regarding the Dual Language Academy concerns.

XI. Future Agenda Items – MCOE School Graduation Dates

XII. Superintendent's and Board Members' Report (Information/Discussion Only)

A. Board Members Reported on the following:

1. The MCSBA Spring Dinner was held on March 30, 2026. Board Members, Geneva Brett and Frank Fagundes were the two members who attended the dinner.

2. The Central Valley Education Coalition Luncheon was held on April 9, 2026. Geneva Brett and Ryan Heller, along with Steve Tietjen, attended the luncheon.

B. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Tietjen shared about the National Summit on Improvement conference he attended on March 30-31, 2026

C. Public Hearing – Director of Educational Services, Tara Hill, presented on the Merced Scholars Charter School Renewal Petition.

1. Open Public Hearing: Geneva Brett opened the public meeting.
2. Close Public Hearing: There were no comments made. Geneva Brett closed the public hearing.

XIII. Business Items for Action

A. Merced County School Board Association (MCSBA) Fall Conference

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve for the Board Members to attend the upcoming Annual MCSBA Fall Conference on October 23-25, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Monterey.

Dennis Hanks moved, and **Geneva Brett** seconded a motion to approve the Board Members' attendance at the Annual MCSBA Fall Conference, October 23-25, 2026, held in Monterey, CA. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0 *(Fagundes was absent)*.

B. MCOE Employee Recognition Resolutions

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the MCOE Employee Recognition Resolutions as submitted.

1. **Resolution No. 2026-05** in Recognition of California Day of the Teacher, May 13, 2026, **Merced County Office Teachers Association (MCOTA)**
2. **Resolution No. 2026-06** in Recognition of California Day of the Teacher, May 13, 2026, **CSEA Chapter 856, Unit B – Head Start**
3. **Resolution No. 2026-07** in Recognition of Classified School Employees' Recognition Week – May 17-23, 2026, **CSEA Chapter 541**
4. **Resolution No. 2026-08** in Recognition of Classified School Employees' Recognition Week – May 17-23, 2026, **CSEA Chapter 856, Unit A – Head Start**

Ryan Heller moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded a motion to approve the MCOE Employee Recognition Resolutions as submitted. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0 *(Fagundes was absent)*.

XIV. Call for public comments: Identified Closed Session Agenda Items

During this portion of the agenda, the public was invited to address the Board on the identified items before adjournment into a Closed Session.

The Board proceeded into a Closed Session

XV. Closed Session

A. Conference with Real Property Negotiator, Rick Marchini, concerning real property transactions, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

B. Pursuant to Education Code 54956.9: conference with Legal Counsel Anticipated Litigation, Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) of Government Code Section 54956.9

Deliberate Interdistrict Attendance Appeals #2026-05 and #2026-06

XI. Open session for the Disposition of Interdistrict Attendance Appeal # 2026-05

On the request for an appeal of the denial of the Interdistrict Attendance Request submitted on behalf of Student #2026-05, it was moved by **Ryan Heller** and seconded by **Rodrigo Espinosa** to overturn the appeal, for the 2026-2027 school year, Gustine Unified School District's decision of denying the request for an interdistrict transfer to attend school at Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0.

Vote (by roll call)

Hanks	YES
Razzari	YES
Fagundes	ABSENT
Espinosa	YES
Brett	YES

XII. Open session for the Disposition of Interdistrict Attendance Appeal # 2026-06

On the request for an appeal of the denial of the Interdistrict Attendance Request submitted on behalf of Student #2026-06, it was moved by **Ryan Heller** and seconded by **Dennis Hanks** to overturn the appeal, for the 2025-2026 school year, Weaver Union School District's decision of denying the request for an interdistrict transfer to return to Weaver Middle School at Weaver Union School District. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0.

Vote (by roll call)

Hanks	YES
Razzari	YES
Fagundes	ABSENT
Espinosa	YES
Brett	YES

XIII. Adjournment

Ryan Heller moved, and **Rodrigo Espinosa** seconded the motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Merced County Board of Education at 4:48 PM. The motion was carried with a vote of 4-0 *(Fagundes was absent)*.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Secretary to the Board of Education

SMT/mc

Merced County Board of Education
Geneva Brett, Chairperson
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson
Dennis Hanks, Member
Frank Fagundes, Member
VACANT, Member

Resolution No. 2026-10
Honoring
Janette M. Alvardo

Whereas, Janette M. Alvarado has elected to retire from her position as a Court/Community School Teacher in the Educational Services Department with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Janette began her career with MCOE in October 2000, with her final day being June 4, 2026. The Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools hereby wish to make known their respect and admiration for Janette's 26 years of service with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Janette's previous two-year employment with the Weaver School District brings her to a total of 28 years served in education; and,

Whereas, Janette earned an AA degree from Merced College and her BA degree from CSU Stanislaus; and,

Whereas, Janette's service to her community includes memberships to the Elks Lodge, Club Mercedes, and HOW (Helping One Woman); and,

Whereas, over the course of her career, Janette has served in Student Programs as both a teacher and administrator. Janette has a true passion and a strong commitment to helping others, including students and adults.; and,

Whereas, after retirement, Janette looks forward to spending her time doing some traveling; and,

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools do hereby commend Janette for her dedicated years of service to ensure "Every Student A Success" and "Nurture, Serve, Lead" and extend their sincere best wishes for a happy, fulfilling retirement.

Adopted May 18, 2026

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed. D, Secretary to the Board
Merced County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education
Geneva Brett, Chairperson
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson
Dennis Hanks, Member
Frank Fagundes, Member
VACANT, Member

Resolution No. 2026-11
Honoring
Lucilia A. Arroyo

Whereas, Lucila A. Arroyo has elected to retire from her position as a Bilingual Family Support Services Provider in the Early Education Department with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Lucila began her career with MCOE in October 2005, with her final day being June 30, 2026. The Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools hereby wish to make known their respect and admiration for Lucila's 21 years of service with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Lucila's previous two-year employment with the Weaver School District brings her to a total of 23 years served in education; and,

Whereas, Lucila attended Merced College and earned a Family Development Credential, along with a Family Strengthening Certificate; and,

Whereas, Lucila's service to her community includes membership to the National Head Start Association and Mental Health First Aid Trainer; and,

Whereas, Lucila A. Arroyo has dedicated 21 years of service as a Bilingual Family Support Services Provider, consistently demonstrating a deep commitment to supporting children and families within the Head Start Program of the Merced County Office of Education. Throughout her tenure, she has built strong, trusting relationships with families, providing guidance, resources, and compassionate support to help them achieve stability and success. Lucy was also part of the Livingston Child Development Head Start Partnership, where she worked collaboratively with teachers and the Site Supervisor to support program goals. She participated in various community events in Livingston and developed strong partnerships with the local school district and clinics, which greatly supported the recruitment of children into the Head Start program. Additionally, Lucila provided essential support to families by assisting with transportation and helping them obtain required health screenings and documentation. Her extensive experience, collaborative spirit, and unwavering dedication make her a valued team member and a meaningful contributor to the mission of MCOE; and,

Whereas, Lucila has a close-knit family, and she takes great joy in being involved in their lives. She has two children, her daughter Fabiola and her son Sergio. She is a proud grandmother of five, Sebastian, Isabella, Clarissa, Ariella, and Cassandra. She cherishes every opportunity to spend time with them. Lucilia especially enjoys supporting her granddaughters, all four of whom are active in sports at Livingston High School. She rarely misses their games and loves cheering them on from the sidelines.; and,

Whereas, after retirement, Lucila looks forward to relaxing, she finds peace and happiness in her garden. With a large, thriving space to care for, she plans to spend many hours tending to her plants and enjoying the outdoors.; and,

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools do hereby commend Lucila for her dedicated years of service to ensure "Every Student A Success" and "Nurture, Serve, Lead" and extend their sincere best wishes for a happy, fulfilling retirement.

Adopted May 18, 2026

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed. D, Secretary to the Board
Merced County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education
Geneva Brett, Chairperson
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson
Dennis Hanks, Member
Frank Fagundes, Member
VACANT, Member

Resolution No. 2026-12
Honoring
Shelly Vasquez

Whereas, Shelly Vasquez has elected to retire from her position as an Administrative School Secretary in the Educational Services Department with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Shelly began her career with MCOE in April 2008, with her final day being June 30, 2026. The Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools hereby wish to make known their respect and admiration for Shelly's 18 years of service with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Shelly's service to her community includes serving as a Board Member of the Marching 100, Youth Baseball, and Youth Football; and,

Whereas, Shelly's work colleagues describe her as meticulous, thorough, responsive, and efficient; and,

Whereas, Shelly will take pleasure in spending more time with her husband of 44 years, Tony; her two sons, one of whom is a teacher at Bellevue School, and the other is a loan officer; and her two grandsons; and,

Whereas, after retirement, Shelly looks forward to spending some time traveling; and,

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools do hereby commend Shelly for her dedicated years of service to ensure "Every Student A Success" and "Nurture, Serve, Lead" and extend their sincere best wishes for a happy, fulfilling retirement.

Adopted May 18, 2026

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed. D, Secretary to the Board
Merced County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education
Geneva Brett, Chairperson
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson
Dennis Hanks, Member
Frank Fagundes, Member
VACANT, Member

Resolution No. 2026-13
Honoring
Sukhpal Sidhu

Whereas, Sukhpal Sidhu has elected to retire from her position as an FT Instructional Support Assistant Driver I in the Special Education Department with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Sukhpal began her career with MCOE in May 2007, with her final day being June 5, 2026. The Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools hereby wish to make known their respect and admiration for Sukhpal's 19 years of service with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Sukhpal earned her bachelor's degree from India with a focus on Political Science and Economics. In addition, she has completed sixty-three units of college-level coursework, further demonstrating her commitment to academic and professional development; and,

Whereas, Sukhpal leaves behind work that truly has made a difference. She spent her career supporting students with extensive needs, always showing patience, kindness, and a calm, steady presence that helped others feel at ease. She had a special way of connecting with students, making them feel safe, understood, and valued every day. Sukhpal was also someone her coworkers could always count on. Her care for others, quiet strength, and genuine compassion never went unnoticed and meant so much to those around her. She will be deeply missed, and the impact she made will stay with the students and colleagues whose lives she touched. As she begins this next chapter, her colleagues wish her all the best in a happy and well-deserved retirement.; and,

Whereas, Sukhpal has been married for forty years and is a devoted mother to her two children, a son aged thirty-nine and a daughter aged thirty-seven. Recently, she embraced a new and cherished role as a grandmother to her two-month-old grandson. Since 1989, she has made her home in Livingston, where she purchased her residence and continues to live to this day. Her longstanding commitment to her family and community reflects a life rooted in stability, care, and enduring connections; and,

Whereas, after retirement, Sukhpal looks forward to a well-earned period of rest and to spending quality time with her children and grandchildren. She also hopes to one day return to India to visit and reconnect with her roots; and,

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools do hereby commend Sukhpal for her dedicated years of service to ensure "Every Student A Success" and "Nurture, Serve, Lead" and extend their sincere best wishes for a happy, fulfilling retirement.

Adopted May 18, 2026

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed. D, Secretary to the Board
Merced County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education
Geneva Brett, Chairperson
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson
Dennis Hanks, Member
Frank Fagundes, Member
VACANT, Member

Resolution No. 2026-14
Honoring
Tracie L. Angelo

Whereas, Tracie L. Angelo has elected to retire from her position as a Licensed Vocational Nurse in the Special Education Department with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Tracie began her career with MCOE in August 2006, with her final day being June 5, 2026. The Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools hereby wish to make known their respect and admiration for Tracie's 20 years of service with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Tracie's work as a long-term Sub Instructional Aide in 1985, along with her work from 1986-1993 as a full-time Instructional Aide, brings her to a total of 28 years served in education; and,

Whereas, Tracie earned her Licensed Vocational Nurse Degree from Ozark Vocational Technical Nursing Program and,

Whereas, Tracie was a member of the Atwater Bowling League from 2010-2015; and,

Whereas, over the course of her career, Tracie has been an incredible itinerant LVN with the Merced County Office of Education, supporting students across multiple special education classrooms with skill, care, and heart. She's the kind of person you can always count on—flexible, capable, and committed to student health care. She handles procedures with confidence and ease, often needing little to no direction, and brings a level of knowledge and efficiency that makes a real difference. Whether it's stepping in to support a colleague or helping a supervisor, Tracie is always willing to lend a hand. Tracie has built positive relationships with peers, staff, students, teachers, and families. Her ability to connect with students is especially evident through her compassion and patience. She makes sure every student feels supported and respected during procedures, all while maintaining the highest safety standards.; and,

Whereas, Tracie's colleagues say, they have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Tracie for many years and have watched her develop professionally and excel in every role she has taken on. Tracie has been such a valued part of the MCOE health team, and it has truly been a pleasure having her with us. Her dedication, reliability, and genuine care for students have left a lasting impression, although, as retirement gets closer, you might catch her happily counting down the days and already practicing her "retirement mode." As she heads off to Arkansas to spend time with family, relax, and give back through volunteer work, we want to say a big thank you for everything she's done. She will absolutely be missed, and we wish her nothing but the best in her retirement; and,

Whereas, Tracie will take pleasure in spending more time with her three children, seven grandchildren, and one dog; and,

Whereas, after retirement, Tracie looks forward to volunteering with Alzheimer's and dementia patients, relaxing, and enjoying her family; and,

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools do hereby commend Tracie for her dedicated years of service to ensure "Every Student A Success" and "Nurture, Serve, Lead" and extend their sincere best wishes for a happy, fulfilling retirement.

Adopted May 18, 2026

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed. D, Secretary to the Board
Merced County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education
Geneva Brett, Chairperson
Ryan Heller, Vice Chairperson
Dennis Hanks, Member
Frank Fagundes, Member
VACANT, Member

Resolution No. 2026-15
Honoring
Barbarita Cuellar

Whereas, Barbarita Cuellar has elected to retire from her position as a Preschool Teacher in the Early Education Department with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Barbarita began her career with MCOE in November 1997, with her final day being June 30, 2026. The Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools hereby wish to make known their respect and admiration for Barbarita's 29 years of service with the Merced County Office of Education; and,

Whereas, Barbarita's previous employment with the Merced County Community Action Agency brings her to a total of 30 years served in education; and,

Whereas, Barbarita had previously earned her PhD in Law while living in Columbia in 1986. Once here in the US, she also earned an AA degree in Child Development in 2002; and,

Whereas, over the course of her career, Barbarita has served migrant preschool students with dedication and kindness, helping ensure that each child enters kindergarten on an equal playing field. She has touched the lives of hundreds of students throughout her time in her program and has been a valuable asset to the preschool team. Her professionalism, wisdom, and kind-hearted nature will be deeply missed by students, parents, and colleagues alike; and,

Whereas, Barbarita's colleagues expressed that "We are grateful for the positive impact she has made on so many lives. We wish Barbarita all the best as she begins this new chapter of her life. Her retirement is truly well deserved."; and,

Whereas, Barbarita will take pleasure in spending more time with her family, her two sons: Cesar O. Cuellar, Christian A. Cuellar, and daughter: Sandra V. Cuellar, along with her three grandchildren, Ava, Ivy, and Rafael; and,

Whereas, after retirement, Barbarita looks forward to traveling to Europe, prioritizing self-care by beginning an exercise routine, and become actively involved in the Sunday School Ministry at her local church, St. Stanislaus Church; and,

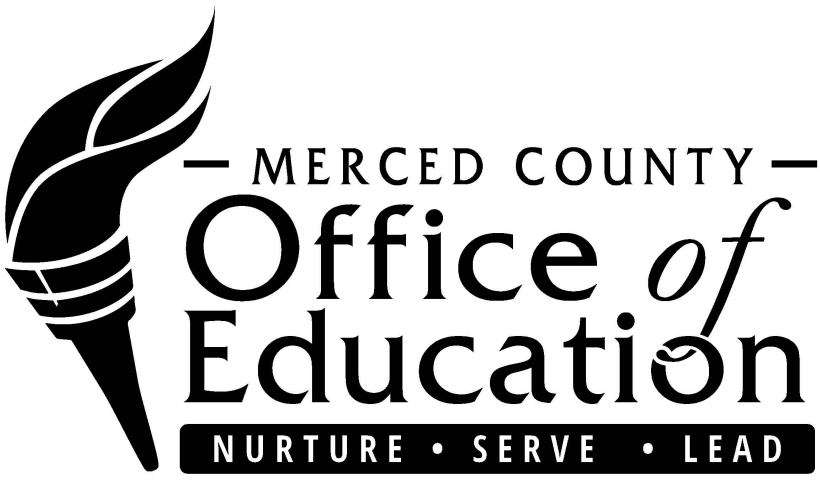
Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Merced County Board of Education and the Merced County Superintendent of Schools do hereby commend Barbarita for her dedicated years of service to ensure "Every Student A Success" and "Nurture, Serve, Lead" and extend their sincere best wishes for a happy, fulfilling retirement.

Adopted May 18, 2026

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed. D, Secretary to the Board
Merced County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education

Superintendent's and Board Members Report



Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

School Graduations

Juvenile Hall – Court School
DATE: Thursday, May 7th
TIME: 1:30 PM
LOCATION: 2840 W. Sandy Mush Rd, Merced CA

Adult Transition Program
Completion Ceremony
DATE: Friday, May 22nd
TIME: 5 PM – 6 PM
LOCATION: Dr. Lee Andersen Center-Atwater
1800 Matthew Drive, Atwater, CA (Gym)

VCS Atwater
Graduation Ceremony
DATE: Monday, June 1st
TIME: 5:30 pm
LOCATION: Dr. Lee Andersen Center-Atwater
1800 Matthew Drive, Atwater, CA (Gym)
(Pending clearance from M & O due to kitchen remodel)

Come Back Charter
DATE: Monday, June 1st
TIME: 6 PM
LOCATION: Merced College Theater, 3600 M St., Merced, CA

VCS Merced
High School Graduation Ceremony
DATE: Monday, June 1st
TIME: 6 PM
LOCATION: Merced Theatre Foundation, 301 W. Main Street, Merced, CA

Middle School Promotion
DATE: Monday, June 1st
TIME: 3:30 PM
LOCATION: Merced Theatre Foundation, 301 W. Main Street, Merced, CA

VCS Los Banos
High School Graduation Ceremony
DATE: Tuesday, June 2nd
TIME: 6 PM
LOCATION: O'Banion Auditorium,
403 F Street, Los Banos, CA

Merced Scholars Charter School Graduation/Promotions
High School Graduation Ceremony
DATE: Tuesday, June 2nd
TIME: 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Dr. Lee Andersen Center-Atwater
1800 Matthew Drive, Atwater, CA (Gym)
(Pending clearance from M & O due to kitchen remodel)

8th Grade Promotion
DATE: Tuesday , June 2nd
TIME: 1 PM
LOCATION: Dr. Lee Andersen Center-Atwater
1800 Matthew Drive, Atwater, CA (Gym)
(Pending clearance from M & O due to kitchen remodel)

Kinder Promotion
DATE: Tuesday, June 2nd
TIME: 9 AM
LOCATION: Wardrobe Gymnasium (pending clearance from M &O due to HVAC install)

VCS Atwater
8th Grade Promotion
DATE: Wednesday, June 3rd
TIME: 11 AM
LOCATION: Dr. Lee Andersen Center-Atwater
1800 Matthew Drive, Atwater, CA (Gym)
(Pending clearance from M & O due to kitchen remodel)

MSCS – Merced Dual Language Academy
Kinder Promotion
DATE: Thursday, June 4th
TIME: 9 AM – 10 AM
LOCATION: Wardrobe Gymnasium
(pending clearance from M & O due to HVAC install)

MERCED COUNTY Office of Education
NURTURE • SERVE • LEAD
Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Board of Education

Business Items for Action



Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 **Last day of School** Delhi	5 **Last day of School** Atwater/LB/DP/ATC MUHSD/Hopeton Romero/Schelby/WOLFE Le Grand/MCSD/Winton Selma Herndon/Danielson	6
7	8 **ESY First Day** All Special Education Sites	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 **HOLIDAY** Juneteenth (No students/staff)	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 **Holiday** Independence Day & ESY Last Day (No Students/Staff)	4
5	6	7	**8**	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Quarterly Williams Reports

2025-2026

Merced County Districts Quarterly Williams Uniform Complaint Summary Reports	1st Qrt. July-Sep	2nd Qrt. Oct-Dec	3rd Qrt. Jan-March	4th Qrt. Apr-June
Atwater Elementary	*1*	*0*	*0*	
Ballico-Cressey	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Delhi Unified	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Dos Palos/Oro Loma Unified	*0*	*0*	*0*	
El Nido Elementary	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Gustine Unified	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Hilmar Unified	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Le Grand Elementary	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Le Grand Union High	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Livingston Union High	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Los Banos Unified	*0*	*0*	*0*	
McSwain Union Elementary	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Merced City	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Merced County Office of Education	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Merced River Union Elementary	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Merced Union High	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Plainsburg Union Elementary	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Planada	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Snelling-Merced Falls Union Elementary	*0*	*0*	*1*	
Weaver Union Elementary	*0*	*0*	*0*	
Winton Elementary	*0*	*0*	*0*	

Details of District Complaints can be obtained from Erika Davalos-Lemus 25-26

Note: 3rd Qrt (25-26) - Sent to Maria Cuevas via email - 5/7/26