

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**GAYLORD A. NELSON ADMINISTRATION CENTER / BOARD ROOM**  
**2922 TRANSWORLD DRIVE, STOCKTON, CA**  
**APRIL 15, 2026 / 12:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Jordan Giannoni, President; Chuck Winn, Vice President; Jesus Andrade, Board member; Vern Gebhardt, Board member; Ken Vogel, Board member; Troy Brown, Secretary.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Janine Kaeslin, Deputy Superintendent; Terrell Martinez, Deputy Superintendent; Annie Cunial, Assistant Superintendent; Peter Foggiato, Assistant Superintendent; Connor Sloan, Assistant Superintendent; Anthony Chapman, Chief Human Resources Officer; Nicole Lorenz, Brandie Bruni, Marty Remmers, Marlene Acosta, Annie Camacho, Jason Moreno, Elisa Bubak, Zachary Johnson, Veronica Rabang, Sharon Slater, Brenda Maciel Nunez, Grace Luke, Hailee Gully, Suzanne Fagundes, SJCOE Staff; Michelle Marquez, Beth Thompson, Lara Wheatley, KIPP Charter School; Davina Harden, legal counsel; Christopher Anderson, Stockton Teachers Association; Greg Leland; Superintendent Rechelle Pearlman, Banta Unified School District; Carey Simoni, River Islands High School; Ryan Hesse, Stockton Unified School District; Interdistrict appellant families; members of the community; Lisa Bryant, Recorder.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Giannoni called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1.1 Board member Gebhardt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **COMMENTS:** There were no comments from the audience.

President Giannoni asked that public comments related to agenda item 3.1 be held until the Public Hearing has been opened.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

3.1 Charter School Petition Appeal: President Giannoni called the public hearing to order and requested public input relative to the KIPP Stockton High School Charter petition appeal, which has been submitted to the San Joaquin County Board of Education for approval.

Governmental Relations and Community Partnerships Director Brandie Bruni reported that the San Joaquin County Board of Education (SJCBOE) received the KIPP Stockton High School (KIPP) Charter petition appeal on March 12, 2026. Ms. Bruni shared that a committee of San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) staff will review the petition appeal according to Assembly Bill 1505 and Education Code. The SJCOE will publish the recommendations 15 days prior to the June SJCBOE meeting. Following KIPP's request for a 30-day extension, the SJCBOE must take action on the appeal no later than July 10. Ms. Bruni introduced Founder and Chief Executive Officer of KIPP Northern California Beth Thompson, Managing Director of KIPP Stockton Schools Lara Wheatley, and KIPP Stockton High School Principal Michelle Marquez.

Together, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Wheatley, and Ms. Marquez shared a presentation before the Board, which provided an overview of KIPP Stockton High School. The presentation

highlighted KIPP's track record of success, impact, graduation rates, commitment and progress in Stockton, early literacy rates, programs, values, student experiences, curriculum, programming, academic health, college and career readiness, and facilities.

Public comments were opened to those in support and those in opposition of the KIPP Stockton High School Charter petition appeal, allowing each side three (3) minutes individually and 15 minutes collectively, to speak.

Norma T.: I have one daughter in third grade, whom I homeschooled before taking a chance on KIPP. Our experience has been amazing. I can confidently say that the environment feels safe and secure and allows my daughter to focus on her education. KIPP makes my daughter feel confident and strong. I ask you to please support KIPP.

Velasquez: I am in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and student body president at KIPP and am proud to represent my class. This is my first year with KIPP. I have access to the principal every day. In serving as a student leader, I have realized that student voices do matter. KIPP pushes. Your decision matters and will impact students like me.

Hannah B.: I am a KIPP parent and staff member. My son is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at KIPP with severe autism. It is his first year at KIPP, and our experience has been life changing. KIPP provides daily updates with videos. That partnership means the world. I am literally able to see Jacob's progress. I fell in love as a parent first, then joined the team as the career connected learning director. I ask that you approve KIPP. Stability and place matters. Approving KIPP will allow us to build a supportive community environment.

Amelia L.: I am a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student, and it is my first year at KIPP. I like to experience new things. I love math and writing. Everyone is so nice. This is the first time I have been at a school I feel proud of. I also just got a very high score on a quiz that I have been working hard for. I also want to go to college. I ask that you approve KIPP High School.

Amy C.: I am a middle school student and have been at KIPP since I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. My older sister is at the high school and my youngest is at the elementary school. KIPP gives us a strong sense of community. We have had a great educational experience. I have been able to dream big. I want to graduate from KIPP High School and be one of the first in my family to go to college. KIPP has helped me discover what I love. Please approve them.

Christopher M.: I am a founding 9<sup>th</sup> grade student and am proud to have grown up at the school. I found teachers that believed in me. I have seen real growth in myself. Especially in reading and writing. Today, I am a student leader. KIPP has helped me discover my future. I have been waiting for a high school. It means access to resources and communities. I want to invite you to join us when I graduate in three years.

Sarah Sweitzer: I am a Dean at Stanislaus State. We partner with all school districts noncompetitively. KIPP is part of that journey and has been for more than two years. KIPP re-franchises and re-empowers students to believe in themselves. KIPP allows the same privilege to all families in south and central Stockton. The staff believes in the students more than the students believe in themselves. This gives all families the privilege of choice in where and how their families receive an education. This allows them to finish their journey into college.

Anna B.: I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at KIPP and vice president. I have been there for two years. It is the first time I have been a successful student. They made me feel comfortable and helped me find my identity. Becoming the vice president has helped shape my future. This leadership experience has helped me find my voice and become an advocate for my community. KIPP has encouraged me to pursue this dream and give me the tools to make this dream come true. I ask you to please approve KIPP High School for the entire community.

Allison T.: I am the director of KIPP Forward and KIPP Northern California Regional Support. I manage the team that supports all schools. I am a mom to two young daughters. Education is important because of my own family. I see every day that the students have the talent and drive to succeed, but they need the support every day. KIPP Forward provides just that. We know when students stay in a strong pathway, they are more likely to persist in graduation. KIPP Stockton High School students are already on that path. They are working hard and working for their future. Please approve the petition so that we can continue to help their future.

Kevin Huber: I was a founder of San Joaquin A+, University of the Pacific (UOP) Board member for nine (9) years, and am involved in the community. The vision for University Park was that it would be the hub where you could go to preschool all the way through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The high school students coming to University Park never envisioned themselves going to college. This helps them envision themselves on campus. KIPP asked for my help. If I thought KIPP was a threat to other schools, I wouldn't want that. But I have seen them demonstrate they are not a threat. I am hopeful that because you understand the difference education makes, your Board will vote with an independent mind and vote on a pathway that says yes.

Bernadette H.: I am the president of the California School Employees Association and respectfully ask you to deny the charter. On March 10, it was denied by Stockton Unified School District. KIPP duplicates programs that are offered nearby. Stockton Unified School District already has programs that offer the opportunity to grow. Does this meet the real need or does it provide competition? Nearby is Stockton Early College High School which ranks in the top 1% nationwide. They are right across the street. This should be for students not placement of a facility. Vote no.

Dr. Christopher Anderson: I am the president of the Stockton Teachers Association. I hear a lot of lovely stories, but they haven't kept their promise. KIPP falls behind. They were a mid-performing school and are now a low-performing school. All of the comparisons are their own schools. They are looking to take away resources from Stockton Unified School District (SUSD). They are trying to bleed out to other parts of the district. If they wanted to do this right, they would have come with a new charter instead of trying to work under the charter they already have. They didn't answer your questions about low attendance. I ask you to make KIPP work with what they have before they expand out into SUSD.

There being no further comments, President Giannoni closed the public hearing.

#### 4. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION:

- 4.1 Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report: Superintendent Brown shared there were no complaints to report.

#### 5. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION:

- 5.1 Minutes: On a motion from Chuck Winn, second by Vern Gebhardt, the Board approved the minutes from the March 18, 2026, regular meeting as presented.

AYES: Giannoni, Winn, Andrade, Gebhardt, Vogel  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

- 5.2 Resolution #25-26-12 – California Day of the Teacher: On a motion from Vern Gebhardt, second by Jesus Andrade, the Board approved this resolution proclaiming May 13, 2026, as California Day of the Teacher as presented.

AYES: Giannoni, Winn, Andrade, Gebhardt, Vogel  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

- 5.3 Resolution #25-26-13 – Classified School Employee Week: On a motion from Ken Vogel, second by Chuck Winn, the Board approved this resolution proclaiming May 17 – 23, 2026, as Classified School Employee Week as presented.

AYES: Giannoni, Winn, Andrade, Gebhardt, Vogel  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

- 5.4 Resolution #25-26-14 – Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: On a motion from Jesus Andrade, second by Ken Vogel, the Board approved this resolution proclaiming May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as presented.

AYES: Giannoni, Winn, Andrade, Gebhardt, Vogel  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

6. **CLOSED SESSION:** Action taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Transfer Appeals must be reported in Open Session. Action taken on Expulsion Hearings must be made in Open Session.

6.1 Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #31-25-26

6.2 Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #32-25-26

6.3 Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #33-25-26

6.4 Conference with Real Property Negotiators

7. **ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION (cont.):**

- 7.1 Closed Session Item 6.1: On a motion from Ken Vogel, second by Vern Gebhardt, the Board approved the appeal of the decision by the Governing Board of the Stockton Unified School District and granted the attendance of student #31-25-26 to the Banta Unified School District, instead of the district of residence.

AYES: Giannoni, Winn, Andrade, Gebhardt, Vogel  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

- 7.2 Closed Session Item 6.2: On a motion from Ken Vogel, second by Jesus Andrade, the Board approved the appeal of the decision by the Governing Board of the Stockton Unified School District and granted the attendance of student #32-25-26 to the Lincoln Unified School District, instead of the district of residence.

AYES: Giannoni, Winn, Andrade, Gebhardt, Vogel  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

- 7.3 Closed Session Item 6.3: On a motion from Chuck Winn, second by Jordan Giannoni, the Board approved the appeal of the decision by the Governing Board of the Stockton Unified School District and granted the attendance of student #33-25-26 to the Lincoln Unified School District, instead of the district of residence.

AYES: Giannoni, Winn, Andrade, Gebhardt  
NOES: Vogel  
ABSTAIN: None

## 8. CLOSING COMMENTS FOR BOARD MEMBERS:

Superintendent Troy Brown shared that thanks to Representative Josh Harder and widespread advocacy, the decision to close the Discovery ChalleNGe Academy due to Department of War funding cuts has been reversed.

## 9. DATES:

- 9.1 Next regular San Joaquin County Board of Education meeting, May 20, 2026, 12:00 p.m., 2922 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA.
- 9.2 State of Education, April 29, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Franklin High School, 4600 E. Fremont Street, Stockton, CA.
- 9.3 one.Program Commencement Ceremony, May 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m., San Joaquin Delta College, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA.
- 9.4 Building Futures Academy / Come Back Kids Graduation, May 20, 2026, 5:00 p.m., San Joaquin Delta College, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA.
- 9.5 Special Education Programs Commencement Ceremony, May 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Venture Academy Family of Schools Gymnasium, 2814 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA.
- 9.6 Venture Academy 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion, May 22, 2026, 2:30 p.m., University of the Pacific, Spanos Center, 3601 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA.
- 9.7 Venture Academy Graduation, May 22, 2026, 6:00 p.m., University of the Pacific, Spanos Center, 3601 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA.
- 9.8 Teachers College of San Joaquin Graduation, June 6, 2026, 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., San Joaquin Delta College, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA.
- 9.9 Discovery ChalleNGe Academy Class 19 Commencement Ceremony, June 13, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Bob Hope Theater, 242 E Main Street, Stockton, CA.
- 9.10 CodeStack Academy, June 26, 2026, 8:00 a.m., Venture Academy Family of Schools Gymnasium, 2814 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**REDACTED** →

Troy A. Brown, Ed.D.  
Secretary to the Board / County Superintendent of Schools