SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

4400 Cathedral Oaks Road
P.O. Box 6307
Santa Barbara, CA 93160-6307

REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

UNAPPROVED

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the County Board of Education was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Board President Nadra Ehrman.

2. Spanish Interpretation/Interpretación

The president announced that Spanish interpretation of the board meeting was available online via Zoom.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Vedamarie Alvarez Flores
Marybeth Carty
Nadra Ehrman
Judith Frost
Guy Walker (departed at 3:30 p.m.)

Board Members Absent

Katya Armistead
Sarah Anne Read

Staff Members Present

Susan Salcido, superintendent
Austin Payne, legal counsel
Felicita Torres, legal counsel
Anna Freedland, executive assistant

Camie Barnwell	Marc Cunningham	Luis Medina	Marith Utterback
Noelle Barthel	Kirsten Escobedo	Mari Minjarez	Brandon Weber
Bridget Baublits	Anne Flores	Delaney Patrick	
Gina Branum	Isabel Guerrero	Amy Ramos	
Tracie Cordero	Steve Keithley	Steve Torres	

Others Present

Teresa “Teddy” Barahona, Classified School Employee of the Year
Rudy Bondietti, Classified School Employee of the Year
Mary Cortez, Classified School Employee of the Year
Alejandra Navarro, 2027 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year
Mike Ostini, Personnel Commissioner
Cheri Palin, Classified School Employee of the Year
Francisco Romero, AV consultant
Hugo Santos-Gomez, interpreter (via Zoom)
Regina Santos-Moreno, interpreter (via Zoom)
Natalie Wilkes, 2026 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year
Family members, friends, and colleagues of the honorees
Members of the media

5. Changes to the Agenda

None.

6. President and Board Comments

The president and board members commented on various topics, including:

- Congratulating, again, Board Member Marybeth Carty for receiving the Person of the Year Award by the Santa Barbara Foundation.
- Congratulating Board Member Guy Walker for receiving the Champions Award by the Family Service Agency, along with his wife, Molly Carrillo-Walker.
- Board Member Carty shared that she attended the Santa Barbara County School Boards Association’s Annual Dinner in April, at which the 2026 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year, Natalie Wilkes, spoke.
- Board Member Walker shared that he visited Los Olivos School with Dr. Salcido.

7. Public Comments

None.

RECOGNITIONS

8. Santa Barbara County Classified School Employees of the Year Recognition

The superintendent and Director of Human Resources Amy Ramos provided background on the Classified School Employee of the Year program. Dr. Salcido and members of the board announced the 2026 Santa Barbara County Classified School Employees of the Year and presented them with certificates of recognition:

- Teresa “Teddy” Barahona, Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, security services category
- Rudy Bondietti, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District, custodial and maintenance services category
- Mary Cortez, Orcutt Union School District, health and student services category
- Cheri Palin, Orcutt Union School District, clerical and administrative services category

9. Teacher of the Year Announcement

The superintendent and Director of Teacher Programs and Support Steve Keithely provided background on the Teacher of the Year selection process. Dr. Salcido announced the 2027 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year, Alejandra Navarro, a first grade Dual Language Immersion teacher at El Camino School. The superintendent and Board President Ehrman presented Ms. Navarro with a plaque on behalf of the board.

Board adjourned for a brief recess at 2:52 p.m. Board reconvened at 3:06 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

10. Superintendent’s Report

The superintendent’s report was presented as an information item. In the written report, Dr. Salcido highlighted the 2026-27 governor’s May Revise budget, which came out that morning, and all the work the Curriculum and Instruction division had been doing recently, including hosting the Batalla de los Libros (Battle of the Books) student event that morning.

CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved all consent agenda items:

11. Minutes of Meeting Held April 9, 2026

12. Registration of Credentials and Other Certification Documents: Issuance of Temporary County Certificates

Registration of credentials and other certification documents registered in the Santa Barbara County Education Office from March 7, 2026 to April 6, 2026, and the issuance of temporary county certificates for that same time period.

13. Acceptance of Donations

Acceptance of donations for the following departments:

- Superintendent's Office
- Teacher Programs and Support

14. Declaration of Surplus

Declaration of surplus for the following departments:

- Career Technical Education
- Early Care and Education
- Information Technology Services
- Internal Operations (Maintenance and Operations)
- North County Liaison
- School Business Advisory Services

Motion to approve all consent items:

MOVED: **Mrs. Carty** SECONDED: **Mrs. Alvarez Flores** VOTE: **Passed 5-0**

ACTION ITEMS

15. Recommended Authorization to Utilize a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Equalis Group and Global Industries, Inc.

Equalis Group and Global Industries, Inc. furniture purchase contracts are established using products, services, and prices from existing, competitively assessed and cost-compared multiple award contracts. Public Contract Code Section 10298 allows county offices of education and TK-12 local educational agencies to utilize such contracts without going to bid. Equalis Group Contract

No. R10-1176H, Region 10 Education Service Center (ESC) with Global Industries, Inc., in accordance with Texas state procurement laws as outlined in TEC 44.031, provides the purchase, warranty, and installation of furniture and related services, as needed. The board approved the use of Global Contract No. R10-1176H through June 30, 2028.

MOVED: **Mrs. Frost** SECONDED: **Mr. Walker** VOTE: **Passed 5-0**

16. Board Policies, Deletion

The board approved the deletion of the following board policy since Board Policy 1445 – Response to Immigration Enforcement, adopted by the board on April 9, 2026, replaced it:

- BP 5145.13 – Response to Immigration Enforcement

MOVED: **Mrs. Carty** SECONDED: **Mrs. Alvarez Flores** VOTE: **Passed 5-0**

17. Reimburse Expenses for Board Members to Attend the SBCEO Education Celebration

The board approved the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses for board members to attend the SBCEO Education Celebration, May 21, 2026, cost: $75/person, in accordance with Board Policy 9250.

MOVED: **Mrs. Frost** SECONDED: **Mrs. Alvarez Flores** VOTE: **Passed 5-0**

INFORMATION ITEMS

18. Olive Grove Charter School – Santa Barbara Renewal Petition and Draft MOU

The Olive Grove Charter School – Santa Barbara renewal petition, dated July 30, 2025, and the California Department of Education's staff report (of the renewal petition), along with a few additional documents, were provided to the board as an information item. A draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the County Board of Education and Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc., related to the County Board being the authorizer of the Olive Grove Charter School – Santa Barbara beginning July 1, 2026, was also provided for review and information. The final MOU will be provided to the board for approval in June. Associate Superintendent of Student and Community Services Bridget Baublits provided information about these items.

19. Personnel Report

The certificated and classified personnel reports were presented as an information item.

20. Update on the Board Retreat

The superintendent and Board Organization and Governance Chair Veda Alvarez Flores provided a brief update on the planning for the board retreat.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

21. Future agenda items

The president mentioned the future agenda items that were listed on the agenda as an information item:

- Presentation by the Lompoc Teen Center program manager regarding their teen leadership advocacy council and their advocacy trips
- Presentation by FUTURE For Lompoc Youth
- Information on Olive Crest Hope Refuge
- Discussion on AB 1390 regarding board member compensation

CLOSED SESSION

22. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Government Code § 54956.8) – Closed Session

The board held a closed session conference with real property negotiator. The closed session began at 3:50 p.m. and present were board members; Dr. Susan Salcido, county superintendent of schools; Steve Torres, associate superintendent; Marc Cunningham, director of facilities; Felicita Torres, legal counsel; Austin Payne, legal counsel; and Anna Freedland, executive assistant.

Property in Goleta, CA. Agency designated representatives: Dr. Susan Salcido, superintendent, and Steve Torres, associate superintendent. Negotiating parties: [confidential] for Goleta property. Instructions to negotiators regarding price, terms, and conditions.

There was no action taken.

At 4:23 p.m. the board adjourned closed session and reconvened to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

23. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m. to the next regular meeting to be held June 11, 2026 in Santa Maria.

MOVED: **Mrs. Carty** SECONDED: **Mrs. Alvarez Flores** VOTE: **Passed 4-0**

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Nadra Ehrman, President County Board of Education	Dr. Susan Salcido, Secretary County Board of Education