



APPROVED

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1i

Meeting Date: June 4, 2026

Subject: Approve Minutes for the April 30, 2026 Regular 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 April 30, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Background/Rationale: None

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): Family and Community Empowerment

Documents Attached:

1. Minutes of the April 30, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting

Estimated Time of Presentation: N/A

Submitted by: Board Office

Approved by: Cancy McArn, Superintendent



Putting
Children
First

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND WORKSHOP

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, April 30, 2026

4:45 p.m. Closed Session

6:15 p.m. Open Session

Serna Center

Community Conference Rooms
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95824

MINUTES

2025/26-26

Allotted Time

1.0 OPEN SESSION / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:51 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Student Member Kemper

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

No public comment

3.0 CLOSED SESSION

While the Brown Act creates broad public access rights to the meetings of the Board of Education, it also recognizes the legitimate need to conduct some of its meetings outside of the public eye. Closed session meetings are specifically defined and limited in scope. They primarily involve personnel issues, pending litigation, labor negotiations, and real property matters.

3.1 Government Code 54956.9 - Conference with Legal Counsel:

- a) *Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of Government Code section 54956.9 (One Potential Case)*
 - b) *Existing litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(1) of Government Code section 54956.9 (OAH Case No. 2025120803, OAH Case No. 2025081048, OAH Case No. 2025101105, & OAH Case No. 2026020171)*
- 3.2 *Government Code 54957.6 (a) and (b) Negotiations/Collective Bargaining SCTA SEIU, TCS, Teamsters, UPE, Non-Represented/Confidential Management (Cancy McArn)*
- 3.3 *Government Code 54957 – Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint*
- 3.4 *Government Code 54957- Public Employee Appointment (a) Approve- Principal, Hubert H. Bancroft Elementary School*
- 3.5 *Property: 401 1st Ave, Sacramento, California 95818
Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 009-0237-017-0000
Agency Negotiator: Chris Ralston, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Support Services
Negotiating Parties: Sacramento City Unified School District and 401 1st Avenue LLC
Under Negotiation: Price and terms of acquisition of property (Chris Ralston)*
- 3.6 *Government Code section 54957—Public Employment, Evaluation, Appointment Title: Superintendent*

4.0 CALL BACK TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called back to order at 7:09 p.m.

- 4.1 *The Pledge of Allegiance*
- 4.2 *Broadcast Statement*
- 4.3 *Stellar Student introduced by Board Member April Ybarra*

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

There were 5 announcements that came out of close session.

- *The Board approved a settlement agreement related to OAH case number 202581048 in the amount of \$50,000 by a vote of 5-2 with Members Kayata and Ybarra voting against the action.*
- *The Board approved a settlement agreement related to OAH case number 2025101105 in the amount of \$30,900 by a vote of 7-0.*
- *The Board took no action to modify the coordinator's findings in an employee complaint appeal pursuant to administrative regulation 4031 and will render this decision in writing within 10 working days.*

- By a vote of 7-0, the board approved the appointment of Paul Hurl Souza as the principal of Hubert Banker Hubert Bankraftoft Elementary School.
- By a vote of 7-0, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Cancy McArn as Superintendent.

6.0 AGENDA ADOPTION

President Jeane proposed several changes to the meeting agenda order and structure prior to opening the floor for public comment. First, Item 10.1 and Item 10.7 were moved to be heard before public comment. Additionally, Item 10.4 and Item 10.6 were officially tabled for a future board meeting. Item 10.3 was removed as an official action item and shifted into the Board Comments section of the meeting. Finally, Item 11.1 was moved to the end of the meeting, specifically falling below Item 11.6, to ensure the district calendars could be approved efficiently.

Following the presentation of these agenda modifications, a motion to approve the amended agenda was made and subsequently seconded. With all changes formalized, the board proceeded directly to a roll call vote.

7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

15 minutes

Members of the public may address the Board on non-agenda items that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. 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. 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.

*Cyrus Droboniku
Christopher Tindell-Paddock
Janelle Wells
Melanie Droboniku
David Wong
Courtney Poole
Jessi Gray
Stephen Bingen
Bianca Vargas
Geoff Bardot
Heather Simoni
Tiffany McFarland Olcese
Amanda Chapman
Alison Alexander
Bryana Insixiengmay
Estrella Carew
Lily Holt
Keith Herron
Garrett Kirkland
Valerie Nyberg
Kimberly
Merelyn Martinez
Karina*

*Esmeralda
Yvette Franklin
Sue Ciminelli
Elvia Vasquez
Antonio
Nora Barraza
Alma Garcia
Maria Garcia
Nate
Steve Bruno*

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Generally routine items are approved by one motion without discussion. The Superintendent or a Board member may request an item be pulled from the consent agenda and voted upon separately.

8.1 Items Subject or Not Subject to Closed Session:

*8.1a Approve Grants, Entitlements and Other Income Agreements
(Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

*8.1b Approve/Ratification of Other Agreements, Bid Awards, Declared Surplus
Materials and Equipment, Change Notices, and Notices of Completion
(Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

8.1c Approve Personnel Transactions (Jake Hansen)

*8.1d Approve Purchase Order Board Report for the period of February 15, 2026,
through March 14, 2026 (Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

*8.1e Approve Donations to the District for the period of February 1-28, 2026
(Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

*8.1f Approve Business and Financial Report: Warrants, Checks and Electronic
Transfers Issued for the period of February 1-28, 2026 (Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

*8.1g Approve Resolution No. 3578 : Approve Temporary Interfund Transfers of
Special or Restricted Fund Moneys (Lisa Grant-Dawson)*

*8.1h Approve Minutes for the March 19, 2026, Regular Board of Education
Meeting (Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

*8.1i Approve Minutes for the March 26, 2026, Special Board of Education
Meeting (Interim Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

8.1j Approve Labor Partner Agreement (Dan Schallock)

8.1k Approve Job Description (Dan Schallock)

This is an action item.

Public Comment:
Denae Pruner

Board Comment:
No Board comment

Member Rhodes made a motion to approve the consent agenda with a second from Member Navarro. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Employee Organization Reports:

- *SCTA- Nikki Davis-Milevsky, speaking on behalf of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA), expressed deep frustration with the transparency of the business office, noting that vital fiscal recovery plans are routinely provided to the board and public at the last minute, directly violating explicit instructions laid out by both the Board of Education and the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE).*

Davis-Milevsky underscored that despite the unanimous passage of the fiscal solvency plan, the administration has consistently failed to provide mandatory monthly progress updates, leaving a complete absence of data regarding closed personnel positions, terminated vendor contracts, and canceled purchase orders. Citing recent acknowledgments that the district remains off track to stave off insolvency, she urged trustees to exercise their governing authority and demand immediate staff accountability.

Furthermore, Davis-Milevsky drew attention to the deep anxiety filtering through the district's workforce in the wake of sweeping preliminary layoff notices issued to hundreds of employees. While noting that natural attrition and retirements could ultimately soften the blow of actual layoffs, she emphasized that the current workforce cuts disproportionately harm the district's lowest-paid and most vulnerable site-level staff. She strongly criticized structural contradictions within the administration's data, questioning how labor partners and the community can trust a financial recovery process when the facilities department projects declining enrollment while the baseline budget is inexplicably built on enrollment increases.

- *SEIU- SEIU welcomed the new superintendent but asserted that the district's current savings plans do not come close to covering the projected deficit. The speaker urged the board to scrutinize ballooning outside contract expenditures rather than cutting classified staff.*

Citing California Department of Education (CDE) data, the representative highlighted that SCUSD spent \$156 million on services and operating expenditures in the 2024-2025 fiscal year—amounting to 144% of the statewide average for unified school districts. For the current 2025-2026 year, the district's second interim report projects this category will balloon to \$188 million by June, despite an original adoption budget of just \$63 million. Furthermore, spending on contracted-out instructional and support

sub-agreements reached \$102 million in 2024-2025—more than triple the statewide average—and is projected to rise to nearly \$108 million this year.

Addressing internal management, the speaker expressed disappointment that the administration provided a basic list of department Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) instead of the expected central administration reorganization chart. They argued that an FTE list fails to provide the transparency that displaced workers desperately need to build their lives around. With hundreds of SEIU members currently facing layoffs, the speaker criticized the vague administrative promises that employees "might" be brought back, calling the ongoing uncertainty cruel and a source of severe financial and emotional hardship.

The representative closed by commending the school board for asking tough questions to avoid state receivership and credited the superintendent for initial efforts to improve communication. However, they voiced deep concern that staff continues to hand the board incomplete or diversionary answers. The speaker urged the trustees to maintain strict governance, enforce accountability, and protect the vital, low-wage workers who keep the district running.

- *TCS-No update*
- *Teamsters- No update*
- *UPE AFSA Local 154-AFL-CIO- UPE welcomed newly appointed Superintendent Cancy McArn and stated UPE's readiness to collaborate in building an effective district. The speaker explicitly noted that this greeting was about moving forward constructively and did not diminish their serious concerns regarding the board's structural decision-making patterns.*

The representative leveled a sharp critique against the board for its lack of transparency in executive hiring. They pointed out that this marks the second consecutive time the board has appointed a superintendent in secret without a public, competitive hiring process or an opportunity for formal input from administrators, staff, parents, and community partners. The speaker highlighted a glaring contradiction in the board's behavior, calling it hypocritical for trustees to make backroom executive appointments while simultaneously accusing school site administrators of being illegally secretive in their local work.

Defending the professional integrity of the district's principals, the speaker pushed back against public criticisms made by board members in past meetings. Trustees had previously suggested that site administrators were failing to engage their local communities and were manipulating governance groups, such as School Site Councils, by handpicking compliant members. The UPE representative rejected these claims as bold-faced exaggerations, emphasizing that principals adhere to strict legal guidelines and submit detailed validation paperwork to document compliance for every council formed.

Furthermore, the representative warned against the long-term culture of instability caused by the board's impulsive decision-making, which compromises the community's trust. Turning to active labor relations, the speaker confirmed

that UPE entered successor contract negotiations in good faith. However, they made it clear that administrators will no longer tolerate contract disparities or structural language designed to favor the specific operational needs of other labor groups at the expense of UPE members. The speaker concluded by calling for equitable contract treatment, stating that protecting the rights and stability of administrators is directly tied to securing positive outcomes for students.

9.2 Student Member Report (Maggie Kemper)- No report

9.3 President's Report (Tara Jeane)- *President Jeane recognized that the month of April marks both Sikh American Heritage Month and National Arab American Heritage Month. She noted that the Board is fortunate to have personal representation from both communities on the dais, specifically acknowledging Member Singh and Member Kayatta. President Jeane emphasized that these monthly celebrations provide a meaningful opportunity for the district to learn, grow, and ensure that families and students from these vital communities are fully seen, valued, and heard.*

9.4 Information Sharing by Board Members

Member Ybarra shared reflections from her recent school site visits, expressing gratitude for the open dialogue she experienced with families. She highlighted a visit to New Joseph Bonheim Elementary School, where she participated in a successful morning routine where students walk for 15 minutes before class. Notably, when asked about their favorite subjects, every student she interviewed from kindergarten through sixth grade named math and science. She commended the campus leadership for creating an outdoor learning space that ignites student excitement for STEM, encouraging her colleagues to tour the site.

This experience anchored Member Ybarra's reflection on Día del Niño (Children's Day) on April 30th, an international celebration established in 1925 to protect the rights and welfare of children. She challenged the board to evaluate whether their policy discussions genuinely prioritize student needs or allow adult desires to overshadow youth perspectives. As the liaison to the Student Advisory Committee, she highlighted that students are actively advocating for themselves through the LCAP process and School Site Councils. She concluded by urging the board to listen intentionally to student voices and to model the same social-emotional communication standards expected of the children they serve.

10.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

10.1 Approve Superintendent Agreement (Board President Tara Jeane)

Appointment announced during report out of closed session.

Member Kayatta made a motion to approve the agreement with a second from Member Ybarra. The Board voted 7-0.

10.2 High School Voter Education Weeks (Vanessa Reyes)

Sophia Edlant, representing the Student Advisory Council (SAC), introduced High School Voter Education Week (April 13th–24th), an initiative designed to elevate civic awareness and encourage 16- and 17-year-old students to pre-register to vote. She noted that statewide pre-registration efforts since 2016 have engaged nearly 1.5 million students, successfully adding more than 1 million new voters to the rolls. Edlant emphasized that voter education connects youth directly to real-world issues, empowering a new generation to shape future public policy. To strengthen future campaigns, she recommended that the district actively push administrative resources to school sites and leverage the SAC to connect directly with students on the importance of civic participation. Owen Naqica provided statistical context regarding youth voter turnout, pointing out a persistent decline in youth participation and a stark demographic imbalance among active voters. Citing an August 2025 study by the Public Policy Institute of California, Naqica noted that while white residents make up only 36% of the state's population, they comprise 50% of its likely voters. Given that students of color make up 81.7% of the district's enrollment, Naqica argued that SCUSD has a unique opportunity to push voter registration and shift these disproportionate trends. He concluded that boosting registration and championing long-term voter continuity among diverse youth are crucial steps to empowering marginalized communities and preserving a representative democracy. This was an information item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Singh expressed his gratitude to the Student Advisory Council presenters and commended Owen Naqica for his eloquence. Recalling a joint panel appearance with Naqica several weeks prior, Member Singh praised the high caliber of public speaking demonstrated by the high school student. He emphasized the critical value of California's pre-registration system, noting that capturing civic interest during high school ensures students are fully prepared to navigate elections the moment they transition to college or the workforce.

Member Kayatta drew on his background as a political science major and his three years of professional experience working for the California Secretary of State, Member Kayatta underscored voting as a foundational pillar of democratic citizenship. He shared his personal milestone of registering to vote at age 18 and maintaining an uninterrupted voting record across every subsequent election cycle. Member Kayatta framed voting as a vital habit and a form of civic "muscle memory" that must be cultivated early. He noted that reviewing a ballot forces individuals to directly confront and comprehend the structural issues shaping their communities, ensuring that public representation accurately mirrors the demographics of active society.

Member Rhodes offered strong praise for the presenters and requested to be directly plugged into voter registration campaigns, explicitly prioritizing outreach efforts across the south side of Sacramento. He identified a critical barrier to youth voter turnout, noting that traditional registration drives fail because organizers habitually talk at young people rather than with them. Member Rhodes argued that youth civic participation will remain depressed unless organizers alter their messaging to explicitly explain the practical, real-world benefits that policies deliver to young constituents' daily lives.

Member Benjamin congratulated the presenters and shared his own perfect lifelong voting record, echoing the sentiment that early habit-building is essential. He publicly recognized Naqica's broader civic contributions, highlighting his current appointment as the District 5 Youth

Commissioner for Sacramento City Council Member Katie Maple. Member Benjamin requested to be formally included in future student-led registration initiatives and encouraged the council to maintain its momentum, reminding them that local policy impacts their lives long before they reach formal adulthood.

Member Ybarra connected the council's polished presentation directly to her earlier board comments regarding Día del Niño, framing the students' success as a tangible outcome of providing youth with meaningful public platforms. She emphasized that the district's deliberate structural investment in the Student Advisory Council is yielding substantial regional benefits. She highlighted that Naqica's leadership extends far beyond district boundaries, as he simultaneously serves on a regional committee dedicated to expanding high school voting initiatives across the greater Sacramento area.

Member Navarro commended the presenters and challenged them to actively spearhead expanding ballot access to 16- and 17-year-olds for local school board elections, pledging her full policy support for such an initiative. Member Navarro validated this effort, observing a historic imbalance where older demographics consistently vote at higher rates than youth, despite the fact that young citizens must live the longest with the long-term consequences of current policy decisions. She concluded by praising Naqica for taking on formal commissioner and committee responsibilities at an age when most individuals are entirely disconnected from governance.

Member Jeane made a motion to extend the meeting to midnight with all in favor.

*10.3 Recognition of National Arab American Heritage Month
(Board Member Jasjit Singh)*

This item was pulled during agenda adoption.

*10.4 Summer Matters 2025 Academics and Enrichment
(Manpreet Kaur, Leslie Hernandez, & Daniel Rolleri)*

This item was postponed.

*10.5 Process for Changing School Site Mascots
(Nathaniel Browning)*

Nathaniel Browning presented the district's proposed mascot-change policy to comply with Assembly Bill 3074, which mandates the retirement of all Native American mascots by July 1, 2026. Under this framework, all future mascot concepts must clear administrative legal screening before community discussions begin. Browning contrasted the financial and operational impacts between school levels. Elementary school transitions are straightforward and typically cost under \$3,000, following a four-step process of administrative notification, stakeholder engagement, an ADA visual-accessibility review, and final design approval for high-touch items like posters and marquees. Conversely, middle and high school changes require an extensive \$250,000 campus rebranding to replace athletic uniforms, store inventory, gym floor layouts, and facility murals. While secondary communities often resist changing legacy symbols, Browning noted the district must lead the transition if a mascot causes harm. The presentation concluded by noting that AB 3074 permits a phased timeline to manage secondary athletic and spirit-wear transitions respectfully. Pointing to past successes at Miwok Middle School and Umoja International

Academy, Browning emphasized that the district has a proven, collaborative model for navigating these complex structural changes. This was an information item.

Public Comment:

Lozen Miranda-Brightman

Maria Miranda

Xochitl Miranda

Wiconi Milk

Sarah Spinka

Dr. Daniel Spinka

Linda Sacks

Ignacio Taylor

Juno Tayaba

Margarita Radon

Viola Williams

Christina Prarie-Chicken Narvaez

Board Comment:

Member Singh thanked staff for the presentation and reiterated his long-standing position that the Native American mascot imagery at Hiram Johnson High School, which he represents, must be removed immediately. Drawing a personal parallel to the sacredness of keeping his own long hair and wearing a turban, he expressed empathy for the human impact and harm caused by the misappropriation of cultural symbols, regardless of intended honorifics.

Member Singh advocated for immediate action under state law to paint over, erase, and remove all prominent mascot imagery on the Hiram Johnson campus—including the large murals in the gymnasium, old cafeteria, and on the school podium—before initiating any site-level branding discussions. He urged the district to bypass public debates regarding whether the mascot should stay or go, citing highly polarized disputes in other districts like Fresno Unified. He stated bluntly that the opinions of non-Native American individuals should not dictate the retirement of Native American imagery.

Pointing out that the district has already proven its capacity for successful, inclusive transitions through recent name changes at Miwok and West Campus (Suyu) school sites, Member Singh emphasized that compliance should not be delayed by financial concerns, especially given the availability of state reimbursement avenues. He concluded by stating that removing these symbols is a basic step toward ensuring all students feel safe and welcome, and a necessary sign of respect given that the schools sit on indigenous land.

Member Rhodes noted that the board has already established clear alignment on addressing historical wrongs through the successful renaming of multiple schools. Framing the removal of the mascots as a "no-brainer" that the community already anticipates, he focused his inquiry on the implementation timeline. Rather than debating whether to remove the imagery, Member Rhodes requested a tangible outline of the schedule required to execute the stakeholder process and finalize the selection of a new school mascot name.

Member Rhodes stated that any depiction of Native American culture or regalia, including headdresses, is entirely unacceptable and that removing such imagery immediately is not in

question. He voiced strong alignment with Member Singh, asserting that the offensive items must be taken down as soon as possible.

Turning to the next steps, Member Rhodes requested details on the administration's plan to engage the local community in selecting a replacement mascot. Additionally, noting conflicting reports regarding funding, he requested that staff provide the board with a detailed memorandum, including a legal opinion, to clarify whether the district qualifies for state reimbursement for the transition costs. He concluded by reiterating his support for immediate removal, emphasizing that the board must continue down the path it has already established.

Member Benjamin requested a status update on the compliance timeline, noting that six years had passed since the state strengthened protections in 2020 and that the statutory deadline is 2026. While acknowledging the \$250,000 cost estimate for a complete secondary school rebranding, he questioned why the district cannot immediately purchase paint to cover up the large, disrespectful gym mural at Hiram Johnson High School. Member Benjamin urged the district to move forward with removing the offensive imagery as soon as possible, regardless of the broader, long-term rebranding process.

President Jeane sought clarification on the compliance deadline, noting that the current year is 2026. Staff confirmed that under the state legislation, the hard deadline to retire the mascots is July 1st, meaning the district is on a very tight timeline to achieve compliance. President Jeane emphasized that this deadline is non-negotiable and asked about the school site's current readiness and whether they had begun discussions regarding the change.

Staff reported having multiple conversations with the school site over the last few years, noting that campus community members express mixed emotions. Staff compared the sentiment to the friction experienced during the recent Miwok and Umoja renaming processes, explaining that legacy mascots are tied deeply to school identity for certain communities. Staff concluded, however, that despite these mixed emotions, the district is legally obligated to comply with the law.

President Jeane emphasized that compliance with the law is mandatory and expressed disappointment regarding the ambivalence in the current administrative policy regarding who initiates the mascot-change process. She noted that school sites should have been directed to grapple with the statute immediately after its passage rather than waiting for board intervention. President Jeane stated that given the consensus and head nods from the trustees, official board direction was being given to ensure the district is fully compliant with the law by the July 1st deadline.

While acknowledging staff's sensitive approach toward potentially redefining the "Warrior" mascot name, President Jeane expressed concern that such a debate might prolong difficult conversations and place an undue burden on the community. She requested an expedited timeline to ensure all offensive imagery and murals are painted over or removed by July 1st.

Reflecting on her personal experience as a teacher and her pride in her own school's unique mascot identity, President Jeane validated the deep cultural ties communities form with their symbols. However, she concluded that Hiram Johnson High School must now focus on redefining its contemporary culture and moving forward with a new mascot free from cultural appropriation, reinforcing that definitive board direction had been established.

Member Ybarra emphasized that no individual or community sentiments supersede state law or the explicit requests of the directly impacted Native American community. Speaking from her perspective as a heavily invested mother of two Hiram Johnson High School graduates, she confidently asserted that the broader community feeding into the school aligns with the board's position to remove the offensive imagery. However, she noted that the district must still execute a formal stakeholder process to provide a transparent public forum where the community can openly voice this alignment and guide the transition forward.

Member Singh closed the discussion by clarifying that while the board is leaning on state law for compliance, the trustees possess the moral compass to remove these symbols regardless of legal mandates, as demonstrated by previous school renaming efforts. He reiterated that his desired timeline focuses on immediate removal and "paintbrushes" to cover the offensive imagery.

Member Singh emphasized the importance of a transparent process that directly involves Hiram Johnson High School students—both Native and non-Native allies—who have actively signed petitions advocating for change. He stated that the community engagement process should clearly define boundaries: it should bar debates over keeping the imagery, while warmly welcoming stakeholders to collaborate on a positive, transformative rebranding. Finally, he called for the elimination of all related traditions, noting that the use of a giant war drum to open football games is an inappropriate cultural appropriation that will not receive exceptions or carveouts. He concluded by stating that the administration has clear direction to remove all elements that appropriate indigenous culture.

10.6 SCUSD English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)
Implementation Update (Dr. Olga Simms)

This item was postponed.

10.7 Visual and Performing Arts Update (Bryan Stroh)

Bryan Stroh presented a Prop 28 high level overview, expanding access across SCUSD, building pathways, rebuilding the foundation, building a districtwide arts system, sustainability and next steps. This was an information item.

Public Comment:

Christopher Tindel Paddock

Janelle Wells

Chea Kim

Munkljin Temuujin

Morrissey Ngo

Sophie Fassler

Owen Rodda

Cyrus Debrand

Khongpeng Thao

Megan Wygant

Denae Pruner

Anastasia Dolotov

Board Comment:

Member Benjamin shared his personal history as a product of the Sacramento City Unified School District, recounting his time playing clarinet at Tahoe Elementary, drumming at Cal Middle School, and participating in the impact school program at Sacramento High School. He emphasized that arts education is foundational, stating that a educational system failing to produce the next generation of visual, theatrical, and musical artists falls short of true education. Referencing slide nine regarding sustainability, Member Benjamin inquired whether the VAPA department has explored utilizing "teaching artists"—local, community-based musicians and visual artists—to mitigate the current art teacher shortage. He suggested that the district establish a database of these local creators, noting that while they may lack formal teaching credentials, they are trusted neighborhood adults who can effectively fill instruction gaps under a certified teacher of record.

Member Singh focused on the state funding mechanisms impacting the district's arts programming, specifically highlighting Proposition 98 and Proposition 28. He noted ongoing advocacy at the state level to release withheld Prop 98 funds following a state budget correction, which should directly support local music programs. He drew a parallel between music programs and sports, arguing that extracurricular activities are vital to the overall school experience and student retention. Member Singh asked staff to clarify the structural differences between cutting an arts program versus the ongoing staff reassignments. He explicitly requested data on remaining unspent Prop 28 and Prop 98 funds and asked if staff could explore legally shifting personnel lines from Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding into restricted proposition accounts. He emphasized that the district must maximize restricted funding to protect credentialed site-level teachers before drawing from unrestricted general funds.

Member Kayatta voiced strong support for the arts, noting that his own formative K-12 memories were entirely rooted in music and the arts rather than sports. He stated that the board had not directed any cuts to arts education and requested absolute clarity regarding what information was being communicated to the public, as anxieties spread rapidly through the tight-knit arts community.

Staff clarified the operational distinction between Proposition 28 funds and standard LCFF dollars. The board's previous directive to reduce central department budgets by 20% applied strictly to unrestricted LCFF dollars, which eliminated central office positions, specifically a VAPA coordinator and six to seven itinerant middle school VAPA teachers. Because Proposition 28 explicit guidelines prohibit using the restricted funds to supplant or backfill general fund cuts, the district cannot use Prop 28 money to restore those lost LCFF lines. However, due to district seniority rules, the central office reductions triggered a "bumping" chain reaction, forcing senior teachers into roles previously occupied by newer teachers hired under Prop 28. Staff confirmed that individual school site budgets were not subjected to the 20% central office reduction model, meaning individual school sites did not lose arts allocations in the same manner. Member Kayatta acknowledged that while the board did not intend to target the arts, the cascading seniority bumping has altered site-level staff, often replacing dedicated instructors with individuals possessing different skill sets.

Member Navarro thanked the VAPA staff for their resilience and shared insight from MIT neuroscience research regarding cognitive development. She highlighted that learning a musical instrument in early childhood offers superior structural, functional, and cognitive brain-wiring

benefits—specifically enhancing executive functions, working memory, and speech processing—surpassing the cognitive benefits of learning to code at an early age.

Member Ybarra requested that staff provide the explicit links and documentation for the state trailer bills governing Proposition 98 and Proposition 28. Expressing a deep interest in policy mechanics, she stated that reviewing the formal legislative text would allow the board to fully understand the legal parameters surrounding "supplement versus supplant" rules, enabling the district to think as creatively and resourcefully as possible within compliance boundaries.

10.8 Approve Contracts Report > \$15,000 (Lisa Grant-Dawson)

Lisa Grant-Dawson yielded time back to President Jeane to see if there were any questions regarding the contracts report. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Kayatta pulled an item from the agenda regarding a \$22,000 expenditure to the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) for Leonardo da Vinci Elementary School. Referencing a separate SCOE expenditure for Sly Park on the same page, he stated that delaying this specific item would align with prior board direction. Member Kayatta noted that he had previously submitted questions to staff regarding the contract and recommended that the board defer and reconsider the Leonardo da Vinci Elementary expenditure until after July 1st.

President Jeane reiterated that the SCOE item will be pulled.

President Jeane entertained a motion with the exclusion of the SCOE contract in the amount of \$22,000. Member Kayatta made a motion with a second from Member Ybarra. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Ybarra absent.

11.0 BOARD WORKSHOP/ STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

11.1 Fiscal Solvency Plan Update and Recommendations (Cabinet Members)

The presentation opened with an examination of the four primary structural drivers of the district's financial imbalance, which include ongoing enrollment declines, rigid labor contract compensation ratios, accelerating special education costs, and a historical lack of a structural deficit reduction plan. Although enrollment trends indicate a slight leveling off, leadership projects a realistic fiscal recovery timeline between 2031 and 2033, assuming the district successfully manages special education cost trajectories, aligns future labor contracts with fiscal realities, and implements strategic facilities consolidation. To bridge the gap toward recovery, leadership outlined intermediate steps for the upcoming year, including commissioning a special education fiscal efficiency audit, filling the vacant Chief Business Officer position, introducing an attendance recovery initiative to improve Average Daily Attendance revenue, and launching community engagement regarding facilities maximization.

Deputy Superintendent Mary detailed the data-driven methodology utilized over the past eight weeks to review all non-site-based functions within the Cerna Center. Central leadership

conducted a comprehensive inventory of active job descriptions, evaluating responsibilities against statutory mandates, Education Code, and collective bargaining agreements to identify hidden efficiencies and eliminate redundant processes. This systemic analysis formed the baseline for the restructuring scenarios developed for the 2026–2027 school year.

The Interim Chief Academic Officer reviewed the structural and financial variations across the five analyzed operational models. Scenario A represents the status quo baseline of 845 Full-Time Equivalent positions at an annual cost of \$132 million, which leadership rejected as unsustainable. Scenario B applied the board's directive for a 20% budget reduction and a cap of 270 administrators, resulting in 724 FTEs at a cost of \$111 million, but it relied on an arbitrary quota system rather than a functional redesign. Scenario C was utilized internally as a compliance-first stress test to establish absolute baseline staffing needs. Scenario D modeled the deepest possible cuts, reducing staffing to approximately 600 FTEs at a cost of \$93 million; however, leadership designated this as an unsafe model that risks the forfeiture or mandatory payback of grant and Title funding, compromises student and staff safety, and exposes the district to severe legal liabilities and operational delays.

Leadership formally recommended the adoption of Scenario E, which synthesizes the numerical targets of Scenario B with the compliance safeguards identified in Scenario C. This recommended model reduces the central office footprint by approximately 136 FTEs, yielding an annual cost savings of roughly \$24 million for the 2026–2027 school year. Unlike the quota-driven models, Scenario E is a surgical redesign that honors the administrator cap while actively preserving critical oversight positions for grant management, special education compliance, essential facilities infrastructure, and core campus safety functions, thereby preventing administrative burdens from shifting onto school sites.

The presentation concluded with an acknowledgment of the profound human impact associated with these structural reductions. Leadership emphasized that these decisions represent difficult personal costs for affected colleagues and expressed gratitude for the professionalism and cooperation displayed by staff throughout the diagnostic process. Cabinet members are currently conducting sensitive individual conversations with impacted personnel. The completed organizational charts are scheduled for public release next week, ahead of the final layoff list submission to the board for formal action on May 7th. The full proposed organizational charts will be published next week, and the final layoff list will be brought to the Board of Education for official approval at the meeting on May 7th. This was an information item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Singh expressed appreciation for the mindfulness and thoughtfulness shown by staff during this difficult process, acknowledging the heavy personal toll these decisions take on employees and the community. Regarding core programming, Member Singh noted that recent community emails highlighted ongoing concerns with student enrollment processing and school safety, emphasizing that these foundational services must remain stable.

Member Singh commended the cabinet for delivering a recommendation that exceeded the board's original directive of a 20% budget reduction and a 270-administrator cap, noting that Scenario E achieves a higher overall cost savings than the original targets. Drawing on professional

experience as an attorney and observations from serving on the school board, Member Singh validated the functional differences between Scenarios D and E. Member Singh cautioned that making overly aggressive cuts often results in a net financial loss due to subsequent litigation and the high cost of contracting out unfulfilled duties, concluding that keeping qualified personnel in-house to perform mandated work is a more fiscally sound approach. Ultimately, Member Singh voiced strong support and appreciation for the staff's recommendation of Scenario E, citing the goodwill demonstrated by the team's thorough analysis.

Member Navarro acknowledged the immense difficulty of the restructuring work and reinforced the importance of recognizing the human impact on district employees, stating a sense of pride in the board's historical commitment to taking care of its staff.

Member Navarro then shifted the discussion to a decision made in November regarding facilities, specifically the board's vote to close Edward Kelly, a parent participation school, while keeping Tahoe Elementary School open. Member Navarro noted that because of an extended absence from the board from November through late February, the exact numbers and rationale behind keeping Tahoe open had not been made clear or discussed publicly to their knowledge. To properly communicate and explain these decisions to constituents, Member Navarro requested that staff compile and present the financial and operational data regarding these school site decisions at the next board meeting.

Member Navarro acknowledged the immense difficulty of the restructuring work and reinforced the importance of recognizing the human impact on district employees, stating a sense of pride in the board's historical commitment to taking care of its staff.

Member Kayatta returned the discussion to the presentation, thanking staff for providing the big-picture context necessary to understand the district's next operational steps. Member Kayatta emphasized the importance of transparency with the public regarding the timeline for recovery, noting that the district's structural deficit was built over decades and cannot be resolved overnight. Unlike a private corporation that can instantly eliminate unprofitable product lines, a public school district must prioritize its core mission of educating children, making a gradual spending correction the only responsible path forward.

Member Kayatta confirmed with staff that the board's primary objective for the evening was to provide clear directional guidance on the presented scenarios. Voicing full support for Scenario E, Member Kayatta noted that this surgical framework fulfills the core objectives the board requested over a year ago during contract negotiations. While acknowledging past friction and communication gaps with former fiscal leadership, Member Kayatta clarified that the previously proposed administrator cap of 270 was always intended as a data-backed historical reference point rather than an inflexible directive. Member Kayatta urged the current cabinet to seek immediate clarification in the future if board directives ever seem unclear.

Concluding the remarks, Member Kayatta pushed for swift implementation and demanded that the detailed organizational charts and specific position impacts be released publicly well in advance of the final layoff notices so that staff and the community have full visibility into the changes.

Member Rhodes kept his comments brief, aligning with their colleagues in full agreement with the recommendation of Scenario E. Member Rhodes emphasized the critical importance of handling the upcoming transition with extreme care, specifically highlighting the need for ongoing,

deliberate communication with impacted staff and labor partners regarding the direct effects of the restructuring. Acknowledging previous conversations with Deputy Superintendent Mary, Member Rhodes expressed appreciation for the cabinet's strategic and compassionate approach to managing this difficult process and looked forward to the final vote.

Board President Jeane shared a personal reflection on the restructuring journey, using a weight-loss analogy to contrast rapid, painful adjustments with gradual, sustainable long-term change. President Jeane noted that while a slower pace is typically more manageable, the crisis of the past two months has forced the district onto a fast track that is inherently painful and will remain so as implementation begins.

President Jeane thanked the cabinet and staff for their willingness to engage in heart-wrenching, hours-long planning sessions. Acknowledging that the transition from planning to system-wide implementation will make community fears and concerns tangible, President Jeane commended the leadership team for their care and diligence. In alignment with the rest of the board, President Jeane voiced full support for Scenario E and directed staff to move forward.

Superintendent McArn concluded the item by expressing profound gratitude to the five-member cabinet team for their exceptional, iterative work under heavy and difficult circumstances. Superintendent McCarn appreciated the board's use of the term "surgical" to describe the recommended plan, noting that it accurately reflects the depth of the team's countless planning conversations.

Looking ahead, Superintendent McArn echoed Board Member Rhodes' comments regarding the next phases of implementation. As the restructuring expands, the administration remains committed to inviting the expertise and operational knowledge of impacted stakeholders to guide how the plan is unrolled across the system.

*11.2 Approve Adult Education Calendar 2026-2027 School Year
(Dan Schallock)*

Dan Schallock presented the proposed charter academic calendars for the current year, noting that they span across multiple agenda numbers. The first specific calendar presented for approval was the Adult Education Academic Calendar under Item 11.2.

Mr. Schallock highlighted the collaborative development process for these calendars. The final drafts represent the combined efforts of the employee relations team and central office leadership, heavily informed by Amanda Goldman from innovative schools as well as individual site leaders from the charter schools. The process also included active negotiation and engagement with the organization's labor partner.

For this specific adult education calendar, the proposed schedule establishes a school start date of August 11th and a concluding date of May 20th. The recommendation is to approve the calendar. This was an action item.

*Public Comment:
No public comment*

Board Comment:

No Board comment

Member Kayatta made a motion with a second from Member Ybarra. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.

*11.3 Approve Bowling Green Charter Schools Calendar 2026–2027
School Year (Dan Schallock)*

Dan Schallock presented the next charter academic calendar for consideration. He noted that this specific calendar closely aligns with the traditional academic schedule. It features a start date of August 11th and concludes at the end of the school term on May 27th. The recommendation is to approve the calendar. This was an action item.

*Public Comment:
No public comment*

*Board Comment:
No Board comment*

Member Ybarra made a motion with a second from Member Navarro. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.

*11.4 Approve New Joseph Bonnheim Community Charter School
Calendar 2026–2027 School Year (Dan Schallock)*

Dan Schallock presented the New Joseph Bonnheim Community Charter School calendar for the Board's consideration. This calendar features an earlier start date, scheduled for July 30th. It aligns with the traditional academic calendar for its conclusion, with a final date of May 27th. The recommendation is to approve the calendar. This was an action item.

*Public Comment:
No public comment*

*Board Comment:
Member Ybarra asked Mr. Schallock to explain to the public why New Joseph Bonnheim is starting on the July 30th versus August 11th start date.*

Member Ybarra made a motion with a second from Member Navarro. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.

*11.5 Approve Sacramento New Technology Early College High
School Calendar 2026–2027 School Year (Dan Schallock)*

Dan Schallock presented the academic calendar for Sacramento New Tech. He explained that, similar to previous items, this charter schedule features a unique structure due to a variation in operational days. Specifically, this calendar is built around 175 instructional days rather than the traditional 180 days. While the school maintains the standard calendar timeline with a start date of August 11th and a concluding date at the end of the term, the scheduling accounts for the five fewer required days by incorporating an extra week off during the winter break period to align with their

approved charter guidelines. The recommendation is to approve the calendar. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

No Board comment

Member Ybarra made a motion with a second from Member Navarro. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.

11.6 Approve The MET Sacramento Calendar 2026–2027 School Year (Dan Schallock)

Dan Schallock presented the academic calendar for The Met. This calendar maintains the standard 180 instructional days, but features a modified timeline compared to the traditional schedule.

To accommodate their specific formatting, the school will begin its term one week earlier than the traditional calendar, with an official start date of August 4th. This earlier start allows the school to incorporate an extra week off during the winter break period while still aligning with the traditional calendar's final end date. The recommendation is to approve the calendar. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

No Board comment

Member Ybarra made a motion with a second from Member Navarro. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Kemper absent.

12.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS

12.1 Business and Financial Information: Enrollment and Attendance Report, Month 6, Ending Friday, February 13, 2026 (Lisa Grant-Dawson)

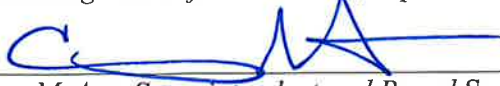
13.0 FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES / LOCATIONS

✓ May 7, 2026, 4:45 p.m. Closed Session, 6:15 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting

✓ May 21, 2026, 4:45 p.m. Closed Session, 6:15 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.



Cancy McArn, 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 48 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 relating to an open session item will be available for public inspection at the Serna Center, at 5735 47th Avenue, Sacramento, during normal business hours or on the District's website at www.scusd.edu.