MINUTES
MERCED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 18, 2026

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

I. Opening

A. Board Chairperson, Geneva Brett, called the regular meeting of the Merced County Board of Education to order at 3:00 PM.

B. Members present were Geneva Brett, Dennis Hanks, and Ryan Heller. Frank Fagundes was absent.

C. Others present: Laura Andrews, Stacie Arancibia, Yolanda Campos, Laura Fong, Nestor Henrriquez, Martin Macias, Janette Alvarado, Margaret Olivarez, Sady Arreola, Shelly Vasquez, Jennifer Scheidt, Anthony Vasquez, S. Richardson, April Amaral, Raquel Mendez, Marissa Etheridge, Martin Fregoso, and Maria Cuevas, Executive Assistant, Steve M. Tietjen, County Superintendent

II. Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

III. Presentation of awards– by Events & Community Engagement Specialist, Stacie Arancibia

A. Seal of Biliteracy Awards
B. Writing Festival Awards

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 April 20, 2026
B. Retirement Resolutions
   a. Resolution No. 2026-10 Honoring Janette M. Alvarado
   b. Resolution No. 2026-11 Honoring Lucilia A. Arroyo
   c. Resolution No. 2026-12 Honoring Shelly Vasquez
   d. Resolution No. 2026-13 Honoring Sukhpal Sidhu
   e. Resolution No. 2026-14 Honoring Tracie L. Angelo
   f. Resolution No. 2026-15 Honoring Barbarita Cuellar

Ryan Heller moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0. Frank Fagundes was absent.

IV. Written Communications

A. Correspondence Received By Chairperson: None.

B. Correspondence Received By Board Member: None.

C. Correspondence Received By Superintendent: None.

V. 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.

Jennifer Scheidt presented the board members with an invitation to the Come Back Charter School Graduation on June 1, 2026.

VI. Future Agenda Item – Special Board Meeting to take place on June 8, 2026 – Public Hearing: Adoption of 2026-2027 Merced County Office of Education Budget and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

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

A. The Board members - NONE

B. Superintendent's Report:

1. MCOE 2026 School Graduations – included in the packet was a list of all the MCOE school graduation dates, times, and locations.

VIII. Business Items for Action

A. Special Education Extended Year Calendar
Presented by 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

Dennis Hanks moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded a motion to approve the Special Education Extended Year Calendars for June 2026 and July 2026. The motion was carried with a vote of 3-0.

B. Williams Uniform Complaint Report Summary

Nestor Henrriguez reported there was one complaint. Snelling-Merced Falls Union Elementary School

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Uniform Complaint Report Summary for the Quarterly Period January 2026 through March 2026.

Dennis Hanks moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded a motion to approve the Uniform Complaint Report Summary for the Quarterly Period January 2026 through March 2026. The motion was carried with a vote of 3-0. Frank Fagundes was absent.

A. Filling Vacancy

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

Dennis Hanks moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded a motion to post the vacancy of Board Member Position – Area #4 in the Merced Times newspaper with a deadline to apply of June 5, 2026. The board will review the applications in advance. On June 15, 2026, the board will interview candidates during the meeting, make a selection, and appoint someone. The swearing-in Ceremony of the new board member will take place during the open session. The motion was carried with a vote of 3-0. Frank Fagundes was absent.

IX. 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. No comments were made.

The Board proceeded into a Closed Session

XI. Closed Session – Selection of 2026 Thruman Agricultural Scholarship Recipient

The Board proceeded into an Open Session

Geneva Brett moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded the motion to select Ryen Cardoso of Merced Union High School as the recipient of the 2026 Thruman Agricultural Scholarship for Merced County. The motion was carried with a vote of 3-0. Frank Fagundes was absent.

XII. Adjournment

Dennis Hanks moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded the motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Merced County Board of Education at 4:22 PM. The motion was carried with a vote of 3-0. Frank Fagundes was absent.

Respectfully submitted,

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

SMT/mc