



BOARD MINUTES
May 20, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER IN PUBLIC SESSION – The CalAPS regular board meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM. on Monday April 27, 2026, by Board President Amie Stewart. The meeting took place in Bellflower Unified District Office, East Conference Room at 16703 S. Clark Ave, Building A, Bellflower, CA 90706

REPLACEMENT PAGES – NONE

ROLL CALL

Present

Amie Stewart, President
Brad Carihfield, Clerk
Maria G. Lopez, Member
Alfonso Morales, Member

Absent

Erik Linstead, Vice President

Also present was Arlene Whitney, CalAPS CEO

REPLACEMENT PAGES – NONE

CalAPS BOARD COMMUNICATION/INTRODUCTIONS – NONE

CalAPS STAFF COMMUNICATION/INTRODUCTIONS – Mrs. Whitney shared updates since the last board meeting, CalAPS has celebrated several exciting achievements and hands-on learning opportunities across its programs. Fire Occupations students visited the LA County Fire Museum with Captain Burton and Engineer Gonzalez, while Health Occupations students practiced diagnostic skills with partners. Culinary and baking students from Bellflower prepared refreshments for a successful student fashion showcase, where students modeled clothing pieces they designed and created themselves.

On May 11, Fire students participated in a live extrication demonstration using donated vehicles from Kenny's Towing. Students learned how to operate rescue tools such as the separator and Jaws of Life, with every student getting hands-on experience. Additionally, two Bellflower High students were honored at the BUSD Board Meeting after earning gold medals in the SkillsUSA State Commercial Drone competition and qualifying for nationals in Atlanta, Georgia.

CalAPS Fire students also attended the California State Firefighters Association Fire Muster in San Bernardino County, competing alongside Fire Explorer programs from across the state. Students participated in teamwork-based firefighter challenges and represented multiple district schools. Child Development students recently completed their internship partnership with Think Together at Ramona, where they worked with children, led activities, greeted parents, and supported event refreshments.

Finally, CalAPS officially received a six-year accreditation status from the Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC), the highest outcome possible, with only a mid-review report required in the future. Staff expressed excitement and pride in this accomplishment and remain committed to continued growth and improvement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE

VISITORS' AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

ACTION ITEMS

STAFF CORRECTIONS – NONE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

● **Approval of the minutes from the April 27, 2026 Board Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2026 Board Meeting was made by Mr. Morales and seconded by Mr. Carihfield. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Amie Stewart, President
Yes Brad Carihfield, Clerk
Yes Maria G. Lopez
Yes Alfonso Morales

MAJOR ACTION - NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

● **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Ms. Lopez and seconded by Mr. Morales. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Amie Stewart, President
Yes Brad Carihfield, Clerk
Yes Maria G. Lopez
Yes Alfonso Morales

WITHHELD FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Items 300 Purchase Orders April 2026 was held for discussion and action.

Item 300 – Purchase Orders April 2026 – Board Clerk, Mr. Carihfield requested clarification on the policy to use the credit card. Mrs. Whitney clarified that CalAPS uses credit cards primarily when vendors do not accept purchase orders or when reservations require a card on file, such as for hotels, conference registrations, parking, or travel-related expenses. Whenever possible, the organization prefers to pay using purchase orders or checks in advance. All credit card purchases are fully itemized, receipts are collected and saved, and documentation is maintained for auditing purposes.

Approval of Item 300 – Purchase Orders April 2026

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Crihfield and seconded by Mr. Lopez. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Amie Stewart, President
Yes Brad Crihfield, Clerk
Yes Maria G. Lopez
Yes Alfonso Morales

DISCUSSION AND NON-ACTION – NONE

VISITOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION – NONE

INFORMATION ITEMS – The informational item focused on CalAPS 2026-2027 budget, financial reserves and banking practices. Mrs. Whitney explained that the organization has grant funding such as the Harbor Freight funds already received but not spent, which contributes to the account balance. Board members clarified that there is reserve funding in the bank account and that, according to policy; seed money cannot be used for regular expenses. Mr. Morales raised the idea of placing reserve or seed funds into a high-interest account or certificate of deposit (CD) to allow the money to grow over time. Ms. Stewart shared that her HOA earns significant monthly interest through similar investments and agreed to research whether this would be possible for CalAPS. The board discussed how interest earnings could potentially provide additional funding for future program needs, travel, or other expenses.

CLOSED SESSION – The Board will be going into closed session at 6:24pm

OPENED SESSION - The Board has reconvened into Open Session at 6:34pm

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:35 PM.

The May 20, 2026 regular meeting of the CalAPS Board adjourned at 6:35 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:30 PM.