SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

REGULAR MEETING
July 9, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

The Santa Barbara County Board of Education held this meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at the SBCEO North County Office, 402 Farnel Road, Santa Maria, CA.

UNAPPROVED

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the County Board of Education was called to order at 9:59 a.m. by Board President Nadra Ehrman.

2. Spanish Interpretation/Interpretación

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Vedamarie Alvarez Flores
Katya Armistead
Marybeth Carty
Nadra Ehrman
Judith Frost
Sarah Anne Read
Guy Walker

Staff Members Present

Susan Salcido, superintendent
Austin Payne, legal counsel (via Zoom)
Anna Freedland, executive assistant

Ellen Barger	Gina Branum	Don Lockwood	Brandon Weber
Camie Barnwell	Michael Fuentes	Arlene Sherchan	Rene Wheeler
Bridget Baublits	Isabel Guerrero	Elise Simmons	

Others Present

Joe Howell, former board member
Hugo Santos-Gomez, interpreter
Regina Santos-Moreno, interpreter
Juan Tello Salinas, Joe Howell Legacy Scholarship recipient
Family members and friends of the scholarship recipient
Members of the media
Parties involved in interdistrict attendance appeals

RECOGNITION

5. Joe Howell Legacy Scholarship Recognition

The board and superintendent awarded the 2025-26 Joe Howell Legacy Scholarship to Juan Tello Salinas, a former student of SBCEO's Dos Puertas School, a program of SBCEO's Juvenile Court and Community Schools program, and recent graduate of Santa Maria High School. Mr. Tello Salinas was presented with a check and certificate of achievement.

SBCEO established the Joe Howell Legacy Scholarship in 2024 to support students and adults who are pursuing college or career training, with priority given to individuals who have attended or are currently attending SBCEO's Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) program. The scholarship funds are raised through private donations.

Board adjourned for a brief recess at 10:19 a.m. Board reconvened at 10:23 a.m.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS (CONTINUED)

6. Changes to the Agenda

None.

7. President and Board Comments

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

- Board Member Armistead shared about Gateway Educational Services' upcoming Black Youth Leadership Summit in August as well as briefly mentioning the recent car accident in Lompoc that the co-executive directors of Gateway were injured in.

8. Public Comments

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved all consent agenda items:

9. Minutes of Meeting Held June 11, 2026

10. Minutes of Meeting Held June 18, 2026

MOVED: **Mrs. Carty** SECONDED: **Dr. Armistead** VOTE: **Passed 7-0**

CLOSED SESSION – ACTION ITEMS

11. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearings – Closed Session

Individual requests for interdistrict attendance appeal hearings were filed for Students T27-01, T27-02, and T27-03. In each of these cases, the appeal results from the denial by the Orcutt Union School District. All appeal hearings were heard in closed session per Board Policy 5117.1. Appeal hearings may be heard in closed session to protect pupil confidentiality under state and federal law.

The hearings began at 10:27 a.m. Board President Ehrman presided. Director of Child Welfare and Attendance Services Dr. Elise Simmons provided introductory comments.

Present at all hearings were: board members, County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Salcido, board legal counsel Austin Payne (via Zoom), Director of Child Welfare and Attendance Services Dr. Elise Simmons, Associate Superintendent of Student and Community Services Bridget Baublits, Executive Assistant Anna Freedland, Orcutt Union School District Assistant Superintendent Sandy Knight, and Orcutt Union School District Assistant Superintendent Joe Schmidt. In addition, present at the hearing for Student T27-02 was Orcutt Union School District Executive Director of Special Education Christy Callaghan.

Student T27-01

The parent of Student T27-01 and the student were present. The hearing began at 10:31 a.m.

After hearing statements by both the appellant and the respondent school district, Board President Ehrman declared the hearing closed for board deliberations.

MOTION on Student T27-01: Uphold the decision of the Orcutt Union School District and deny the interdistrict transfer.

MOVED: **Mr. Walker** SECONDED: **Mrs. Read**

Ayes: Alvarez Flores / Armistead / Carty / Ehrman / Frost / Read / Walker
Noes: None Absent: None Abstain: None

VOTE: **Motion Passed 7-0-0-0**

The hearing concluded at 11:04 a.m.

Student T27-02

The parents of Student T27-02 were present. The hearing began at 11:09 a.m.

After hearing statements by both the appellant and the respondent school district, Board President Ehrman declared the hearing closed for board deliberations.

MOTION on Student T27-02: Uphold the decision of the Orcutt Union School District and deny the interdistrict transfer.

MOVED: **Mrs. Carty** SECONDED: **Dr. Armistead**

Ayes: Alvarez Flores / Armistead / Carty / Ehrman / Frost / Read / Walker
Noes: None Absent: None Abstain: None

VOTE: **Motion Passed 7-0-0-0**

The hearing concluded at 11:47 a.m.

Student T27-03

The parents of Student T27-03 were present. The hearing began at 11:53 a.m.

After hearing statements by both the appellant and the respondent school district, Board President Ehrman declared the hearing closed for board deliberations.

MOTION on Student T27-03: Uphold the decision of the Orcutt Union School District and deny the interdistrict transfer.

MOVED: **Dr. Armistead** SECONDED: **Mrs. Frost**

Ayes: Alvarez Flores / Armistead / Carty / Ehrman / Frost / Read / Walker
Noes: None Absent: None Abstain: None

VOTE: **Motion Passed 7-0-0-0**

The hearing concluded at 12:12 p.m.

The board reconvened at 12:14 p.m. in open session and the president reported the board actions taken in closed session for Students T27-01, T27-02, and T27-03.

INFORMATION ITEM

12. Responses to Grand Jury Reports

The board's responses to the four Grand Jury reports were presented as an information item. The board provided feedback on minor adjustments to a few words. The superintendent stated that the adjustments would be made and the responses would be submitted to the Grand Jury promptly, after Board President Ehrman's approval and signature.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. Future agenda items

The following was mentioned as a potential future agenda item:

- Interdistrict attendance appeal hearing process, including the idea of having a representative of the district of residence present at the hearing and the process that happens after the County Board renders a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m. to the next regular meeting to be held August 13, 2026 as a dual location meeting, in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, at a tentative time of 4:00 p.m.

MOVED: **Mrs. Carty** SECONDED: **Dr. Armistead** VOTE: **Passed 7-0**

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