
I. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Sunni Hepburn at 6:04 p.m.

1. **Comments from the public pertaining to closed session items:** None

#020→II. Motion by Wright, seconded by Gutierrez to go into closed session at 6:04 p.m., 4 years, 1 Absent (Vincelette).

A. **Conference with Labor Negotiator; District Negotiator:** Barbara Gaines, Robert Irving
Employee Organization: California School Employee Association / Rosamond Teacher Association

B. **Discussion of Student Matters:** Education Code sections 35146 and 48918(c)

C. **Public Employment: Certain Personnel Matters:** Government Code § 54957.1(a)(5)
DISCIPLINE/Dismissal/Employment/Release/Assignment/Reassignment/Complaint

#021→III. Motion by Gutierrez, seconded by Rendon to reconvene into open session at 7:05 p.m., unanimous.

IV. **Action determined in closed session:** None

V. **Procedural Issues:** A recording of this meeting was made and shall be kept for 30 days as a public record.

A. Pledge of Allegiance led by: Justin Wright

B. **Roll Call** - Members Present: Vincelette (via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.), Hepburn, Wright, Rendon, Gutierrez, Student Board Member Fuentes Present

#022→C. Motion by Hepburn, seconded by Wright to approve the agenda, unanimous, student vote: aye

VI. **Reports and Communications**

A. RTA report: Edward Shevlin: Welcome back. We have a few days, but teachers are going to get to their classrooms ready, going to PDs, doing all that fun stuff. Of course, I know the district tries, but teachers need a lot more time to set up their classrooms instead of all the trainings next week, scheduling conferences and mandatory trainings and stuff like that. I have been receiving emails about how I can set up my classroom, my classroom setup. I think depending on the site, depending on how long those meetings go, it limits the teachers for set up. But like I said, I have been in my classroom this week, but you also have to do it on paid time too, and I am the first to say that. *Mrs. Gaines responded: So, I can advise you, Mr. Shevlin, that during the retreat, administrators at the sites were advised to really try to keep those meetings at two hours, at the absolute worst two and a half hours, and then teachers are to be released to do their thing in the classrooms.* That is fine. The other issue is that we have a number of teachers who are, to be honest, are frustrated with the retention of SST and that whole process, which again you and I will talk next month when we meet. Every year it seems we have the same type of issues of filling out paperwork and documenting students. I did have a brief question for Mrs. Taylor of using SPED as a dumping ground and stuff like that. Where if the teachers are doing this work throughout the whole year, at some point we have to honor the work that is being done in the classroom, as opposed to a one pager by a parent refusing to retain their child, you know. I mean, the least we could do, and I am just going to say this as a district, is send the kid to summer school. I feel like we are just being supported as a teacher, but that does not seem to be the case. *Mrs. Gaines responded: Most of the appeals, Mr. Shevlin, I know you and I have not met for a while, but in most of the appeals, the board withheld and went along with the teacher's decision to retain.* I guess I am special, as well as my colleagues at Westpark, so okay. I do not think my appeal even got to the board, so that is interesting. Thank you for sharing, and I will bring that up because my appeal could not have gone to the board. So, when I am looking at dates, it is not even possible. CSEA report: Jeromy Azevedo: Not a lot. Again, we are a week from today when school starts, so I mean we are rocking and rolling, getting things ready. Pretty much welcome back. Staff are coming back, like RTA said, teachers are doing PDs. Most classified staff are doing PDs as well. I mean there is not a whole lot going on. We still have a couple of days before school officially starts, and everyone is back on campus, full force, and running. So, we are just going to continue to rock and roll and get things done.

VI. Reports and Communications (Continued)

- B. Student Board Member: Valeria Fuentes: I have an update for the flag football team. I found out there are 19 athletes on the team, and then at least for summer so far, they have been practicing from Monday through Thursday, at 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., or 7:00 p.m. Their first home game is actually the week we go back to school on Friday, August 14th, and then they have two away games on the 12th and 13th of August. I think they would appreciate the support if people went to the first home game. I also received advice as like a student board member to not only represent the high school, but also go into the elementary schools and all that. So, I will make sure to do that, and then I will have more information by the next week.
- C. CBO Report: Robert Irving: We have one more week until school starts, and it would be nice if we had another week in the middle of that to cram in all the things that need to get done. We are working on the back end of a lot of our processes to make sure that staff has come and gone and shifted sites. So, a lot of that as we do the last bit of hiring and on this board agenda and the next. Another thing to note, if anybody is watching this and paying attention, if you have any idea who crashed into the fence at Westpark, if you could let us know, that would be great. Sometime around 10:00 p.m. last night, somebody took out part of the fence in the field. So, any information we can get on that would be fantastic. So, there is my call for some civic engagement, public appeal. I don't know. So that is it for me, Bob.
- D. Assistant Superintendent, Instruction and Curriculum: Dr. Larry Mendez: Good evening to everyone that joins us in person and online. We have been busy with professional development. We have a series of professional development that we have been offering this week, including July 27th as well, for elementary teachers that were available and interested or returning teachers for the math square, also offered another session on support for the Eureka Math Squared, as well as other professional development throughout the week, right from the beginning and beyond. Types of collaboration with the special education department, they hosted a series of professional development, special ed and cyber training, and movement training. So, many offerings that are available, and staff have been participating and engaged in the trainings there. We are getting ready for the start of the school year, looking over the orders for material supplies, as well as consumables, auto ship books, as well. Those are some things that we need. I want to thank classified staff as well as teachers that have been joining us in the professional developments, and Rawley as well as Quinn and the custodians for helping with setup in terms of tables and chairs, Rosie and her team with light snacks and drinks like coffee, water, and so forth for team members. So, we appreciate everyone's help in getting everything ready for professional development, and then just want to welcome teachers back, and we are getting in all our classified staff as well as we are getting ready for Dr. Fisher on Monday, August 10th, as well as Dr. Wetzel, and then right after that we get going to the sites and setting up the classrooms, and then ready to go.
- E. Assistant Superintendent, Special Education, Pupil Personnel: Sheryl Taylor: Hello, everyone. Our week has been all about professional development. Yesterday, we had a training in here for our Into Y program for all of our Mod Severe staff. We had approximately 35 people in attendance, and it went really well. I was really pleased with everybody's participation, and turned out to be a great day. Everybody was sharing stories, and I think it was a big learning experience. Today, we had a training at the high school. We had well over 100 people in there, and it was on cultivating a climate of success. So, I had numerous presenters. We had a presentation for mental health, a presentation from our BCBA's, from our lead school psychologist, all about character strong and chronic absenteeism, and then we had a presentation from our district RN on different kinds of medical issues that some of our students suffer with, and then I did a part on PBIS, bully prevention, different things like that. Tomorrow we have a SIRAS IEP training with approximately 35 people. There is also an inclusion training that KCSOS is coming out to provide tomorrow, and then Friday there is CPI training. That is it for me.

VI. Reports and Communications (Continued)

F. Associate Superintendent, Human Resources: Leanne Hargus – *Absent*

G. Superintendent Report: Barbara Gaines: Good evening, everyone, and welcome. First thing I want to do this evening is introduce to the board our newest administrator, Miss Ambreea Parker, who is our assistant principal at Tropico Middle School. Welcome, Ambreea. Great to see you here. I want to talk a little bit about the community center and the great work that they are doing over there. On Monday, they started the backpack giveaway, and I can tell you that they had 1,700 family members going through the parent community center, which led to giving away about 1,250 backpacks, that was on Monday. They are still giving away backpacks yesterday and today. So, parents, these backpacks are JanSport. There are a few different color choices, and each backpack is stuffed with school supplies that are appropriate for elementary, and then there are other backpacks where the school supplies are appropriate for our secondary Tropico Middle School and high school students. So, if you have not gone into the community center to get backpacks for your children, please do so because there are still a few 100 of these backpacks left. I also want to remind our parents that also in the parent community center, we now have our pantry. Thank you, thank you, Mrs. Hepburn. We have our pantry, and it is filled with various food items and some personal items that I believe would could possibly benefit our parents and community members. So, if you have a need, if nothing else, go into the parent community center and check out our pantry. And last, we talked about it a little bit last week. We have a new parent community center garden, and if you are into gardening and you want to plant, we have the bins there for you. We have the seeds there for you. We even have the gardening tools. All you have to do is go there and decide what you want to grow and join in with the other parents who have already started planting their seeds. It is an exciting venture. We are so thrilled to have it right there near the parent community center, I want to remind parents that school opens Wednesday, August 12th. So, if you have not enrolled your children yet, I notice every day there is a continual flow of parents coming to the office to enroll their students and also get their bus passes. Please do so, the sooner the better. As our classes, especially transitional kindergarten TK, is filling up quickly now. So, if you have not enrolled your students, please get in and get that accomplished so that Wednesday, August 12th, they are in the appropriate school and classroom where they should be. I just want to thank all the teachers, all the administrators, all the classified staff. Everybody I run into is out there working really, really hard, making sure that on day one we are meeting our kids and prepared to welcome them with open arms. We have been doing a lot of professional development. We have a lot of orientations going on. So, parents, if you get those notices and phone calls, text messages to attend, I highly encourage you to come out and see and get to meet your teachers and see all the various changes that are going on at our schools. I think that is pretty much it for me, Mr. Vincelette.

H. Board Member Communications: *Justin Wright*: Having all the backpacks is pretty impressive. All the setups and where they are set up for the crates as well. That is a lot of work just to do that. Other than that, excited about the garden that we have. I am not going to plant anything. Then school starts next week, so charge and get going. Yeah, that is it for me. *Sunni Hepburn*: Hello, welcome. Welcome, Ambreea. Like they said, school starts in seven days. I'm really excited. I'm excited about the community garden, of course. Go out there and claim your bed if you have not already. Gary went out there, he planted. I was like, "Wow, what did you do, Gary?" Because everything he planted seemed to pop up. So, I am out there making sure his bed gets watered. Yeah, he's got beans coming up. He has sunflowers. He has all the things. *Mario Gutierrez*: Welcome back, everybody. It has been a busy

VI. Reports and Communications (Continued)

Item H Continued:

summer for the CSEA guys, all the janitors, and the cleaning crews and the mowing and fertilizing, and especially over at Westpark, everything has been retained. All the numbers have been changed around. The new TK classrooms are now open. It is looking so good, except for the fence. That is it. Thank you.

Adrienne Rendon: Good evening, everyone. So, as everyone has said, we have one week to go. I encourage students to go out and pick up your schedules if you have not done so. If not Wednesday morning, that should be the first thing on your list. Thank you to all the staff who have been working throughout the summer to keep everything going. Summer school, just everyone for continuing to do a great job. Oh, Ms. Parker, welcome to Southern Kern. I hope you enjoy it. Got a week to go. Well, trainings and stuff. So, I am sure it has been a little chaotic. Yeah, that is pretty much it. Parents, prep your alarms for Wednesday. Fortunately, summer break is coming to an end, and everyone just enjoy the last couple of days. That is it. *Robert Vincelette:* Valeria, I appreciate the report on football. I am glad to hear the numbers. I will find out the time of the games. I wish the girls a lot of luck. I have been out here for five days, and it has been fun. But I miss being back in the heat. I had a good birthday today. So that is basically it for me. I will see you in person at the next meeting.

- I. Sub-Committee Communications/Updates: *Justin Wright:* We got slides prepared over at Westpark, so that was a big one. Like Mario said, PK is open. Excited about that. Pushing our architects on the CTE building for finalizations coming up, hopefully, and bringing all those projects.

Comments from the Public: None

#023→VII. Motion by Hepburn, seconded by Wright to approve consent items A-J, unanimous, student vote: aye.

- A. Approved Minutes June 16, 2026; June 17, 2026; July 15, 2026
- B. Ratified July MIDA \$1,095,881.92, July MIDB \$31,881.25, July EOM \$977,623.87
- C. Approved Purchase Orders 270116-270174, Pay Vouchers 270000-270041
- D. Approved IRS Standard Mileage Rates for 2026 Increase to 76 cents per mile (up 3.5 cents from January 2026)
- E. Approved Assess for Success Consulting, Inc. Grading Consulting Ken O'Connor – \$6,000.00
- F. Approved KCSOS ELD Professional Development Training for Certificated & Classified – \$26,000.00
- G. Approved UMASS Global Supervised Practicum Agreement MA Marriage & Family Therapy
- H. Approved Class Leasing RHECC Relocatable Restroom Portable CL2761 – \$10,600.00
- I. Approved BlazerWorks, LLC Addendum to Agreement Tele SLP – \$185,450.00
- J. Approved Perry Weather Monitoring Station at RHECC – \$9,000.00

VIII. General

#024→A. Motion by Gutierrez, seconded by Wright to approve Resolution #26-27-03 Requesting Consolidation of the Election, Ordering Election, and Requesting County Elections to Conduct the Election, unanimous, student vote: aye.

#025→B. Motion by Hepburn, seconded by Wright to approve Resolution #26-27-04 The Five-Year School Facilities Master Plan Requirement for School Facility Program Career Technical Education Facilities Program Funding Applications (Revised 05/15/2026), unanimous, student vote: aye.

IX. Curriculum and Instruction

#026→A. Motion by Hepburn, seconded by Rendon to approve the Master Plan for English Learners 2026-2027 – Current, unanimous, student vote: aye.

#027→B. Motion by Wright, seconded by Hepburn to approve the High Priority (Essential Standards) – English Language Arts (K – 5th Grade), unanimous, student vote: aye.

#028→C. Motion by Hepburn, seconded by Rendon to approve Standards Based Grading (SBG) Report Cards Including Embedded High Priority (Essential) Standards – English Language Arts (K – 5th Grade), unanimous, student vote: aye.

X. Business and Operations

#029→A. Motion by Gutierrez, seconded by Hepburn to approve Change of Contract with Medallion Contracting, Inc. Order No. 04 for SKUSD – TMS Landscape, Drainage & Parking Lot Upgrade Project (SKUSD-TMS-LDPU) Total Change of \$24,069.01, unanimous.

XI. Personnel Items

#030→A. Motion by Gutierrez, seconded by Wright to approve Southern Kern Unified School District Amendment to Contract of Employment District Superintendent July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027 Extended through June 30, 2029, unanimous.

#031→B. Motion by Hepburn, seconded by Wright to approve the following listed personnel items, unanimous.

The following personnel items, which may include hiring, resignations, contract adjustments, and retirements for certificated and classified employees are presented for Board approval. All personnel meet the necessary credentialing and/or certification requirements as required by the State or notification timelines, as appropriate:

<u>CLASSIFIED/CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT/RESIGNATIONS</u>					
<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Enrique Aguayo Salcedo	8/4/2026	S1 \$19.03	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	RHECC	Hire
Chisham, Timothy	8/4/2026	S1 \$19.03	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	TMS	Hire
Cole, Michael	8/4/2026	S1 \$18.23	Campus Safety Officer	RHECC	Hire
Molina, Jordan	8/4/2026	S1 \$19.03	Paraeducator, Special Education	RHECC	Hire
Towell, Sharon	8/4/2026	S11 \$27.12	Paraeducator, Speech Pathology	RHECC	Hire
Yohn, Breanna	8/4/2026	S5 \$22.09	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	WES	Hire
Luna, Reyna	8/10/2026	S2 \$25.36	Expanded Learning Instructor/ District Attendance Coordinator	TMS/DO	Promotion
Vargas, Aris	8/6/2026	S3 \$20.54	Campus Safety Officer/Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	TMS	Promotion
Aguilar, Samantha	8/4/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	TMS/RHECC	Transfer
De Santiago, Monica	8/6/2026	---	Food Service Cook	RHECC/WES	Transfer
Escobar, Samaria	8/6/2026	---	Food Service Worker	RES/WES	Transfer
Mancera, Sheyna	8/4/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	WES/RES	Transfer
McKinney, Jacob	8/4/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	TMS/RES	Transfer

XI. Personnel Items (Continued)

<u>CLASSIFIED/CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT/RESIGNATIONS</u>					
<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Mendez, Belinda	8/4/2026	---	Campus Safety Officer	WES/RES	Transfer
Morse, Rachel	8/4/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education	WES/RHECC	Transfer
Palacio, Rosa	8/6/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education	RHECC/ALIS	Transfer
Price, Melissa	8/4/2026	---	Campus Safety Officer	RHECC/RES	Transfer
Roberts, Evangelina	8/4/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education	RES/WES	Transfer
Rosas, Myriam	8/4/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	RES/TMS	Transfer
Villanueva Guzman, Patricia	8/6/2026	---	Food Service Cook	WES/RHECC	Transfer
Wheeler, Catherine	8/4/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	WES/RES	Transfer
Yanez, Rocio	8/4/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education/ Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	RES	Transfer
Duquette, Olivia	7/31/2026	---	Campus Safety Officer	RES	Resign
Fairall, Alexy	7/22/2026	---	Paraeducator, Classroom	RES	Resign
Mateo, Brian	7/13/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	WES	Resign
Sule-Odu, David	7/23/2026	---	Paraeducator, Special Education 1:1	RHECC	Resign
Velazquez, Samuel	7/31/2026	---	Campus Safety Officer	RES	Resign
Verrett, Chiharu	7/27/2026	---	Expanded Learning Coordinator	RES	Resign

<u>CERTIFICATED/ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYMENT/RESIGNATIONS</u>					
<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Aguilar, Joseph	8/3/2026	C1 S1 \$56,140	Band Director/Music Teacher	RHECC	Hire
Payne, Yolanda	8/3/2026	C6 S11 \$101,092	CTE Health and Medical Sciences Teacher	RHECC	Hire
Ciufo, Joseph	8/3/2026	C3 S3 \$68,251	English Teacher	RHECC	Salary Correction
Clint, Morgan	8/1/2026	C6 S15 \$109,727	Social Studies Teacher	TMS	Column Increase
Fleeks, Brandi	7/1/2026	C3 S2 \$65,370	English Teacher	RHECC	Column Increase
Keeney, Cassandra	8/3/2026	C4 S1 \$65,764	SDC TK-Extensive Support Needs	WES	Salary Correction
Koehler, Ruby	8/3/2026	C4 S1 \$68,654	Guidance Counselor	RHECC	Salary Correction
Rubin, Jessica	8/1/2026	C6 S26 \$118,361	Math Teacher	TMS	Column Increase
Hopkins, Cristina	8/10/2026	---	6 th Grade Teacher/Math Teacher	TMS	Transfer

XI. Personnel Items (Continued)

<u>CERTIFICATED/ADMINISTRATIVE STIPEND/EXTRA DUTY EMPLOYMENT/RESIGNATIONS</u>					
<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Atkinson, Carmen	8/12/2026	\$13,000	Prep buyout-6 th Grade History	TMS	Hire
Black, Brittanie	8/12/2026	2% \$1,184.44	Freshman Class Advisor	RHECC	Hire
Campbell, Edward	8/6/2026	9.5% \$5,626.09	Assistant Athletic Director	RHECC	Hire
Junio, Nerissa	8/12/2026	\$13,000	Prep buyout-6 th Grade Science	TMS	Hire
Paul, Danielle	8/12/2026	4% \$2,368.88	AVID Site Coordinator	WES	Hire
Ponce, Jareny	8/12/2026	7% \$4,145.54	Grade level Chairperson-4 th Grade	WES	Hire
Shepherd, Jennifer	8/12/2026	2% \$1,184.44	Freshman Class Advisor	RHECC	Hire

<u>CERTIFICATED SUBSTITUTES EMPLOYMENT/RESIGNATIONS</u>		
<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Trillo, Kimberly	8/12/2026	Hire
Verrett, Chiharu	8/6/2026	Hire
Griffith, Sarah	8/12/2026	Hire
Butler, Lauren	8/12/2026	Hire
Carson, Emily	8/12/2026	Hire
Alvizar, Magali	8/12/2026	Hire
Nelson, Oscar	8/12/2026	Hire
Campo, Lindsay	8/12/2026	Hire
Butler, Lauren	8/12/2026	Hire
Griffith, Sarah	8/12/2026	Hire
Beaudin, Kira	7/9/2026	Resign
Burdick, Luc	7/9/2026	Resign
Willis, Zualyn	7/23/2026	Resign

The following certificated employees are presented for Board approval to be hired for the 2026/2027 school year utilizing a Provisional Intern Permit (PIP) or Waiver:

<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>CREDENTIAL TYPE</u>
Keeney, Cassandra	08/03/2026	SDC TK Mod/Severe	Short Term Staff Permit (STSP)

#032→XII. Motion by Fuentes, seconded by Hepburn to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m., unanimous, student vote: aye.

Approved: _____
Barbara Gaines, Superintendent

Approved: _____
Justin Wright, Clerk of the Board