



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICE
PERSONNEL COMMISSION**

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

REGULAR MEETING
March 26, 2026 – 12:30 p.m.

MINUTES

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1. Call to Order

Michael Ostini called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members present:

Mike Ostini, Chair

Gary Pickavet, Vice Chair

Carmen Jaramillo, Commissioner

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Ostini led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Changes to the Agenda — None

5. Introduction of Staff and Guests

Staff and guests present:

Gina Branum, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources

Amy Ramos, Director, Human Resources

Wendy Garcia, Certificated Human Resources Technician

Tracie Cordero, Classified Human Resources Specialist

Holly Warrick, Manager, Engagement and Support

Steve Torres, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services

6. Public Comment — None

7. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting Held February 26, 2026

MOVED: Gary Pickavet

SECONDED: Carmen Jaramillo

VOTE: 3-0

8. Communications — None

9. Informational Items**a. Media Releases/Editorials**

The Director, Human Resources summarized two media releases. The first was about Mock Trial, an event coordinated by SBCEO in cooperation with the Santa Barbara County Superior Court and the non-profit Teach Democracy. Teams competed from seven high schools throughout the County, and the team from Dos Pueblos High triumphed for a fifth straight year and went on to represent Santa Barbara County at the state competition.

The second was about Science Olympiad, a national STEM competition designed to encourage collaboration and hands-on learning in a fun environment. SBCEO helped bring it back to our region, with major support from scientists at UCSB. Teams from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties competed on March 7 in middle and high school categories. Santa Barbara Unified students took second and third place in the middle school competition, while the high school competition was dominated by Ventura County school districts.

b. Legislative Update — None**REGULAR BUSINESS****10. Informational Items****a. List of New Positions****b. Classified Personnel Report dated April 9, 2026****c. Position Announcements — None****11. Action Items****a. Ratification of Eligibility Lists — None****b. Classification of Positions — None****c. Job Descriptions — None**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS — None**NEW BUSINESS****12. Public Hearing**

Mike Ostini called the public hearing to order at 1:00 p.m. A public hearing was conducted in accordance with State Board of Education requirements for consideration of SBCEO's waiver request for Educational Interpreter, American Sign Language. No members of the public were present for the public hearing. The public hearing was closed at 1:02 p.m.

13. Revision of Merit System Rules – Presented for First Reading

- a. 4466 Resignation
- b. 4492.1 Language or Special Skill Requirements

REPORTS**14. PERSONNEL COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Jaramillo reported that she attended the CSPCA conference as a staff member. Noteworthy sessions she attended included one on the subject of banding, about which there was some controversy, and a presentation by PERS staff about new limits on employing retired annuitants.

Commissioner Pickavet took the opportunity to praise SBCEO's onboarding and orientation processes, which he said were excellent in comparison to anecdotal data he has heard in comparison to

Commissioner Ostini reported that he attended the watch party in Santa Maria for the Employee Service Awards, the CSEA chapter meeting on March 11, and the CSPCA conference.

15. DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

The Director, Human Resources updated the Commission on the layoff picture for next school year, which looks far more positive than was anticipated as recently as December. Fourteen classified positions are affected: 10 instructional, 2 non-instructional, and 2 classified managers. So far, five employees (two instructional, two non-instructional, one manager) have accepted reductions; one instructional employee has been reassigned; and one instructional employee took a transfer to another position within SBCEO. Meetings have been scheduled with other employees to discuss their options with them. Four employees (three instructional and one manager) will be

separated from SBCEO employment if the layoffs become final in May, as is expected.

The Director was pleased to report that, after receiving no nominations last year, SBCEO received seven nominations from districts throughout the county this year. Four nominees will be recognized by SBCEO.

She reported that she came back from CSPCA with a lengthy to-do list of rules to revise and procedures to review.

16. CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION REPORT

No report.

CLOSED SESSION — None scheduled

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, there was a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Carmen Jaramillo

SECONDED: Gary Pickavet

VOTE: 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Santa Barbara County Education Office Board Room, Santa Barbara and will also be available via videoconference at the Santa Barbara County Education Office Board Room, Santa Maria.



Amy R. Ramos
Director, Human Resources
Secretary to the Personnel Commission



Mike Ostini
Chair, Personnel Commission