



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1g

Meeting Date: September 3, 2026

Subject: Approve Minutes for the August 20, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting

- ☐ Information Item Only
- ☒ Approval on Consent Agenda
- ☐ Conference (for discussion only)
- ☐ Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- ☐ Conference/Action
- ☐ Action
- ☐ Public Hearing

Division: Superintendent's Office

Recommendation: Approve Minutes for the August 20, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Background/Rationale: None

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): Family and Community Empowerment

Documents Attached:

1. Minutes of the August 20, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting

Estimated Time of Presentation: N/A

Submitted by: Board Office

Approved by: Cancy McArn, Superintendent



Putting
Children
First

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND WORKSHOP

Board of Education Members

Tara Jeane, President (Trustee Area 1)
Taylor Kayatta, Vice President (Trustee Area 6)
April Ybarra, Second Vice President (Trustee Area
4) Jasjit Singh (Trustee Area 2)
Jose Navarro (Trustee Area 3)
Chinua Rhodes (Trustee Area 5)
Michael Benjamin (Trustee Area 7)
Owen Naqica, Student Board
Member

Thursday, August 20, 2026

5:00 p.m. Closed Session

6:30 p.m. Open Session

Serna Center

Community Conference Rooms
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95824

MINUTES

2026/27-6

Allotted Time

1.0 OPEN SESSION / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

Members Present:

*Member Benjamin
Member Jeane
Member Kayatta
Member Navarro
Member Rhodes
Member Singh
Member Ybarra
Student Member Naqica*

Members Absent:

None

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

No public comment

3.0 CLOSED SESSION

While the Brown Act creates broad public access rights to the meetings of the Board of Education, it also recognizes the legitimate need to conduct some of its meetings outside of the public eye. Closed session meetings are specifically defined and limited in scope. They primarily involve personnel issues, pending litigation, labor negotiations, and real property matters.

- 3.1 Government Code 54956.9 - Conference with Legal Counsel:
 - a) Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of Government Code section 54956.9 (One Potential Case)
 - b) Initiation of litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(4) of Government Code section 54956.9 (One Potential Case)
 - c) Existing litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(1) of Government Code section 54956.9 (OAH Case No. 2026040528)
- 3.2 Government Code 54957.6 (a) and (b) Negotiations/Collective Bargaining SCTA SEIU, TCS, Teamsters, UPE, Non-Represented/Confidential Management (Dan Schallock)
- 3.3 Government Code 54957 – Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint
- 3.4 Government Code 54957- Public Employee Appointment
 - (a) Approve- Instructional Assistant Superintendent
 - (b) Approve- Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School Principal
- 3.5 Government Code 54956.8-Conference with Real Property Negotiators
 - (a) Property: 4625 44th Street, Sacramento, California 95820, Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 020-0301-001-0000 Agency Negotiator: Chris Ralston, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Support Services Negotiating Parties: Sacramento City Unified School District and Mutual Housing California Under Negotiation: Price and terms of potential sale of property (Chris Ralston)
- 3.6 Government Code 54957—Public Employee Performance Evaluation Title: Superintendent

4.0 CALL BACK TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called back to order at 7:07 p.m.

- 4.1 The Pledge of Allegiance
- 4.2 Broadcast Statement

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

There were 4 announcements that came out of closed session.

- The Board approved a settlement agreement related to OAH Case No. 2026040528 in the amount of \$33,000 by a vote of 7-0.
- The Board approved a settlement agreement related to an employee complaint by a vote of 6-1 with Member Kayatta voting against the action. In exchange for a requested transfer to another site, the employee will release all claims. There is no monetary term.
- By a vote of 7-0, the Board approved the appointment of Malcolm Floyd as Principal of Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School.
- By a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Singh absent, the Board approved the appointment of Laura Butler as Instructional Assistant Superintendent.

6.0 AGENDA ADOPTION

President Jeane announced the pulling of items 11.3 and 11.4—regarding the consideration of employment agreements for the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) and Chief of Staff (COS) while contract terms are finalized—to be brought back at a future meeting, and requested a motion on the modified agenda. Student Member Naqica made a motion with a second from Member Benjamin, and all in favor.

7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

15 minutes

Members of the public may address the Board on non-agenda items that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Public comment may be (1) emailed to publiccomment@scusd.edu; (2) submitted in writing through the district's website at <https://www.scusd.edu/submit-public-comment>; or (3) provided in-person at the meeting. The submission deadline for written public comments shall be no later than noon on the day of the meeting. If you intend to address the Board in-person, please fill out a yellow card available at the entrance. Speakers may be called in the order that requests are received or grouped by subject area. We ask that comments are limited to two (2) minutes with no more than 15 minutes per single topic so that as many people as possible may be heard. By law, the Board is allowed to take action only on items on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, refer a matter to district staff or calendar the issue for future discussion.

Dana Golder expressed frustration over an uncommunicated school transfer error involving their son and requested immediate district contact to resolve the placement issue, noting a lack of transportation to address it in person.

Lindsay Rowe questioned how the district plans to reach its \$150 million solvency goal and avoid a state loan before the August 30th deadline after the \$48 million SCTA agreement was rescinded.

Amanda Shepard voiced concerns regarding Concapping systems and requested for the lottery to be more transparent.

Steve Bruno highlighted that district staff are working at an unsustainable pace to manage budget constraints and called on the Board and community to show them recognition and appreciation.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Action

2 minutes

Generally routine items are approved by one motion without discussion. The Superintendent or a Board member may request an item be pulled from the consent agenda and voted upon separately.

8.1 Items Subject or Not Subject to Closed Session:

*8.1a Approve/Ratification of Grants, Entitlements, and Other Income Agreements
(Gerardo Castillo)*

*8.1b Approve/Ratification of Other Agreements, Bid Awards, Declared Surplus
Materials and Equipment, Change Notices, and Notices of Completion
(Gerardo Castillo)*

8.1c Approve Personnel Transactions (Jake Hansen)

*8.1d Approve Garden Stewardship Access agreement between Sacramento City Unified
School District and East Sacramento Preservation for McClaskey (Nathaniel
Browning)*

8.1e Approve Job Descriptions (Dan Schallock)

*8.1f Approve Minutes for the July 22, 2026 Special Board of Education Meeting
(Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

*8.1g Approve Minutes for the July 23, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting
(Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

*8.1h Approve Minutes for the July 30, 2026 Special Board of Education Meeting
(Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

*8.1i Approve Minutes for the August 4, 2026 Special Board of Education Meeting
(Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

*8.1j Approve Minutes for the August 6, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting
(Superintendent Cancy McArn)*

*8.1k Approve Facility Use Agreement Between Sacramento City Unified School
District and The Alphonse Gallegos Foundation dba Alphonse Gallegos
Academy for Co-Location at Success Academy (Nathaniel Browning)*

*Member Kayatta pulled agenda item 8.1k for discussion. Member Singh made a motion to
approve the consent agenda with the exception of agenda item 8.1k, which was seconded
by Member Navarro. The motion passed 7-0, with Student Member Naqica casting a
preferential vote in favor.*

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

*Member Kayatta questioned whether revenue from the agreement could go to the general
fund rather than the building fund; staff confirmed the Board has the flexibility to transfer
lease revenue to the general fund. Satisfied with this clarification, Member Kayatta moved
to approve item 8.1K, which passed unanimously following a second and a roll call vote.*

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Employee Organization Reports:

- *SCTA- Nikki Davis Milevsky, President of the SCTA, congratulated Board Members Taylor Kayatta, Tara Jeane, and Jasjit Singh on running unopposed for re-election, praised the district leadership for maintaining democratic control against external intervention, welcomed Gerardo Castillo as Chief Business Officer, and promoted the upcoming campaign kickoff for Measure M to fund special education.*
- *SEIU- SEIU Chapter Vice President Jim Riffle commended the dedication of district students, teachers, and staff, highlighting the heartwarming work happening in schools—especially in special education—and encouraged board members to visit school sites often to see these efforts firsthand despite financial challenges.*
- *TCS- No update*
- *Teamsters- No update*
- *UPE
AFSA Local 154-AFL-CIO- Lynn Tafoya, Executive Director of United Personnel in Education (UPE), shared her multi-decade family and professional history with the district—spanning roles from special education teacher to administrator—and expressed her commitment to collaborating with board members and all labor partners to achieve fiscal solvency for students and staff.*

9.2 Information Sharing by Board Members

Member Singh shared an update regarding his visit to Oakridge Elementary School's Mr. Supra's class as part of the Sierra Health Foundation's "Stop the Hate" campaign, where students created roughly 30 kindness cards to send to the Muslim community in San Diego following a mosque shooting. He also commended the campus environment, student diversity, and classroom management during an earthquake drill.

Member Benjamin welcomed everyone back for the new school year and announced two upcoming community events: an Ice Cream Social and Movie Night on Friday, August 21st at 7:30 p.m. at Hollywood Park Elementary School (in collaboration with Councilmember Maple's office), and a Back-to-School Block Party on Saturday, August 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at McClatchy Park offering free groceries, haircuts, and community resources.

Member Ybarra congratulated West Campus High School and Umoja International Academy for ranking #1 and #2, respectively, in the region (and within the top 200 nationally) on the U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools list.

President Jeane announced that 63 community members across all trustee areas responded to the committee interest form. This information will be distributed to board members to contact local candidates, with initial committee reports scheduled for the next board meeting.

Member Rhodes announced a Back-to-School Shoe, Backpack, and School Supply Drive scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Antioch Progressive Church, hosted by Kicks for Kids, the 916 Stovall Foundation, and 94 Feet with Coach JT.

10.0 INFORMATION ITEM

10.1 Opening of Schools (District Staff)

District staff presented an overview of the 2026 opening of schools, highlighting cross-departmental preparations across eight key operational pillars: construction projects at 27 sites, reduced classroom vacancies (down from 52 to 33) with a 100% substitute fill rate on day one, increased district enrollment reaching nearly 38,000 students, expanded health and student support services, scratch-made school nutrition programs, community safety partnerships, and targeted family communications to ensure a smooth start to the academic year. This was an information item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Benjamin expressed appreciation for staff efforts on the opening of school and inquired about Human Resources hiring pipelines, specifically asking how the reported 87 certificated new hires and 129 administered paraprofessional tests correlate to filling remaining vacant positions and addressing applicant follow-up.

Member Kayatta commended district staff, site teams, and school families for their hard work in executing a successful start to the school year, sharing a positive personal experience regarding his daughter's transition to a new school site.

Superintendent McArn thanked district staff, employees, and families for their dedication and hard work during a shortened summer schedule following the district's calendar adjustment, emphasizing the importance of celebrating current accomplishments while continuing to collaborate on ongoing operational improvements.

11.0 ACTION ITEMS

8:05 p.m.

11.1 Fiscal Sustainability Plan Update (Gerardo Castillo & Chris Ralston)

District leadership presented the first monthly update on the Fiscal Sustainability Plan, emphasizing that the dynamic plan establishes a routine management system focused on accountability, revenue-based budgeting, and data transparency traced back to Escape. Leadership reported that the district's immediate general fund deficit stands at approximately \$82.2 million, alongside an ongoing structural deficit of \$212 million, while the broader sustainability target aims for \$158.6 million in

total savings. Out of that target, \$36.7 million has been achieved to date—including a one-time \$31.1 million state discretionary block grant, \$5.3 million in books and supplies reductions, and initial operational savings in facilities and transportation—though officials clarified that one-time relief does not resolve the structural deficit. Enhanced by the multi-year predictability of the SCTA agreement, cash flow projections have been extended from June 2026 to April 2027, giving the district runway to implement permanent, legally compliant structural reforms to safeguard local control. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

Steve Bruno commended the district's deficit reduction progress but warned that overburdened staff cannot afford missed paychecks, challenging the Board to consider how they would feel in the staff's position.

Board Comment:

Member Singh expressed full confidence in district leadership, the Superintendent, and the fiscal plan, noting that its \$158 million in identified solutions provides a viable path to maintaining local control without taking an unnecessary state loan. Highlighted that the SCTA MOU serves as a bridge to solvency by providing nearly \$90 million in cash flow benefits and clarified that the OPEB component is a utilization of prefunded district resources, not a loan. Strongly criticized SCOE for rescinding approval of the MOU, warning that forcing additional cuts disproportionately harms minority-majority students through reduced classroom support and services, and respectfully requested that SCOE rescind its decision and collaborate with the district.

Member Naqica inquired about the details behind a \$300,000 reduction to high school graduations. Staff (CBO Gerardo Castillo) clarified that graduations will still occur, but savings will be achieved by moving ceremonies away from expensive venues like the Golden One Center.

Member Kayatta reaffirmed full alignment with Member Singh's remarks and pushed back against SCOE fiscal adviser critiques, emphasizing the extensive offline board work being done. Requested that future updates and supporting detailed reports be prominently published on the district website for public transparency. Noted that crossed-out items like dual enrollment savings reflect immediate operational realisms rather than abandoned long-term goals, and cautioned staff to carefully phrase items like the "sixth grade science trip" to clarify that central funding is being eliminated, not the trips themselves.

Member Ybarra echoed support for Member Singh's statements and expressed disappointment over the physical absence of SCOE financial advisers during critical decisions like rescinding the MOU, noting that oversight representatives should be present in board meetings to directly hear public comment from constituents.

President Jeane emphasized that building temporary cash flow "runway" allows the district the necessary time to systematically realign its budget toward true educational priorities and modern student needs rather than relying on reactive cuts or artificial projections. Reaffirmed complete trust in District Staff and Superintendent leadership to navigate the implementation process and preserve local control.

No action was taken on this item.

11.2 Approve Contracts Report over \$15,000 (Gerardo Castillo)

Gerardo Castillo presented Item 11.2, recommending approval for contracts exceeding \$15,000 following a cross-departmental Purchasing Review Committee evaluation to ensure transparency and equity for the 2026–27 school year. Key funding highlights include \$6.6 million in unrestricted general funds (featuring \$5.5M for property, liability, and cyber insurance), \$20.5 million in restricted funds (including \$1.1M for special education sign language interpretation), and \$8.2 million for employee dental benefit claims. Major investments were also allocated to academic assessments and credit recovery (\$604,000 total across Curriculum Associates and Accelerate Education), alongside expanded learning partnerships with NorCal School of the Arts (\$2.7M), Rose Family Creative Learning (\$1.7M), and the YMCA (\$432,000)—all directly aligned with district LCAP goals for graduation, academic growth, and campus safety. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Ybarra sought public clarification regarding the California School Boards Association (CSBA) contract, confirming with staff that the agreement is strictly designated for policy development services rather than board travel or conference attendance.

Member Kayatta noted that while the district maintains its CSBA membership, it has exited the Council of Great City Schools. He raised a question about a listed \$340,000 Accelerate Education expense, which staff clarified was a districtwide credit recovery licensing program rather than a cost for a single student. Kayatta also inquired about vendor payments to St. Hope, which staff explained are state-mandated pass-through funds based on enrollment rather than district-funded contracts. He emphasized the critical need to pay small vendors promptly to prevent higher costs and build community trust, and questioned the risk of the fiscal adviser rejecting the report, reiterating that the board actively scrutinizes contracts rather than rubber-stamping them before making the motion to approve.

Member Singh highlighted the approval of International Baccalaureate (IB) program instructional materials for Umoja and Luther Burbank, stressing the importance of equipping top-performing schools with necessary books. Drawing from personal background with small business owners, he acknowledged the hardship of delayed payments while endorsing the administration's thorough contract review process as an essential cultural shift for long-term fiscal accountability.

Member Kayatta made a motion with a second by Member Ybarra. The motion passed 7-0, with Student Member Naqica casting a preferential vote in favor.

11.3 Approve Chief Academic Officer (Erin Findley) Employment Contract (Dan Schallock)

This item was pulled and will be brought back at a future meeting.

*11.4 Approve Chief of Schools (Aprille Shafto) Employment Contract
(Dan Schallock)*

This item was pulled and will be brought back at a future meeting.

*11.5 2026-27 Special Education Non-Public Agency and Non-Public
School Contracts (Erin Findley, Fran English, & Betty Jo
Wessinger)*

District staff presented agenda item 11.5 requesting board authorization for the 2026–27 special education Non-Public Agency (NPA) and Non-Public School (NPS) contracts to ensure students seamlessly receive legally mandated services in the least restrictive environment. Staff emphasized that this authorization is budget-neutral, requiring no new funding or general fund impact, as it establishes maximum contract ceilings using pre-budgeted baseline funds and salary savings from vacant positions transferred to cover temporary agency providers. To address prior board feedback regarding fiscal discipline and historically underfunded baselines, the presentation outlined a multi-tiered fiscal oversight framework focused on cost containment through aggressive vendor negotiations—highlighted by flat-rate holdings and rate reductions—as well as strict monitoring of contracted hours. Ultimately, staff framed these external contracts as a temporary bridge while the district builds long-term internal capacity, curtails costs, and improves student outcomes through Tier 1 general education interventions, enhanced HR recruitment, and alignment across multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). This was an action item.

Public Comment:

Jason Burke expressed concern over the district overpaying out-of-district contractors and urged the Board to demand transparency, prioritize hiring internal staff, and conduct a forensic audit.

Jim Riffle labeled the school district as "gullible" for paying exorbitant vendor rates based on the assumption that schools always have money, while demanding the missing contractor information.

Jennifer Womack thanked the Board for requesting clarity on special education contracts, but cautioned that crucial data on student counts, IEP requirements, vendor evaluations, and the appropriateness of virtual services remains missing.

Board Comment:

Member Ybarra requested incorporating clear HR hiring plans into the oversight framework to build internal capacity. Raised concerns regarding independent educational evaluations (IEEs), asking how the district prevents the same vendors from assessing students and providing follow-up services. Identified data coding errors in the slide deck where reduced/flat rates were mislabeled as red, and expressed frustration over systemic underfunding forcing the board to

spend extensive time on vendor contracts instead of direct instructional supports.

Member Benjamin inquired about the vendor rate negotiation process, asking how outreach is conducted and what strategies are used to transition red-coded vendors to yellow or green.

Member Kayatta emphasized that bringing special education services in-house must be the top priority. Criticized internal HR onboarding delays that hinder recruitment relative to neighboring districts, and proposed limiting contract authorizations for unnegotiated vendors to force ongoing price negotiations.

Member Singh requested a Board Communication (BC) before the next meeting detailing explicit vendor negotiation strategies and comparative rate analyses from neighboring districts. Urged shortening temporary contract authorizations for unnegotiated vendors down to one month to accelerate price adjustments.

Member Rhodes requested that future presentations detail student-to-contract ratios rather than just daily rates, noting that the district currently contracts out 57 of 108 SLP FTE positions serving approximately 3,700 students. Supported strict timeline limits on unnegotiated vendor contracts.

Staff clarified that prior budget shortfalls resulted from adopted budget caps rather than faulty departmental projections, confirmed that future reports will include student-to-contract service ratios, and agreed to audit slide deck data coding errors.

Member Singh made a motion to fully approve all NPA and NPS contracts categorized in green (rate reductions) and yellow (flat rates/cost containment)—after staff audits and corrects existing color-coding errors on the slide deck—while limiting contract authorization for all remaining red-coded vendors (those with unnegotiated rate increases) to one month, requiring staff to return with negotiation updates within 30 days, with a second from Member Ybarra. The motion passed 7-0, with Student Member Naqica casting a preferential vote in favor.

11.6 Approve the Submission of Credential Waivers Applications to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Tami Mora)

Tami Mora presented a request for board approval to submit credential waivers to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing as required by state Education Code following a public notice process. The request specifically addresses English Learner authorizations for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Center and Programs teachers, whose preliminary credentials do not automatically include this embedded requirement like standard general education credentials do. Staff noted that annual district waiver requests remain stable year-over-year, and approving these waivers ensures these specialized teachers remain legally authorized to stay in their classrooms while working to complete their clear credential requirements. Staff officially recommended board approval of the

credential waiver submission. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Singh asked if a similar credential waiver process exists for Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) to help recruit and onboard recent graduates more quickly, connecting back to the earlier special education discussion. Formally tasked HR with investigating whether SLP waivers could be utilized by the district to accelerate in-house hiring and achieve budget savings.

Staff confirmed that SLP waivers do exist under state guidelines and committed to discussing the details with the HR team to evaluate if and how the district can leverage them for ongoing recruitment efforts.

Member Ybarra commended Member Singh's inquiry regarding SLP waivers.

Member Singh made a motion to approve the submission of credential waiver requests to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing as presented with a second from Member Ybarra. The motion passed 7-0, with Student Member Naqica casting a preferential vote in favor.

12.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION/REPORTS

Receive Information

- 12.1** *Business and Financial Information: Enrollment and Attendance Report, Month 9, Ending Friday, May 8, 2026, and Enrollment and Attendance Report, Month 10, Ending Friday, June 5, 2026, and Enrollment and Attendance Report, Month 11, Ending Friday, June 12, 2026 (Gerardo Castillo)*

13.0 FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES / LOCATIONS

✓ *September 3, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Closed Session, 6:30 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting*

✓ *September 17, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Closed Session, 6:30 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting*

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Cancy McArn, Superintendent and Board Secretary

NOTE: The Sacramento City Unified School District encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Board of Education Office at (916) 643-9314 at least 48 hours before the scheduled Board of Education meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code § 54953.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)] Any public records distributed to the Board of Education relating to an open session item will be available for public inspection at the Serna Center, at 5735 47th Avenue, Sacramento, during normal business hours or on the District's website at www.scusd.edu.