



BOARD MINUTES
June 16, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER IN PUBLIC SESSION – The CalAPS regular board meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM. on Tuesday, June 16, 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
Erik Linstead, Vice President
Brad Carihfield, Clerk
Maria G. Lopez, Member

Absent

Alfonso Morales, Member

Also present was Arlene Whitney, CalAPS CEO

REPLACEMENT PAGES – NONE

CalAPS BOARD COMMUNICATION/INTRODUCTIONS – Ms. Lopez thanks the CalAPS team for a wonderful student recognition event that held last month. The recognition meant so much to the parents, students, and community. The photo that taken and posted on Ms. Lopez social media received a lot of attention and positive feedback. She truly appreciates all the support and positive impact CalAPS continues to have on students.

CalAPS STAFF COMMUNICATION/INTRODUCTIONS – Mrs. Whitney highlighted the success of students Julian Luna and Dylan Becerra at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta. The students competed in the Commercial Drone Technology competition, completing interviews, timed obstacle courses, and technical flight challenges while being evaluated on safety procedures, task completion, and professionalism. They also networked with educators and SkillsUSA leaders from across the country and participated in educational visits to Georgia Tech, the Delta Flight Museum, and other Atlanta attractions.

She congratulated both students for representing California and CalAPS with professionalism and pride.

Mrs. Whitney also provided an update on CalAPS summer programs, which are off to a strong start with students enrolled in EMT, Culinary Arts, Coffee Craft and Contemporary Cuisine, Psychology, Mental Health Care Workforce courses, and the Build a Tiny Home program. Enrollment includes students from multiple school districts, demonstrating the regional reach of CalAPS programs.

In addition, CalAPS continues its partnership with the Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (SELACO), which provides EMT students with mentorship, transportation assistance, career development, financial incentives, job placement support, and paid work experience opportunities. Board members expressed appreciation for the summer offerings and excitement about programs such as the Tiny Home project, which runs Monday through Friday through July 17.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – The Public Hearing for the CalAPS 2026 – 2027 Budget was opened by President Stewart.

John Paul Dayer, a former Cerritos College trustee, shared concerns about the state's long-term budget outlook. They noted that while the state legislature has approved a budget for negotiations with the governor, projections for the third year of the budget cycle are not favorable. The speaker encouraged the board to take a proactive, long-term approach to financial planning by exploring ways to increase flexibility, reduce costs, develop new partnerships, and improve program efficiency. They also pointed out that local cities, including Paramount and Cerritos, are anticipating budget shortfalls, emphasizing the importance of preparing now for future financial challenges.

- **Motion to close the public hearing on the CalAPS 2026-2027 budget**

A motion to close the public hearing for the CalAPS 2026-2027 budget was made by Ms. Lopez and seconded by Mr. Linstead. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes	Amie Stewart, President
Yes	Erik Linstead, Vice President
Yes	Brad Carihfield, Clerk
Yes	Maria G. Lopez

VISITORS' AGENDA ITEMS – John Paul Drayer raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest related to legal representation. They noted that they had requested a state audit of Bellflower Unified and that the district incurred significant legal expenses during related matters. To avoid any future conflicts of interest, they suggested obtaining separate legal representation and asked the board to consider a temporary conflict-of-interest waiver or recusal process while conducting a competitive bidding process to select new legal counsel.

ACTION ITEMS

STAFF CORRECTIONS – Mrs. Whitney shared that there was an informational item attachment omitted from the agenda that was sent via email. A copy was provided as a replacement page for the Board to review. No action is required as this is an informational item only.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **Approval of the minutes from the May 20, 2026 Board Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2026 Board Meeting was made by Ms. Lopez and seconded by Mr. Carihfield. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes	Amie Stewart, President
Yes	Erik Linstead, Vice President
Yes	Brad Carihfield, Clerk
Yes	Maria G. Lopez

MAJOR ACTION – Consideration of Waiver of Conflict of Interest in the Representation of Bellflower Unified School District and CalAPS by Sarega Law, APC

- **Consideration of waiver of conflict of interest in the Representation of the Bellflower Unified School District and CalAPS by Sarega Law, APC**

Motion to consider the waiver of conflict of interest for Sarega Law, APC representing both Bellflower USD and CalAPS was made by Ms. Lopez and seconded by Mr. Linstead. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Amie Stewart, President
 Yes Erik Linstead, Vice President
 Yes Brad Crihfield, Clerk
 Yes Maria G. Lopez

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

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

Board Members:

Yes Amie Stewart, President
 Yes Erik Linstead, Vice President
 Yes Brad Crihfield, Clerk
 Yes Maria G. Lopez

WITHHELD FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Items 101 Calendar 2026 was held for discussion and action.

Item 101 – Calendar 2026 – The board discussed revisions to the 2026 meeting calendar. Mrs. Whitney recommended canceling the August meeting due to an anticipated light agenda and no urgent business. Board members also raised scheduling conflicts with some Tuesday and Thursday meeting dates, particularly in the fall. After discussion, the board expressed support for moving the September through December meetings to Wednesdays to better accommodate members' schedules. Mrs. Whitney agreed to review the proposed changes; address the November meeting date conflict due to the Veterans Day holiday, and bring back revised dates for board consideration. The August meeting will also be removed from the calendar pending final approval.

Approval of Item 101 – Calendar 2026

A motion to approve item 101 – Calendar 2026 was made by Mr. Linstead and seconded by Ms. Lopez.

The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Board Members:

Yes Amie Stewart, President
 Yes Erik Linstead, Vice President
 Yes Brad Crihfield, Clerk
 Yes Maria G. Lopez

DISCUSSION AND NON-ACTION – NONE

VISITOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION – NONE

INFORMATION ITEMS – Mrs. Whitney announced that CalAPS plans to apply for the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Award in the Integrated Career Pathways Education category. The application will highlight CalAPS' innovative regional career technical education (CTE) model, which provides students with career pathways, dual enrollment opportunities, industry certifications, leadership development, and partnerships with colleges and industry. The submission will also highlight CalAPS' accomplishments, including growth in pathway completion, expanded dual enrollment programs, SkillsUSA achievements, Chapter of Excellence recognition, six-year WASC accreditation, and its commitment to providing equitable access to career-focused education. Board members praised the many positive achievements reflected in the application.

CLOSED SESSION – The Board will be going into closed session at 6:00pm

OPENED SESSION - The Board has reconvened into Open Session at 6:19pm
Mrs. Whitney communicated with the board regarding the previous financial questions that they had.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:50pm.

The June 16, 2026 regular meeting of the CalAPS Board adjourned at 6:50 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM.