



Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

1. CLOSED SESSION

A. Comments - Public

President Sylvester announced that there were no public comment requests submitted, and the Board convened into Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. where the following items were discussed:

B. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), Case OAH 2026040159

C. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), Ratification of Settlement Agreement - Case Non-OAH C-26/27

Closed Session ended at 5:56 p.m.

2. OPEN SESSION

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Call to Order: President Sylvester called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Board Members present: Board President Karen Sylvester, Board Vice President Lauren Gill, Board Clerk Bill Gorback, Board Trustees Cindy Goldberg and Lisa Powell, and Student Board Trustee Jalen Oben.

Administration present: Dr. Mark McLaughlin, Superintendent; Dr. Victor Hayek, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services; Kenneth Loo, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional and Student Services; and Shauna Ashmore, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Announcements from Closed Session and Open Session Procedures

President Sylvester announced that the following items were discussed in Closed Session:

B. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), Case OAH 2026040159

Cindy Goldberg moved to approve the Settlement Agreement for Case OAH 2026040159, seconded by Bill Gorback.

Motion Carried: 5-0.

C. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), Ratification of Settlement Agreement - Case Non-OAH C-26/27

Lisa Powell moved to ratify the Settlement Agreement for Case Non-OAH C-27/27, seconded by Cindy Goldberg.

Motion Carried: 5-0.

D. Approval of the Agenda

Recommended Action: Approve the agenda as amended, pulling Agenda Item 4S for a separate vote.

Moved by: Lisa Powell; seconded by Cindy Goldberg

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential “yes” vote from Trustee Oben.

E. Reports from Student Reporters

Student Reporters:

Century Academy - Celena Smith

Conejo Valley High School - Cash Hamilton/Isabella Lopez

Newbury Park High School - Camden Aschbrenner

Thousand Oaks High School - Nikos Dukakis

Westlake High School - Fiona Mercer

Students reported on events and activities at their respective sites, which included Back-to-School and Family Nights; freshman orientations; student leadership and success seminars; school spirit activities, rallies, and spirit weeks; Senior Sunrise and other senior activities; club fairs; athletic events and football games; student and alumni tailgates; Homecoming preparations; performing arts auditions, festivals, and performances; dance, cheer, choir, and band activities; leadership retreats and training; emergency evacuation drills; community service and environmental stewardship projects; and other

activities designed to promote student involvement, school spirit, and community building.

F. Comments - Public

President Sylvester announced that no public comment requests were submitted.

3. ACTION ITEMS – GENERAL

A. Business Services - Approval of 2025-2026 Unaudited Actual Financial Report

Dr. Hayek presented information on the 2025-2026 Unaudited Actual Financial Report, including a decrease in expenditures, an increase in revenues, and a year-end fund balance of approximately \$37 million. The District entered 2026-27 with approximately \$24 million in unrestricted funds and \$12 million in restricted funds and continues to maintain a 3% reserve. Key fiscal challenges include Proposition 98 funding uncertainties, declining enrollment, and potential changes in state education priorities. Other District funds remain in good condition, with Adult Education ending the year with a fund balance of more than \$700,000. The next reporting cycle will include the 2025-26 audit and First Interim Report.

The Board and District staff then discussed stable enrollment trends, including increased TK enrollment, additional TK sections, and continued student retention within the District. Discussion also included anticipated changes to the state education funding system, stable federal revenues and expected level funding, transfers between unrestricted and restricted funds, Special Education funding, required maintenance expenditures, and the status of mental health funding. Staff discussed the reduction in the projected deficit from approximately \$11 million to \$4 million, attributing the improvement to staffing reductions through attrition, careful spending, one-time funding, and favorable benefit costs while maintaining classroom staffing and class sizes. The Board also discussed Adult Education's improved financial position, including increased enrollment, reduced expenses, increased revenue, and class-size requirements necessary to support program costs.

Recommended Action: Approve the 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals for the General and Ancillary Funds, as submitted.

Moved by: Lisa Powell; seconded by Bill Gorback

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Oben.

B. Student Services - Adoption of Resolution #26/27-04 in Support of National Bullying Prevention Month

There was no Board discussion.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution #26/27-04 in Support of National Bullying Prevention Month, as submitted.

Moved by: Bill Gorback; seconded by Lisa Powell

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential “yes” vote from Trustee Oben.

C. Student Services - Adoption of Resolution #26/27-05 in Support of Unity Day

There was no Board discussion.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution #26/27-05 declaring October 21, 2026, as Unity Day in the Conejo Valley Unified School District.

Moved by: Cindy Goldberg; seconded by Bill Gorback

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential “yes” vote from Trustee Oben.

D. Instructional Services - Adoption of Resolution #26/27-06 in Support of High School Voter Education Weeks

Board members discussed upcoming voter registration activities, encouraged eligible individuals to register or pre-register to vote, and emphasized the importance of voting and continued participation in elections.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution #26/27-06 in Support of High School Voter Education Weeks, as submitted.

Moved by: Lisa Powell; seconded by Cindy Goldberg

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential “yes” vote from Trustee Oben.

E. Instructional Services - Public Hearing: Resolution #26/27-07 - Pupil Textbook and Instructional Materials

President Sylvester convened the Public Hearing at 6:48 p.m. No public comments were received, and the Public Hearing was closed at 6:49 p.m. There was no Board discussion.

4. ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

These items are considered routine and will be approved in one action without discussion. If Board members request that an item be removed from Consent or a citizen wishes to speak to an item, the item will be considered under Action Items.

President Sylvester stated that Item 4S, which had been pulled from the agenda for a separate vote, would be considered first, followed by approval of the remaining Consent Agenda items.

4S. Business Services - Approval of MOU Agreement with Ventura County Community College District/Moorpark College

Moved by: Lisa Powell; seconded by Cindy Goldberg

Board Member Powell highlighted the partnership and the District's commitment to serving both students and adults, expressing support for continued growth and improvement of the programs. She also highlighted Vision 2030 as a blueprint for expanding opportunities for adult learners throughout California and noted its priorities and values. Dr. Hayek provided an overview of the grant-funded dual enrollment agreement with Moorpark College, which will utilize available District classroom space and track student participation and outcomes to support continued funding and generate additional revenue through documented learning gains.

Recommended Action: Approve the MOU Agreement with Ventura County Community College District/Moorpark College, as submitted.

Moved by: Lisa Powell; seconded by Cindy Goldberg

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Oben.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda, as amended.

Moved by: Bill Gorback; seconded by Lisa Powell

Motion Carried: 5-0, with a preferential "yes" vote from Trustee Oben.

- A. **Board of Education - Approval of Minutes**
- B. **Board of Education - Approval of Amendments to Board Bylaw 9270 - Conflict of Interest and Exhibit A - Designated Positions and Filing Officers**
- C. **Human Resources - Personnel Assignment Orders**
- D. **Human Resources - Approval of Student Fieldwork and Paid Student Teaching Intern Agreement Between Conejo Valley Unified School District and University of Massachusetts Global**
- E. **Human Resources - Approval of Student Fieldwork Agreement Between the Conejo Valley Unified School District and the NutraCo Dietetic Internship Program**
- F. **Human Resources - Receipt of the 2026-2027 Proposal for Reopener Collective Bargaining Negotiations Submitted by the Conejo Valley Unified School District and the Unified Association of Conejo Teachers (UACT)**
- G. **Instructional Services - Approval of Contracts Under \$5,000**
- H. **Instructional Services - Approval of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6158 - Independent Study**

- I. Instructional Services – Approval of Renewal Contract with Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD) for Lang Ranch Elementary - Lunch Recess Program**
- J. Student Services - Ratification of Alternative Dispute Resolution (under \$50,000)**
- K. Student Services - Approval of Renewal Contract with Hanna Interpreting Services, LLC**
- L. Student Services - Approval of Amendment to Contract with Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Inc.**
- M. Business Services - Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment**
- N. Business Services - Approval of Purchase Order Report (POs exceeding \$5,000)**
- O. Business Services - Measure I and Other Sources - Notices of Completion**
- P. Business Services - Approval of Resolution #26/27-03: Establishing the Gann Appropriations Limit for 2026-2027**
- Q. Business Services - Approval of Professional Services Agreements with Almeria Farms LLC and Freshlunches Inc. (dba Unity Meals)**
- R. Business Services - Approval of Renewal Contract with Biomedical Waste Disposal for Conejo Valley Adult Education**
- T. Business Services - Approval of Revised Administrative Regulation 3350 - Travel, Meal, and Meeting Expenses**
- U. Business Services - Approval of Monthly Automobile Allowance Schedule as Exhibit 1 to Administrative Regulation 3350 - Travel, Meal, and Meeting Expenses**
- V. Business Services - Approval of New Exhibit to Administrative Regulation 3513.1 - Cellular Phone Reimbursement Allowance Schedule**

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS – GENERAL

A. Board of Education - Discussion of Board Bylaw 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority

President Sylvester announced that one (1) public comment request was submitted, and that speaker received three (3) minutes to speak.

The Board discussed proposed updates to Board Bylaw 9200, Limits of Board Member Authority, noting that the revisions were based on Gamut updates reflecting changes in law and court decisions. Discussion focused on clarifying the distinction between Board members appropriately communicating with community members and independently investigating or resolving complaints. Trustees expressed concerns that terms such as “actively engage” and references to complaints and student matters were broad or subjective and could conflict with other Board policies. The Board discussed revising the language to more

clearly address formal complaints, investigations, and appropriate referral of concerns to District staff. The Board reached consensus on the Board President and Superintendent working together to revise the bylaw and return it to the Board again for information and further discussion.

Dr. McLaughlin noted that the bylaw is not currently referenced in the District Governance Handbook and requested that it be added as a reference.

B. Board of Education - Discussion of Board Bylaw 9310 - Board Policies

The Board and Superintendent discussed the policy update process and the possibility of establishing a Board policy committee or other process for more regular review of Board Policies. Dr. McLaughlin explained that policy updates are reviewed quarterly by administrative assistants based primarily on changes in law, with revisions reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent and Cabinet, as needed, before being brought to the Board. Mr. Loo added that the Board could address any necessary changes to the policy update process at its annual goals meeting in May. Trustees discussed whether a more proactive process was needed to review policies that have not been updated recently and noted that Board members may request that specific policies be reviewed or updated at any time. It was also noted that the Board Governance Handbook should align with the Board Bylaws.

Dr. McLaughlin indicated that staff would compile information on policies that have not been updated since 2008 for a future Board report.

C. Business Services - Discussion of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 7214 - General Obligation Bonds

Dr. Hayek reviewed legal updates related to the issuance of bonds, including changes extending the maximum bond term to 40 years, changing the required approval threshold from 66.67 percent to two-thirds, allowing bond oversight committees to establish their own bylaws, and updates related to bond certification. He noted that he would not recommend extending bond terms to 40 years. President Sylvester noted that the law had been updated several years ago. There was no Board discussion.

D. Board Committee Reports

President Sylvester reported on the Finance Committee meeting, which included a preview of the District's unaudited actuals and discussion regarding direct costs and the allocation of expenses to enterprise funds.

E. Comments - Board of Education

Board members provided comments and expressed appreciation to staff for their hard work in preparing the campuses for the start of the school year.

F. Comments - Superintendent

Dr. McLaughlin stated that he had no comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A. Future Board Topics / Activities

The Board reached consensus to add the following topic for discussion at a future Board meeting:

- Presentation on the Adult Education program (Spring 2027)

B. Adjournment

President Sylvester adjourned the Open Session at 7:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. - Open Session, at Conejo Valley High School in the CVUSD Board Room, 1402 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

9/16/26

Date



Board Clerk

9/16/26

Date



Superintendent

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwMRcdezDa6wbm8DhLrV-HQ>