MINUTES

MERCED COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 17, 2026

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Merced County Office of Education Board Room
632 W. 13th Street, Merced, CA 95341

I. Opening

A. Board Chairperson, Geneve Brett, called the meeting of the Merced County Board of Education to order at 2:07 PM.

B. Members present were Geneva Brett, Ryan Heller, Dennis Hanks, Frank Fagundes, and Joseph Oliveira.

C. Others present: Alicia Rodriguez, Larry Rodriguez, Manuel Cavazos, Nathan Quevedo, Martin Macias, Todd Beal, Laura Andrews, Matt Devins, Marisa Etheridge, Tara Hill, Norma Chavez, Tim Ryan, Israel Gonzalez, Cristina Vara, Martin Fregoso, and Maria Cuevas, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Steve M. Tietjen, County Superintendent

II. Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

III. Consent Agenda:

Items listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine administrative functions and will be acted on by the Board in one motion and one vote. Any items under the Consent Agenda may be discussed; however, if the item needs further clarification and discussion, it may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of the Board or the Superintendent and considered separately. Information concerning Consent Agenda items will be provided to each Board member for study before the meeting. It is understood that the Superintendent recommends approval of all consent items unless otherwise noted. *(Board Bylaw 9322)*

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 15, 2026, were approved.

B. Approved Resolution No. 2026-21 Recognizing September 2026 as School Attendance Awareness Month

C. Authorized Payment to the California School Boards Association for Membership Dues, July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in the total amount of **$12,350.00**

- California School Boards Association (CSBA) = $9,964.00
- Education Legal Alliance (ELA) = $2,386.00

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

IV. Written Communications

A. Correspondence Received By Chairperson: None.

B. Correspondence Received By Board Members: None.

C. Correspondence Received By Superintendent: None.

V. Call for Public Comments on Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

The public was invited to address agenda items, submit items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board for future consideration, or speak to issues related to the function and operation of the County Board of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Alicia Rodriguez spoke regarding the surplus sale held in June. Ms. Rodriguez expressed concern that some of the surplus items, including vehicles, may have been sold to MCOE employees in advance, before members of the community had an opportunity to purchase them. Ms. Rodriguez stated that her grandson arrived very early at the sale and was among the first people in line. However, by the time he was able to participate, all the vehicles had reportedly already been sold. Ms. Rodriguez questioned how the vehicles could have already been sold if her grandson was one of the first individuals in line and requested clarification regarding the process used to sell the surplus vehicles.

VI. Superintendent's and Board Members' Report (Information/Discussion Only)

A. Board Members' Report *(if any)*: Ryan Heller and Joseph Oliveira attended the MCOE Kickoff on 8/8/2026.

B. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Steve Tietjen provided information on the following events held at the Merced Theater.
   1. Merced County Leadership Network Kick-off held on 7/31/2026
      - Keynote Speaker: Gerry Brooks
   2. Report on MCOE Kickoff held on 8/6/2026
      - Keynote Speaker: Cathleen Beachboard

VII. Business Items for Action

A. Uniform Complaint Report Summary
Presented by Coordinator, Manuel Cavazos, Educational Services
It was recommended that the Board of Education review and approve the Uniform Complaint Report Summary for the Quarterly Period April 2026 through June 2026

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded the motion to approve the Uniform Complaint Report Summary for the Quarterly Period April 2026 through June 2026. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

B. Resolution Ordering Governing Board Member Election
Presented by Steve M. Tietjen
It was recommended that the Board of Education approve Resolution No. 2026-22, Ordering Governing Board Member Elections, as submitted

Ryan Heller moved, and **Dennis Hanks** seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-22. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

C. LCAP Federal Addendum
Presented by Tara Hill, Director, Educational Services
It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the review and approve the Federal Addendum.

Dennis Hanks moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded the motion to review and approve the Federal Addendum. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

D. School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA 2026-2027)
Presented by Tara Hill, Director, Educational Services
It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 School Plans for Student Achievement for Valley Community School **Atwater**, Valley Community School **Los Banos**, Valley Community School **Merced**, Merced County **Juvenile** Hall Court School, **Come Back** Charter School, and **Merced Scholars** Charter School.

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Joseph Oliveira** seconded a motion to review and approve the School Plans for Student Achievement. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

E. Salary Increases
Presented by Martin Macias, Deputy Superintendent, Human Resources
The increase reflects the Board's and the Superintendent's commitment to attracting and retaining staff through competitive salaries and opportunities to advance in the County.

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the reclassification of the following positions: Maintenance Staff, Clerical Staff, and Management Staff.

Ryan Heller moved, and **Frank Fagundes** seconded, a motion to approve the reclassification of the following positions: Maintenance Staff, Clerical Staff, and Management Staff. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

VIII. Call for Public Comments: Identified Closed Session Agenda Items
During this portion of the agenda, the public was invited to address the Board on the identified items before adjournment into a Closed Session. No comments were made.

The Board proceeded into a Closed Session

IX. Closed Session to Deliberate Interdistrict Attendance Appeals #2026-07, #2026-08, #2026-11, and #2026-12

The Board proceeded into an **Open Session** - Disposition of Interdistrict Attendance Appeals

X. On the request for an appeal #2026-07, it was moved by **Ryan Heller** and seconded by **Joseph Oliveira** to overturn the appeal for the 2026-2027 school year, Weaver Union School District's decision to deny the request for an interdistrict transfer to attend school at Weaver Middle School in the Weaver Union School District.

Vote (by roll call)

Brett	YES
Heller	YES
Hanks	YES
Fagundes	YES
Oliveira	YES

XI. On the request for an appeal #2026-08, it was moved by **Ryan Heller** and seconded by **Dennis Hanks** to overturn the appeal for the 2026-2027 school year, Weaver Union School District's decision to deny the request for an interdistrict transfer to attend school at Pioneer School in the Weaver Union School District.

Vote (by roll call)

Brett	YES
Heller	YES
Hanks	YES
Fagundes	YES
Oliveira	YES

XII. On the request for an appeal #2026-11, it was moved by **Frank Fagundes** and seconded by **Joseph Oliveira** to uphold the appeal for the 2026-2027 school year, Los Banos Unified School District's decision to deny the request for an interdistrict transfer to attend school at Los Banos Unified School District.

Vote (by roll call)

Brett	YES
Heller	YES
Hanks	YES
Fagundes	YES
Oliveira	YES

XIII. On the request for an appeal #2026-12, it was moved by **Frank Fagundes** and seconded by **Joseph Oliveira** to uphold the appeal for the 2026-2027 school year, Los Banos Unified School District's decision to deny the request for an interdistrict transfer to attend school at Los Banos Unified School District.

Vote (by roll call)

Brett	YES
Heller	YES
Hanks	YES
Fagundes	YES
Oliveira	YES

XIV. Adjournment

Frank Fagundes moved, and **Ryan Heller** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting of the Merced County Board of Education at 3:52 PM. The motion was carried with a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Secretary to the Board of Education

SMT/mc