

APPROVED



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1j

Meeting Date: October 1, 2026

Subject: Approve Minutes for the September 17, 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 September 17, 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 September 17, 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, September 17, 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

2026/27-9

1.0 OPEN SESSION / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 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 (Three Potential Cases)*
 - c) *Existing litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(1) of Government Code section 54956.9 (OAH Case No.202605073 & OAH Case No.2025120855)*
- 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 54956.8-Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Property: 5241 J St, Sacramento, CA 95819, Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 008-0111-001-0000
Agency Negotiator: Chris Ralston, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Support Services
Negotiating Parties: Sacramento City Unified School District and all interested parties
Under negotiation: price and terms of potential sale of property*
- 3.5 *Education Code 35146- The Board will hear staff recommendation on the following student readmission for 26-27: Expulsion Readmissions 2 and 3 of the 2026-27 school year*
- 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 6:49 p.m.

- 4.1 *The Pledge of Allegiance*
- 4.2 *Broadcast Statement*
- 4.3 *Stellar Student introduced by Board President Tara Jeane and Leataata Floyd
Elementary School Highlighted by Principal Sam Floyd*

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

There were 2 announcements that came out of closed session.

-The Board approved an interim settlement agreement related to OAH Case No. 202605073 in the amount of \$19,500 by a vote of 6-0 with Member Singh absent.

-The Board approved an amendment to a settlement agreement related to OAH Case No. 2025120855 with no additional costs by a vote of 6-0 with Member Singh absent.

6.0 AGENDA ADOPTION

The Board adopted the agenda unanimously.

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.

Kia Williams advocated for classroom stability and urged the board to reinstate Mrs. Hatcher, an African American third-grade teacher at Leataata Floyd whose removal disrupted students' learning and emotional well-being.

Shira Lane urged the board to partner with her nonprofit to utilize SB 54 funding to replace single-use plastic foodware in schools with reusables, improving student health and environmental sustainability.

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 Purchase Order Board Report for the Period of July 15, 2026, through
August 14, 2026 (Gerardo Castillo)*

8.1e Approve Arts & Music in Schools (AMS~Prop 28) Annual Reports (Erin Findley)

8.1f Approve Minutes for the September 3, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting (Superintendent Cancy McArn)

8.1g Approve Job Descriptions (Dan Schallock)

8.1h Approve Salary Schedules (Dan Schallock)

8.1i Approve Labor Partner Agreements (Dan Schallock)

8.1j Approve Staff Recommendation for Expulsion Readmissions 2 and 3 of the 2026-27 school year (David Van Natten)

This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

President Jeane pulled Agenda Item 8.1j.

Member Rhodes made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exclusion of Agenda Item 8.1j with a second from Member Ybarra. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica absent.

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Employee Organization Reports:

- *SCTA- Nikki Davis Milevsky and Jason Burke of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) criticized the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) for mismanaging fiscal oversight and blocking cost-saving agreements that would provide district relief. They highlighted a joint MOU that saves funds and supports Measure M for special education funding, while emphasizing the urgent need to address ongoing staffing shortages, particularly among special education teachers and speech pathologists.*
- *SEIU-No update*
- *TCS-No update*
- *Teamsters –No update*
- *UPE AFSA Local 154-AFL-CIO- Garrett Kirkland announced United Personnel's (UP) endorsement and support for Measure M.*

9.2 Information Sharing by Board Members-

Member Singh thanked Principal Kirkland for UPE's endorsement of Measure M. He expressed enthusiasm for having principals participate in community canvassing efforts to support the measure.

Member Rhodes recognized Community School Specialist Week, praising specialists for serving as vital bridges between schools, families, and communities. He also celebrated that all schools in Area 5 successfully signed up for the community schools initiative and encouraged other areas to do the same.

Member Benjamin highlighted the upcoming Roots and Rising Stars Foundation's honorary Negro League baseball game at Sac State to help fund local youth baseball, alongside a supporting fundraiser at Dusty Baker's winery. He also invited the community to an upcoming health fair at Oakridge Elementary School offering free health screenings and immunizations.

Member Ybarra praised retired educator Lori Jablonski for her work with the "Senior to Senior" project, which helped register 400 high school students to vote across McClatchy and West Campus. She commended Jablonski's ongoing dedication to empowering young people and encouraging civic engagement.

10.0 PUBLIC HEARING

10.1 Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policies (Board President Tara Jeane & Melinda Iremonger)

President Jean presented the second reading for the potential approval of revised board policies, recommending the adoption of a comprehensive update to roughly 400 CSBA policies while excluding Board Policy 7310 (Naming a Facility) to maintain the district's more recently updated version. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

Steve Bruno urged board members to review specific governance policies regarding Brown Act compliance, communication authority, funneling staff requests strictly through the superintendent, and taking collective responsibility for board decisions.

Board Comment:

No Board comment

President Jeane made a motion with a second from Member Benjamin. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica absent.

10.2 Initial Public Hearing: Charter Renewal for Capitol Collegiate Academy (Leah Clougherty)

Leah Clougherty presented a public hearing regarding the charter renewal petition for Capitol Collegiate Academy (CCA), noting that the district's middle-tier charter school is seeking a five-year extension ahead of its 2027 expiration. Executive Director and Principal Shamel Riley then detailed CCA's 15-year history serving ~500 TK-8 students, highlighting strong academic

performance in ELA, math, and science where key student subgroups consistently outperform statewide peers. She also emphasized major strides in school climate—including a reduction in chronic absenteeism down to 6.1% and lower suspension rates—alongside a 92% teacher retention rate as key reasons to grant the charter renewal. This was an information item.

Public Comment:

Crystal Zhen reflected on her eight years at CCA, praising its supportive community, cultural diversity celebrations, and the student-led mental health task force she helped create.

Guadalupe Villagomez shared her full-circle journey to show how the school's mission empowers students to achieve, overcome obstacles, and prepare for college.

Cheyenne Certa highlighted the after-school program's growth to 300 students and praised CCA's child-centered culture, growth mindset, and dedication to the whole child.

Jorge Palacios spoke about the school's strong sense of community, its commitment to supporting students with disabilities, and its role as an uplifting pillar for local families.

Kealia Jackson praised Principal Riley's positive impact on school culture and credited the administration for listening to parent concerns, accommodating special learning needs, and bringing in mentorship programs like Improve Your Tomorrow (IYT).

Abi O'Neal endorsed CCA's renewal, citing its academic support programs, strong parent involvement, clean financial audits, and 15-year history of serving Sacramento families.

Board Comment:

Member Benjamin commended Principal Riley and her team for making impressive improvements at the former Freeport Elementary campus. Noting that charter renewals can often be challenging decisions, he expressed confidence in Capitol Collegiate Academy's trajectory, thanked the community for showing up in support, and mentioned he plans to visit the campus in person.

Member Kayatta noted that while the board does not vote during initial public hearings, he is always happy to support performing charter schools that meet key metrics and positively impact the community. He committed to thoroughly reviewing the renewal materials before the upcoming vote and expressed interest in visiting the nearby campus.

Member Ybarra commended the school for its dedicated service to South Sacramento's Hispanic community and asked to learn more about their English Learner demographics, such as the proportion of long-term English learners versus newcomers. She praised the staff for their hard work and noted she looks forward to gathering more insight on how they support their student population.

President Jeane praised the school's high test scores relative to state averages and inquired about strategies for closing performance gaps for students with disabilities and providing tailored academic support for English Learners. Principal Riley explained that CCA brought on a new Special Education Director, introduced the TeachTown curriculum for students with autism, added an extra Education Specialist to pilot a dedicated RSP classroom, partnered with the tutoring service Llama, and designated an EL Coordinator to track ELPAC progress.

Additionally, President Jean celebrated CCA's commitment to educator expertise, highlighting that 100% of their teaching staff meet state legal credential requirements.

11.0 ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Approve the Updated 2026-27 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) (Erin Findley & Gerardo Castillo)

Erin Findley and Gerardo Castillo requested board approval for technical, narrative, and fiscal adjustments to the 2026–27 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to meet statutory state requirements before the September 30 deadline. These compliance updates fulfill Sacramento County Office of Education requests—including metric alignment, enhanced program justifications, and financial reconciliations—without altering core student services or overall strategic direction. Looking forward, this approval lays the foundation to streamline the multi-year LCAP cycle around \$92 million in targeted supplemental/concentration funds while building stronger community engagement and internal accountability. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Board President Jeane reflected on her past confusion regarding the district's LCAP process, noting that while Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funds generate supplemental and concentration dollars specifically for unduplicated pupils—such as English learners, foster/homeless youth, and low-income students—the district had previously asked parents to build plans rather than having experts propose strategies for parent evaluation. She expressed strong enthusiasm for narrowing the LCAP's focus from a massive districtwide budget document to the \$92 million directly allocated for high-needs students starting in the 2027–28 cycle. Additionally, she questioned why the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) raised technical concerns so late in the three-year cycle without prior notice, though she commended staff for turning the request into a catalyst for positive change. She thanked Chief Business Officer Herardo Castillo for reconciling the SACS forms with LCAP action tables during his first six weeks, and praised the new "LCAP on the Road" strategy for expanding outreach to DAC, CAC, and student advisory groups.

Member Ybarra commended the team for seizing the moment to "make lemonade" out of SCOE's compliance feedback. She urged staff to ensure that future community engagement goes beyond a simple check-the-box exercise, asking that public feedback be meaningfully recorded and evaluated using CDE metrics to rebuild trust with parents and community members who felt unheard in previous years.

Member Navarro made a motion to approve with a second from Member Rhodes. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica absent.

11.2 Approve Resolution No. 3605 Re: Geographic Usage Restrictions for RDA Pass-Troughs to District per AB 1290 (Gerardo Castillo)

Gerardo Castillo outlined a request to approve Resolution 3405, an administrative action designed to streamline the district's use of pass-through Redevelopment Agency (RDA) facility funds. Under state law (AB 1290), the district receives ongoing pass-through funding across 15 legacy project areas—representing over \$4 million in revenue for the 2025–26 fiscal year alone.

By adopting a formal "finding of benefit," Resolution 3405 legally establishes that capital improvements and facilities investments at any Sac City school benefit students across all redevelopment project areas. Approval removes complex site-by-site geographic tracking requirements, giving the district the operational flexibility to direct facilities and restricted maintenance resources where they are needed most while maintaining full compliance with state law. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Board President Jeane acknowledged that staff had been proactively raising this item with the board in previous discussions, noting that tonight's presentation fully answered all prior questions. She expressed appreciation for the thoroughness of the update and thanked staff for bringing forward the resolution.

Member Rhodes made a motion with a second from Member Benjamin. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica absent.

11.3 Approve Resolution No. 3606: Authorizing Use of Restricted Object 8625 RDA Pass-Throughs as "Other Financing Uses" to Reimburse Unrestricted General Fund for Portion of Past Annual 3% Deposits into Restricted Maintenance Account (Gerardo Castillo)

Gerardo Castillo presented Resolution No. 3606 to authorize the reimbursement of the district's General Fund using restricted Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funds. Over the past five years, the district was forced to transfer nearly \$105 million from its unrestricted General Fund into the Restricted Maintenance Account to keep facilities in good repair.

Resolution No. 3606 allows the district to use accumulated RDA pass-through funds—up to \$31.72 million (including interest through June 30, 2026) plus up to \$14.7 million in projected pass-through revenues over the next three fiscal years—to reimburse the General Fund for eligible facility expenditures in full compliance with state and contractual requirements. This temporary, strictly limited measure provides a crucial three-year stability window (FY 2026–27 through FY 2028–29) for the district to implement necessary structural budget adjustments to address its long-term deficit. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

No Board comment

Member Kayatta made a motion to approve with a second from Member Navarro. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica absent.

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

Gerardo Castillo and Chris Ralston presented an update on the district's fiscal sustainability plan, highlighting \$42.76 million achieved so far toward a \$174.49 million target aimed at eliminating the structural deficit. Key progress includes \$1.15 million in completed program actions, \$4 million in one-time funding support, and noticeable savings driven by reduced transportation contracts, benefit audit adjustments, and targeted LCFF data collection. Additionally, the district has initiated a new department-level business planning process and cross-functional collaboration to ensure long-term, ongoing financial accountability across all seven core strategies. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

Carl Pinkston inquired whether district departments present multiple proposal options during budget planning and suggested evaluating transportation operations to optimize bus sizing and route efficiency during the current financial deficit.

Board Comment:

Member Rhodes requested a breakdown of the undetermined LCFF student counts organized by board area, individual schools, and community school designations. He emphasized that having this targeted data would allow board members to engage directly with their local constituents and deploy extra support where family engagement and form completion are lowest.

Staff highlighted that the technology team's new dashboard allows for school-by-school tracking and noted that current qualification counts have already caught up to last year's end totals. They confirmed they could easily customize the dashboard data by board region and agreed to send those specific breakdowns to the board members.

President Jeane connected the completed LCFF forms directly to securing state funding for unduplicated pupils, noting that high schools face unique logistical hurdles due to students having multiple class periods. She praised staff for using creative solutions like school competitions and real-time dashboards to capture millions of dollars in deserved district revenue.

Superintendent McArn commended the team for delivering transparent monthly updates while simultaneously managing the early-year demands of an accelerated school calendar. She celebrated the district's \$8 million progress over the past month and thanked staff across all departments for driving system-wide financial recovery.

No action was taken on this item.

11.5 Approve 2026-27 Budget Revisions and Updated Cash Flow Projections (Gerardo Castillo)

Gerardo Castillo shared the district's 2026 budget revisions and monthly cash flow projections following the county's disapproval of the initial 2026–27 adopted budget. Key updates highlight

\$70.81 million in revenue adjustments and \$66.85 million in expenditure reductions, alongside alignment strategies for special education and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). To maintain liquidity, the district relies on a \$111.1 million property tax cash advance to meet monthly obligations, with ending June cash balances projected between \$1.7 million (at 40% reduction implementation) and \$33.1 million (at 100% implementation). Operational focus remains on daily cash monitoring, executing approved cost-reduction strategies, and fulfilling required corrective actions to resolve the county's budget disapproval. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Rhodes praised staff for presenting conservative cash projections based on a 40% implementation rate to ensure the district remains solvent for payroll while actively aiming for 100% execution to build a \$33.1 million ending balance. He commended the presentation's transparency regarding the temporary use of property tax cash advances to cover cash dips throughout the year.

Member Singh noted that the conservative models reassure employees about payroll stability and show the public that local control can be maintained without taking an unnecessary state loan. He emphasized that reaching the \$33.1 million target by June 2027 provides a strong starting point for the following fiscal year and thanked staff for making necessary, transparent decisions.

Member Ybarra expressed deep gratitude to Gerardo Castillo and the finance team for their continuous dedication and hard work since day one. She shared that seeing this strategic progress brings relief to the board during a challenging financial recovery process.

Member Kayatta highlighted that the formal budget revisions bring the district from a projected \$230 million deficit down to a \$160,000 surplus for the current fiscal year. He strongly defended staff against criticisms from state fiscal advisers, standing behind the aggressive yet appropriate financial calculations as a CPA and thanking labor partners like the Sacramento City Teachers Association for helping achieve short-term solvency.

Member Rhodes made a motion with a second from Member Navarro. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica voting "yes".

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

Gerardo Castillo requested board approval for the district's contract report covering 27 items valued at \$8.85 million, including 25 new agreements or purchase orders and two facility contract amendments. The funding is split across multiple sources to minimize general fund impact, with approximately \$5.1 million covered by Measure A facility funds, \$3.29 million from the unrestricted general fund (including major legal service agreements), and \$1.46 million from restricted and operational funds. All listed items—supporting essential district operations, student programs, health services, nutrition, and school safety—were fully reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Review Committee prior to submission. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Singh asked for clarification regarding the contract allocation for the County Sheriff for events such as high school football games and graduations. District safety staff explained that this contract specifically covers school sites situated in county jurisdiction, such as Rosemont and Rancho Cordova, rather than city limits. Member Singh emphasized the importance of upholding the district's Safe Haven policies, ensuring the public that law enforcement presence at school events is strictly for crowd safety rather than immigration enforcement, and praised the Safe Schools team for maintaining campus safety without relying on School Resource Officers.

President Jeane inquired about a cost increase on line item 25 for soil testing at Fern Bacon Middle School, which staff explained is standard practice as initial Division of the State Architect approvals transition into multi-year, on-site testing during active construction. She also highlighted legal service expenses on lines four and five, expressing appreciation for the district's new in-house counsel and new administrative controls that require department chief approval before contacting outside law firms to reduce billable hours. Additionally, district leadership noted that staff successfully negotiated discounts on outstanding legal bills by prompt settlement.

Member Ybarra commended staff for implementing strict legal savings and thanked them for shifting major contract reviews off the consent agenda to the regular presentation agenda to enhance public transparency. She expressed gratitude to the purchasing department for delivering thorough advance documentation, ensuring board members receive clear answers and conduct productive financial reviews.

Member Naqica made a motion with a second from Member Benjamin. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica voting “yes”.

11.7 Approve 2026-27 Special Education Contracts (Erin Findley & Chris Ralston)

Erin Findley and Chris Ralston updated the board on Special Education contracts, operational realignments, and fiscal strategies while requesting approval for the September 17th contract batch to ensure uninterrupted, legally mandated IEP services. Under a new structural shift, business services now oversees contract management, rate negotiations, and payment timelines, freeing Special Education experts to focus on classroom quality and service delivery. Direct vendor outreach confirmed that the district's Non-Public School rates match regional standards, and future Non-Public Agency strategies will aim for multi-year rate freezes and temp-to-hire options to address internal staffing shortages. The team recommended immediate approval for five specific Non-Public School contracts—including Opportunity Acres, Mount Valley Child and Family Services, NorCal Prep, Point Quest Depot Park, and Point Quest El Dorado Hills—while setting an October 1st target to present all remaining contracts. This was an action item.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Board Comment:

Member Kayatta thanked the team for controlling costs and confirming that the district's rates align with market values paid by surrounding districts. He affirmed that while the long-term goal remains bringing staff in-house, securing fair rates is the best interim approach for delivering legally required services. He also commended plans to move contract approvals earlier in the

year to avoid middle-of-the-year scrambling and voiced support for staff's recommended contract actions.

Member Rhodes commended staff for introducing multi-year contracts to improve cost projections and establishing clear business-side management. He highlighted the strategy regarding Non-Public Agencies, specifically praising plans to eliminate non-compete clauses to allow direct hiring of contracted staff, noting it addresses both cost control and internal staffing shortages simultaneously. District staff (Chris) acknowledged that credit for early contract preparations belonged to team members Betty Joe and Fran.

Member Singh thanked the team while emphasizing that sky-rocketing contract costs stem from broader market supply and demand pressures. He stressed that the district's long-term focus must be investing internally in its own Special Education department and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to reduce reliance on external contractors, while reaffirming the district's legal and moral obligation to provide high-quality public education to all students.

Member Kayatta made a motion with a second from Member Rhodes. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica voting "yes".

11.8 Approve Proposed School Site Renaming Process for Cesar Chavez Elementary (Nathaniel Browning)

Nathaniel Browning requested board authorization to launch a formal, community-led process to rename Cesar Chavez Elementary School due to recent information regarding Chavez's personal conduct that does not align with district standards. Staff proposed creating a nine-member advisory committee and launching a four-week student and community survey to gather naming input, with a strict policy that the new name cannot be an individual's name. The estimated project cost is \$10,000 to \$12,000 for physical rebranding and signage updates. Following three committee review meetings in November, staff aim to return to the board on December 17th for a final vote, enabling the school to officially reopen under its new name for the 2027–2028 school year. This was an action item.

*Public Comment:
No public comment*

*Board Comment:
Member Singh voiced concerns regarding staff's proposal to ban naming the school after an individual. He pointed out that past district renamings successfully honored culturally significant figures or community leaders. While acknowledging the reasons behind moving away from Cesar Chavez's name, she argued that the community should retain the option to choose a respected civil rights leader or individual whose values align with the district, rather than having a top-down restriction imposed upon them.*

Member Navarro inquired about the funding source for the estimated \$10,000 to \$12,000 renaming cost. Staff clarified that the funds would come from a restricted account generated by the sale of district properties.

Member Rhodes shared his deep personal connections to the Cesar Chavez Elementary campus as a parent, former staff member, and community member. He supported proceeding with the

renaming process but advocated for a bottom-up approach, moving that staff proceed while allowing the community committee to suggest an individual's name if they strongly desire one, provided it aligns with district policy.

Member Benjamin echoed Member Singh's and Member Rhodes's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of honoring local heroes. He noted that community members are more likely to connect with and understand the legacy of a local contributor than a distant historical figure, supporting the flexibility to name the school after a person if the community advocates for it.

Member Kayatta referenced Board Policy 7310, reminding the board that existing policy already permits naming facilities after deceased individuals who made outstanding contributions locally, statewide, or nationally. He expressed full support for Member Rhodes's motion to follow the community's lead.

Member Ybarra cautioned against presenting the process to the community in a rigid or predetermined manner. She stressed that community members and staff often feel disempowered when presented with narrow options, urging that the feedback process be structured so the community genuinely feels like the primary decision-makers from the start.

Member Rhodes made a motion to approve the renaming process with the specific condition that staff allow the community advisory committee the flexibility to recommend an individual's name if desired, subject to Board Policy 7310 with a second from Member Benjamin. The Board voted 7-0 with Student Member Naqica voting "yes".

12.0 FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES / LOCATIONS

- ✓ *October 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Closed Session, 6:30 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting*
- ✓ *October 15, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Closed Session, 6:30 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting*

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 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.