

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
October 14, 2026

Name/Nombre:	Please note the agenda item number and topic: Anotar el número de artículo de la agenda y el tema:	Do you oppose or approve of this agenda item? ¿Se opone o está a favor de este punto de la agenda?	Would you like to address the Board through live public-comment? If so, please check the "Live Comment" choice below. If you prefer to address the Board through written public-comment, please check...	Please add your comment here/ Favor de agregar su comentario aquí:
Brianna Ingber	6 - PUBLIC HEARING: Petition for Renewal of Community Montessori	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	I attended Community Montessori from grades 2 through 8, and Dehesa Charter School, now Dimensions, for 9th grade. I am completing my Master of Music degree in Violin Performance this year at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. CM students contribute through classroom jobs, planning events and participating in problem-solving class meetings, all of which develop life skills such as communication, organization, collaboration, leadership and civic engagement. I have school-age private students and can see from the other side how Montessori-educated students are more self-directed learners, understand concepts faster, and need less 'hand-holding' than my other students. My experience at both schools helped me develop organizational, administrative and leadership skills which contributed to being hired the last two summers as an Orchestra Manager at the Aspen Summer Music Festival. I already have promising employment opportunities from contacts I was able to make.
Brianna Ingber	7 - PUBLIC HEARING: Petition for Renewal of Dimensions Collaborative School	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	I attended Community Montessori from grades 2 through 8, and Dehesa Charter School, now Dimensions, for 9th grade. I am completing my Master of Music degree in Violin Performance this year at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Homeschooling allowed flexibility for my schoolwork and time to practice. In-person class options enhanced my learning, and I could choose work samples that were meaningful for me. I have school-age private students and can see from the other side how independent learning pedagogies prepare students to be self-directed learners, understand concepts faster, and need less 'hand-holding' than my other students. My experience at both schools helped me develop organizational, administrative and leadership skills which contributed to being hired the last two summers as an Orchestra Manager at the Aspen Summer Music Festival. I already have promising employment opportunities from contacts I was able to make.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
October 14, 2026

Arthur Congo	6 - PUBLIC HEARING: Petition for Renewal of Community Montessori	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	On behalf of the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA), I am writing in support of Community Montessori's charter renewal petition and respectfully urge the San Diego County Board of Education to approve the full seven-year renewal term, from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2034. Community Montessori has been designated as a 'high' performing charter school by the California Department of Education during its most recent track publication in January 2026. Education Code related to 'high performing' schools establishes narrow grounds for denying renewal to schools within this performance category, reflecting the Legislature's intent to recognize demonstrated academic success while maintaining accountability for substantial fiscal, governance, and enrollment-related concerns. Importantly, SDCOE's own staff report identifies no notices of concern or violation during the school's most recent charter term, documents sound fiscal management and compliant governance practices and confirms that the school has received no substantiated complaints related to suspension or expulsion requirements. Under SDCOE's discretionary renewal term criteria, the school received a seven-year determination for student performance, with all student groups and a majority of high-needs student groups exceeding statewide averages in English Language Arts and mathematics over the previous two years. The school also received a seven-year determination for its record of operating without notices of concern or violation. These are substantial indicators of a school's ability to effectively serve students and sustain its educational program.
--------------	--	-----------------	--	---

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
October 14, 2026

While the staff report assigns shorter term determinations in enrollment practices and demographic alignment, these discretionary measures should not outweigh the school's demonstrated academic success and strong operational record. Notably, under the renewal term criteria for student racial and ethnic balance, Community Montessori is less than a percent (.89%) away from strong alignment and receiving a seven-year term determination. Given the Board's discretion, this is precisely the kind of marginal difference that would still support a seven-year renewal despite the six-year determination on the report. Continued progress toward more representative enrollment is important, however, these considerations should be addressed through ongoing oversight and collaboration rather than serving as the singular determining factor in limiting the renewal term of an otherwise high-performing school. Community Montessori has demonstrated a consistent commitment to outreach and attracting families that would improve their demographic alignment, but in accordance with state law and the enrollment lottery system, they cannot actively choose or exclude students from enrolling in their programs. The Board's discretion in determining renewal length for high track schools provides an opportunity to recognize schools that have demonstrated both strong academic outcomes and responsible stewardship of public resources. Community Montessori has done both. Granting a seven-year renewal would appropriately reflect the school's performance, provide greater long-term stability for students and families, and reinforce the value of a renewal framework that meaningfully recognizes demonstrated success. For these reasons, CCSA urges the San Diego County Board of Education to approve Community Montessori's renewal petition for a full seven-year term. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or need further clarification about the renewal, please do not hesitate to contact me at acongo@ccsa.org.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Regular Board Meeting

October 14, 2026

Arthur Congo	7. PUBLIC HEARING - Petition for Renewal of Dimensions Collaborative School	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	On behalf of the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA), I am writing in strong support of the five-year charter renewal of Dimensions Collaborative. Through its personalized learning model, Dimensions provides an important educational option for students and families throughout San Diego County. According to the California School Dashboard, Dimensions improved its schoolwide English Language Arts (ELA) Distance from Standard (DFS) by 20.6 points between 2023–24 and 2024–25, reaching the Green performance level. Mathematics performance improved by 13.7 points during the same period. These gains extend across historically underserved student groups, with English learners improving by 43.8 points in ELA and 40.9 points in mathematics, while Hispanic/Latino students improved by 30.7 points in ELA and 22.8 points in mathematics. The school's progress is further demonstrated through the 2025 California School Dashboard Growth Model, where Dimensions achieved Accelerated Growth in both ELA and mathematics, with 73.9% and 68.6% of students improving their scores, respectively.
				Education Code Section 47607.2 requires that renewal decisions for middle performing charter schools give greater weight to academic performance and consider whether the school has made sufficient progress toward meeting standards that benefit students. The improvements demonstrated by Dimensions provide compelling evidence of that progress. Furthermore, SDCOE's staff report documents the school's history of meeting its financial obligations, compliant governance practices, and absence of notices of concern or violation throughout the charter term. The report also confirms that the school has not received the 30-day notices associated with substantial fiscal, governance, or enrollment-related concerns that could support denial. Taken together, the school's academic progress and the findings presented in SDCOE's own staff report provide a strong basis for renewal. For these reasons, CCSA strongly supports the approval of Dimensions Collaborative's charter renewal petition for a five-year term, from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2032. Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to providing high-quality public educational opportunities for students throughout San Diego County. If you have any questions or need further information about the renewal, please do not hesitate to contact me at acongo@ccsa.org .
Katie Thomas	7. PUBLIC HEARING - Petition for Renewal of Dimensions Collaborative School	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	Dimensions Collaborative School is a crucial support to our families.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Regular Board Meeting

October 14, 2026

Samantha Imes	7. PUBLIC HEARING - Petition for Renewal of Dimensions Collaborative School	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	2/2 For example, my second grader now is taking piano lessons that are fully funded by the school. And I am proud that she has excelled to the level that she has and this Saturday will be attending a competition performing a timeless piece of music on her favorite musical instrument. Our family is humbled and grateful for all of the support that we are receiving from our Learning Facilitator and everyone at Dimensions Collaborative. Furthermore, Our family travels frequently and Dimensions Collaborative is the only school that can offer us continuous education virtually. There are no missed classes or school work. Additionally, the gardening and nutrition class they offer is not only a hands on acquisition of skills, biology and gastronomy but it is all done at a historic site. We are very happy with our experience with Dimensions Collaborative School. Our child has progressed so rapidly in every subject and we are so proud of all of her accomplishments. APPROVE
Ashlie and Mariann Stratman	6. PUBLIC HEARING - Petition for Renewal of Community Montessori	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	My wife and I are in support of renewing Community Montessori Charter school because we believe in the importance of a school that embraces diversity, welcomes different perspectives, and supports every child and family. Community Montessori creates an environment where children are encouraged to learn from one another, feel a sense of belonging, and grow into confident, compassionate individuals . We've have watched our daughter build upon her friendships, lead with compassion, develop meaningful relationships with her teachers, and truly feel a sense of belonging. What has stood out to us most is that Community Montessori truly represents what this school is a community . Before the first day of school, our family came to campus to help prepare. We expected to simply bring a few tools and lend a hand. Instead, we witnessed children and adults working alongside one another, helping and lifting each other up. It was a simple moment, but it spoke volumes about the heart of this school.
Karl Ivanov- Valesestrand	7. PUBLIC HEARING - Petition for Renewal of Dimensions Collaborative School	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	1/2 - We live in the Chula Vista Elementary School District. Our oldest child did attend the traditional school in our area. While there were benefits to the traditional model, our family as a whole, has discovered that Dimensions Collaborative comparatively offers so much more. The classes offered whether in person or virtual are comprised of a smaller group of students. Therefore the teacher can present the materials in a effective way. The classes offered are truly exceptional. By the end of the school year, our first grader could easily converse on topics like World Geography or naming a dozen Masters of Art like Henri Matisse or Frederic Remington. The teachers and staff are really supportive. Their expertise on subjects like phonics/ reading guided and encouraged our child, who during the summer, began reading novels. Dimensions Collaborative is also supportive of my child's interests that may not be offered on campus.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
October 14, 2026

Bharath Ramaswamy	6. PUBLIC HEARING - Petition for Renewal of Community Montessori	Approve/A favor	Written Comment/Comentario escrito	My child attends the Community Montessori learning center in Poway. I am writing in strong support of continued funding and charter renewal for this network of schools, due to their academic excellence, student support, parental involvement, and wonderful staff. Thank you for supporting the right of our families to have K-12 educational options in San Diego County.
-------------------	--	-----------------	--	---