MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 2, 2026

Item: Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2026
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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Orange County Board of Education was called to order by President Shaw at 2:35 p.m., September 2, 2026, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream https://www.youtube.com/live/qM804S6QeeU

ROLL CALL

Present:
Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.
Jorge Valdes, Esq.
Tim Shaw
Mari Barke
Ken L. Williams, D.O.

AGENDA

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the agenda for the September 2, 2026, Regular Meeting, with Item No. 6 removed as the matter had been resolved.

MINUTES

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of August 5, 2026.

TIME CERTAIN

The Board recessed into closed session at 2:36 p.m. to conduct student appeal hearings.

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #09022026001-I Saddleback Valley Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

   Motion by Williams, seconded by Barke, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Newport-Mesa Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2026-2027).

2. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #09022026002-I Irvine Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

   Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Newport-Mesa Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2026-2027).

3. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #09022026003-I Irvine Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

   Motion by Williams, seconded by Barke, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

4. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #09022026004-I Garden Grove Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Newport-Mesa Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2026-2027).

5. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #09022026005-I Huntington Beach Union High School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:01 p.m.

INVOCATION — Linda Cone

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — Eleny, Santa Ana Student

INTRODUCTIONS — Aracely Chastain, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Beckman High School students Ethan Harrington, Melanie Araleolian, Ava Ansari, and Serena Chan.

Dr. Bean, Superintendent introduced Dr. Sandra Lee, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Excellence, Misty Key, Deputy Superintendent, Operational Excellence, and Aracely Chastain, Assistant Superintendent, Governance, Charters and Family Support Services.

Board President Shaw introduced Nikki Bainum-Ramirez, Board Liaison.

INVOCATION — Rev. Ray Jordan
Corona Del Mar Community Church

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Rudi
- Maksim
- Katherine
- Birgitta
- Isabella
- Heidi L.
- Charlotte
- Amy
- Caitlin
- Michael
- Emilee
- Marco
- Gabriel

- Heidi G.
- Jonathan
- Monica
- Eleny
- Benjamin
- Sarah
- Windi
- Catherine

CONSENT CALENDAR

7. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, County Operated Schools and Programs.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

8. Charter Submissions – Rocketship Charter School and Citrus Springs Charter School

9. Charter School Public Hearing – Orange Springs Charter School Material Revision
Aracely Chastain, Assistant Superintendent, Governance, Charters and Family Support Services, facilitated the public hearing.
   - Michelle Sheane Sapanara, Assistant Superintendent, Orange Springs

10. Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Option I for the Orange Springs Charter School material revision.

The Board recessed the Regular Board Meeting from 6:07 p.m. to 6:09 p.m. to convene a meeting of the Orange County Department of Education Facilities Corporation. Motion by Sparks, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2026, meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

11. Motion by Williams, seconded by Barke, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 24-26 identifying the Gann actual appropriations limit for 2025-26 and the Gann estimated appropriations limit for 2026-27.

12. Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the draft Amended and Restated Easement for the Rancho Sonado Project subject to ratification of the final Amended and Restated Easement at a future board meeting.

13. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Barke, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to award the lease-leaseback contracts to C.W. Driver, LLC, for the Rancho Sonado Project.

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- The Board received information on salary increases of $10,000 or more in accordance with Education Code 1302 and board policy 100-10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bean, Superintendent

- Shared updates on OCDE's 5-3-1 Strategic Plan and summer activities.
- Reported a successful Summer at the Center showcase featuring ACCESS students at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.
- Highlighted the MTSS Professional Learning Institute, which served more than 2,300 educators from across California and the nation.
- Introduced a well-received executive leadership series for district leaders that will continue.
- Recognized 11 Orange County educators, advocates and community leaders with Outstanding STEM Education Awards.
- Announced the upcoming launch of OCDE's redesigned website, featuring improved accessibility, mobile compatibility and navigation.
- Provided an update on annual Williams Act reviews of instructional materials and school facilities.
- Reported that the second annual AI Forward Summit sold out with 150 educators and leaders.
- Announced the launch of a yearlong AI Forward Network and advisory council that includes approximately eight district superintendents.

Assistant Superintendent

- Next board meeting is on October 7, board deadline on September 23, and board packet delivery scheduled for Friday, October 2.
- Noted the next board meeting includes one expulsion hearing and six interdistrict appeals and may require an earlier start time.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- Trustee Barke provided an update on SB 1082, which would streamline the interdistrict transfer process by establishing clear deadlines and timelines. She noted that the bill has been sent to the Governor and that the Board submitted a letter supporting its approval.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Williams thanked public speakers Gabriel and Sarah Bach and recognized Sycamore Creek Community Charter School's new facility. He also commented on statements made at the previous meeting and announced that his notes would be available for public review.
- Trustee Barke thanked the public for attending and sharing positive comments and congratulated Sycamore Creek Community Charter School on the grand opening of its permanent location and recognized the school's growth and community support.
- Board Vice President Valdes thanked union president Katherine Liu and expressed his commitment to supporting teachers, parents and students through improved communication. He recognized Gabriel Herrera for his military service and Renee Hendrick for her service to OCDE. He shared

that he and Superintendent Bean are exploring a potential donation of a significant private Civil War artifact collection to OCDE.

- Trustee Sparks thanked attendees for their positive comments and dedication to Orange County's students and families.
- Board President Shaw welcomed Aracely Chastain to the dais and thanked Renee Hendrick for her service and wished her well in retirement.

ADJOURNMENT — On a motion duly made and seconded, the September 2, 2026, board meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Aracely Chastain
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

Tim Shaw
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Location - Orange County Department of Education, Boardroom, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube Livestream

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