REGULAR MEETING
09/28/2026 05:30 PM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CARUTHERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CARUTHERS HIGH MEDIA CENTER

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members
James Cummings, Board President – Absent
Valori Gallaher, Board Clerk
Darren Gilmore, Board Member – Absent
Kathy Spate, Board Member
Mario Alvarado Jr., Board Member

Non-Voting Members
Orin Hirschkorn, Superintendent
Susan McCoy, Chief Administrative Officer
Debra Haney, Chief Business Official
Alisha Cogburn, CES Principal
Gerrett Suarez, MES Principal
Tod Tompkins, MARC Principal
Barry Watts, CHS Principal

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

   Motion made by: Kathy Spate
   Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

   Voting results: Unanimously Approved
   Not Present: James Cummings
   Yes: Valori Gallaher
   Not Present: Darren Gilmore
   Yes: Kathy Spate
   Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 24, 2026**

   Motion made by: Kathy Spate
   Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

   Voting results: Unanimously Approved
   Not Present: James Cummings
   Yes: Valori Gallaher
   Not Present: Darren Gilmore
   Yes: Kathy Spate
   Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. **Alisha Cogburn –** ELPAC/Parent Conferences/Fair Boards/Pastry w/Parents/Sports/Band
2. **Gerrett Suarez** – Math/ELD/Instruction Focus-Testing/Literacy Night/Enrichment Opportunities/Student Behavior/Healthy Smiles/Enrollment
3. **Barry Watts –** Fall Family Social/ROP Fall Conference/Enrollment/Careers in ED/Dual Enrollment
4. **Tod Tompkins –** Enrollment – Marc High and Adult School

7. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **STUDENTS –** Student Board Rep Victoria Cobian – Student Involvement/ Football Student Attendance/Pink Out-Home Game/Homecoming Game-Tom Casanova Grand Marshal
2. **PUBLIC –** None
3. **STAFF** – None

8. BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

2. Review/Approve - Resolution #2026-11 - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

Motion to approve Resolution #2026-11—Sufficiency of Instructional Materials as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

3. Review/Approve - Resolutions #2026-12-#2026-15 - Teacher Authorizations - Caruthers High School

Motion to approve Resolutions #2026-12 - #2026-15 - Teacher Authorizations - Caruthers High School as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

4. Review/Approve - 2026/2027 Certificated Substitute Teacher Rates

Motion to approve the 2026/2027 Certificated Substitute Teacher Rates as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Yes: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Yes: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

5. Review/Approve - 2026/2027 - Declaration of Need for Qualified Teachers - Amended

Motion to approve the 2026/2027 - Declaration of Need for Qualified Teachers - Amended as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

6. Review/Approve - Resolution #2026-16 - Authorizing the Reinstatement of 403(b) Retirement Plan

Motion to approve Resolution #2026-16 - Authorizing the Reinstatement of 403(b) Retirement Plan as presented.

Motion made by: Mario Alvarado Jr.
Motion seconded by: Kathy Spate

Voting results: Unanimously Approved
Yes: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Yes: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

7. Review/Approve - Conflict of Interest - Amended

Motion to approve Conflict of Interest - Amended as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

8. Review/Approve - Board Policy Updates - August 2026 - Second Reading

Motion to approve the Board Policy Updates - August 2026 - Second Reading as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore

Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

9. Review/Approve - Notice of Completion - Harris Construction - Caruthers Education & Community Activity Center Project (CECAC)

Motion to approve Notice of Completion — Harris Construction - Caruthers Education & Community Activity Center Project (CECAC) as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

10. Notice of Completion - Harris Construction - Caruthers Elementary - Multi-Purpose Room

Motion to approve Notice of Completion - Harris Construction - Multi-Purpose Room as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

11. Review/Approve - Financials

Motion to approve the Financials as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (may be done with one motion)

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.6 as presented.

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

1. **Review/Approve - Warrants**

2. **Review/Approve - Purchase Order Report**

3. **Review/Approve - Inter-district Transfer Requests**

4. **Review/Ratify - Hiring of Certificated/Classified Employees**

   Rosio Gallardo – Food Service
   Maria Serrano – Caruthers Elementary Aide

5. **Review/Ratify - Terminations/Resignations of Certificated/Classified Employees**

   Harpreet (Sonia) Grewal – Family Service Center Lead Teacher
   Beatrice Ramos – Caruthers Elementary Aide

6. **Review/Approve - Overnight Field Trip Request - Caruthers High School Girls Basketball**

10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – October 15th will be the official release of the K-12 Data Reports/Enrollment and Attendance Updates

11. CLOSED SESSION 6:11 PM

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

1. **CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS SECTION 54957** Public Employee Appointment/Employment Title: Administration/Certificated/Classified Formal Compliant – citing Board Policy 1312.3 **SECTION 54957** Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release Title: Administration/Certified/Classified **SECTION 54957** Public Employee Evaluation Title: Superintendent – Orin Hirschkorn **SECTION 54957.6** Conference with Labor Negotiator Agency Negotiator: Orin Hirschkorn Employee Organization: CUTA, CSEA **SECTION 54957.6** Conference with Labor Negotiator Agency Negotiator: Orin Hirschkorn Unrepresented Employee(s) Classified Confidential/Site Administrators/Superintendent

2. **OPEN SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

The Board reconvened at 7:15 PM taking no action on any Closed Session Agenda items.
Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.

12. ITEMS FOR EMERGENCY CONSIDERATION

13. ADJOURNMENT 7:16 PM

Motion made by: Kathy Spate
Motion seconded by: Mario Alvarado Jr.

Voting results:
Not Present: James Cummings
Yes: Valori Gallaher
Not Present: Darren Gilmore
Yes: Kathy Spate
Yes: Mario Alvarado Jr.