

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
October 8, 2025

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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 Barke at 4:02 p.m., October 8, 2025, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream https://youtube.com/live/6_ikVKvYWak?feature=share.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Following roll call, Trustee Williams exited the meeting at 4:03 p.m. He rejoined the meeting at 5:04 p.m., subsequent to the interdistrict appeals closed session.

AGENDA

Motion by Valdes, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Williams absent) to approve the agenda of the Regular meeting of October 8, 2025.

MINUTES

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Valdes and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Williams absent) to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of September 3, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to Closed Session) - None

The Board recessed into closed session at 4:04 p.m. to conduct student appeals, followed by closed session items.

TIME CERTAIN

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) - Student #10082025002I – Newport-Mesa Unified School District to Huntington Beach City School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Williams Absent) to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Huntington Beach City School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

2. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #10082025003I - Capistrano Unified School District to Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Williams Absent) to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Saddleback Valley Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

CLOSED SESSION 1

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9): Chino Valley Unified School District et al v. Gavin Newsom Case 2:24-cv-01941-DJC-JDP

The Board reconvened to open session at 5:04 p.m.

INVOCATION

Nelson Cook
Coaches of Influence

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Arvin Saddadi, Student
Sam Sabounchi, Student

INTRODUCTIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Tiffany
- Heidi
- Birgitta
- Mrs. Green
- Karen

PRESENTATIONS

3. Civics Bee Championship Presentation - Arlo Fravien, State Civics Bee Winner

Trustee Sparks shared an overview of the National Civics Bee program, and the Board proudly recognized Arlo Fravien, an exceptional 8th grader from Walton Intermediate School and the 2025 California State Civics Bee Champion. Arlo, joined by his father Romain Fravien, received a certificate of recognition for his outstanding achievement and inspiring commitment to civic engagement.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Consent Calendar items #4 and #5.

4. Approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division.

5. Accept the \$9,533.00 donation from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union in support of the 2025 ACCESS Staff and Leadership Staff Development materials.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

6. Charter submissions – No new submissions.
7. Charter School Public Hearing – California Republic Leadership Academy Orange County
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
 - Gary Davis, Executive Director & Founder
8. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Option I for California Republic Leadership Academy Orange County.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

9. Motion by Valdes, seconded by Williams and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the revised Charter Schools MOU – Complaint Process.

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Salary Increases over \$10,000 in accordance with Education Code 1302 and board policy 100-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent

- 5-3-1 Initiatives

- Integrating Artificial Intelligence - AI Lead Wes Kriesel presented OCDE's AI framework to CISC, highlighting countywide integration and district support.
- Career Technical Education (CTE) - CTE participation grew from 8,000 in 2023 to over 11,000 in 2024, showing strong progress toward OCDE's college and career readiness goals.
- Instructional Focus - Central to the 5-3-1 initiative, emphasizing literacy and the science of reading through statewide support and collaboration.
- USA 250 Celebration - OCDE and partners launched a theme song competition for high school students, with winning songs featured in the 2026 national celebrations.
- Model Curriculum Recognition - Dr. Marika Manos and Dr. Tao presented OCDE's Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Hmong model curriculum to the California State Board of Education, earning strong recognition for their work.
- Recognition - Chief Technology Officer Carl Fong's feature in California School Business Officials magazine and his 40 years of service.
- Digital Directory - Accessible via QR code; optimized for mobile use.

- Warming Hearts Program - Continuation of the long-running “Warming Hearts” holiday program supporting underserved families.
- Deputy Superintendent
 - Williams Annual Report letter
 - Next board meeting is on Wednesday, November 5, 2025; submission deadline is October 22; board packet delivery is October 31
- Board Liaison Update – Brandon Guevara
 - Strengthened ties with charter schools and community groups; advanced plans for a Board newsletter; engaged with the ACCBE on statewide priorities; expanded outreach with groups like Olive Crest and the Freedom Committee; and promoted new Board recognition certificates for community impact.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Trustee Shaw - Governor Newsom signed AB 715 combating antisemitism; AB 84, opposing school choice, was defeated; support for SB 414 promoting school freedom.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Sparks – Attended the Olive Crest event, highlighting community impact and positive collaboration.
- Trustee Barke - Attended the Heroes Lunch and CSDC Conference with charter leaders; spoke at the Reagan Library on education and school choice; recognized CRLA’s countywide charter expansion.

CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

- Mr. Greg Rolan, General Counsel, reported, in Closed Session Item #1, the Board received a report on existing litigation; no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the October 8, 2025, board meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.



Renee Hendrick
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Mari Barke
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Location - Orange County Department of Education, Boardroom, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube Livestream

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