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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

WELCOME

Board President Barke announced that Board Vice President Shaw will be participating remotely. In compliance with the Brown Act, all action items will be subject to a roll call vote.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Orange County Board of Education was called to order by President Barke at 2:35 p.m., September 3, 2025, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, alternate location at The Seabird Ocean Resort & Spa, 101 Mission Ave, Oceanside, CA 92054, and via YouTube live stream <https://www.youtube.com/live/YSQeaUHulIQ>.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.

Jorge Valdes, Esq.

Mari Barke

Absent:

Tim Shaw (joined remotely at 2:55 p.m.)

Ken L. Williams, D.O. (arrived at 3:26 p.m.)

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes and carried by a vote of 3-0 (Williams and Shaw absent) to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of August 6, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to Closed Session) - None

The Board recessed into closed session at 3:37 p.m. to conduct student appeals, followed by closed session items.

TIME CERTAIN

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #09032025001I - Capistrano Unified School District to Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 3-0 (Williams and Shaw 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).

Board Vice President Shaw joined the meeting remotely at 2:55 p.m.

2. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #090320250051 - Capistrano Unified School District to Laguna Beach Unified School District.

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

Trustee Williams joined the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

3. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #090320250021 - Huntington Beach Union High School District to Newport Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks and carried by a roll call 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 (2025-2026).

4. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #090320250041 - Santa Ana Unified School District to Newport Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Williams and carried by a roll call 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 (2025-2026).

5. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #090320250031 - Orange Unified School District to Newport Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call 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 (2025-2026).

CLOSED SESSION 1

Government Code Section 54956.8

Conference regarding real property located at Argosy, 601 S. Lewis Street, Orange, CA 92868.

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

INVOCATION

Rev. Lee Yates

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brandon Guevara, Board Liaison

INTRODUCTIONS

Amanda Chen, Student, Arnold O. Beckman HS

Curtis, Student, Arnold O. Beckman HS

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Heidi
- Ronna
- Rachel
- Rudy
- Karen
- Patty

TIME CERTAIN

6. Special Presentation – Orange County’s Red Ribbon Week Campaign – Dennis Cole, Chief of Staff.
 - Commander Jared Dahl, OC Sheriff’s Department
 - Blake Berteau – President, OC Sheriff’s Advisory Council
 - Steve Mensinger - 1st Vice President, OC Sheriff’s Advisory Council
 - Maribel Marroquin, Executive Director, OC Sheriff’s Advisory Council
 - Kiersten Oliver - Executive Administrator, OC Sheriff’s Advisory Council
7. Motion by Sparks, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to adopt Resolution #23-25 in support of recognizing October 23 - October 31, 2025, as Orange County’s Red Ribbon Week, encourage all community members to promote alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention education programs and activities, and send copies of this resolution to school districts in Orange County.

The Board presented framed resolution #23-25 to the Sheriff’s Advisory Council and Sheriff’s Department.
8. Presentation – Behavioral Health Screening Update (Heads Up Checkup)
 - Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education, ACCESS
 - Amy Smith, Mental Health Manager, ACCESS
 - Erik Bagger, Principal, ACCESS Area 10

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Consent Calendar items #9 through #11.

9. Approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division.
10. Accept the Revised 4th Quarter Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for Orange County Department of Education ACCESS and Connections for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2025.

11. Accept the Supervisors of Attendance of the Orange County School Districts, 2024-2025.
12. Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0-1 (Barke, Valdes, Sparks and Williams voted yes; Shaw abstained) to approve Trustee Tim Shaw's participation in the Behavioral Insights and Public Policy program, February 24-March 13, 2026 and tuition payment of \$4,400, in accordance with board policy 100-23.

FACILITIES CORP MEETING

The Board took a recess from 5:47 p.m. to 5:48 p.m. from the Regular Board Meeting to conduct a Meeting of the Orange County Department of Education Facilities Corporation. Motion by Sparks, seconded by Williams and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes of the Facilities Corp meeting of August 6, 2025.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

13. Charter submissions
 - No new submissions
 - STEMbridge Academy withdrew their petition on August 22, 2025.
14. Charter School Public Hearing – Orange County Prep (a Navigator School)
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
 - Dr. Caprice Young, CEO & Superintendent

PUBLIC COMMENTS (#14 Only)

- Javier
15. Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Option I for the Orange County Prep (a Navigator School).
 16. 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS (#16 Only)

- Katherine
17. Charter School Public Hearing – NOVA Academy OC

Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.

- Lisa Hernandez, Executive Director
- Dr. Susan Garrett, Vice Chair, NOVA Academy Board
- Olga Duarte, Secretary, NOVA Academy Board
- Dr. Sanford Otsuji, Chairman, NOVA Academy Board
- Kimberly Beckstrom, Principal
- Melissa Mier, Director, Counseling and Student Services
- Alicia Lewis, Manager, Business Services
- Dustin Lester, Treasurer, NOVA Academy Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS (#17 Only)

- Annebelle
- Yareli
- Jill
- Alexander
- Rothney
- Renee
- Janelle
- Donald
- Danny

The Board took a recess from 7:02 p.m. to 7:16 p.m.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

18. Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to adopt Resolution #24-25 identifying the Gann actual appropriations limit for 2024-25 and the Gann estimated appropriations limit for 2025-26.
19. Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve the ACCESS and Connections 2024-2025 Proposition 28 Annual Report for submission to the California Department of Education.
20. Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve CCPA's 2024-25 Proposition 28 Annual Report for submission to the California Department of Education.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

21. Motion by Valdes, seconded by Williams and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Resolution #25-25 in Opposition to AB 727.
22. Motion by Barke, seconded by Shaw and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Resolution #26-25 in Support of AB 715.

23. Motion by Barke, seconded by Shaw and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Resolution #27-25 in Opposition to Proposition 50 on the November 2025 Ballot.
24. Discussion: Charter Schools MOU – Complaint Process
25. Discussion: Mahmoud v. Taylor

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Board Liaison – Brandon Guevara
 - Attended Oxford Preparatory Academy ribbon cutting – 8/8
 - Presented certificate to Freedom Committee of Orange County – 8/13
 - Attended ACCBE meeting in Sacramento with Board President Mari Barke – 8/17
 - Attended PACE Summit with Board President – 8/23

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Tom Sheehy and Brena Sheehy
 - Local control over Orange County school board elections was preserved after SB 249 was defeated for the third year in a row.
 - Preparing to address related measures like AB 727 and AB 715

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent
 - OCDE contributed to the California Attendance Guide, aiming to reduce chronic absenteeism statewide.
 - School-Based Mental Health Summit with hundreds of professionals, emphasizing wellness as vital to student success.
 - The “ACCESS 2030” vision extends to the Connections special education program, with staff input shaping a 2030 roadmap.
 - General Staff Meeting on October 8, 2025
 - Invitation to Board to attend upcoming events.
- Deputy Superintendent
 - Teachers of the Year on November 7
 - Next board meeting is on the second Wednesday, October 8, 2025; submission deadline is September 24; board packet delivery is October 3

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Sparks – Shroud of Turin Museum will open a 10,000 sq. ft. immersive museum this fall featuring sacred art, 360° theaters, and interactive exhibits.
- Trustee Valdes – Invited to speak at Magnolia charter school; plans to meet with the Sheehy group after next year’s bill presentation; and personal note regarding son at 9U Allstate Games in Houston, TX this November.
- Trustee Shaw and Trustee Barke - Acknowledged the Sheehy group’s contribution to the hearings in Sacramento.

CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

- Mr. Greg Rolen, General Counsel, reported, in Closed Session Item #1, the Board received information on anticipated/ potential litigation. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the September 3, 2025, board meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Renee Hendrick
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Mari Barke
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 8, 2025

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

Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, including agenda or agenda packet materials in alternative formats or auxiliary aids and services, may request assistance by contacting Darou Sisavath, Board Clerk, at (714) 966-4012.

