

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

WELCOME

Vice President Barke announced Trustee Tim Shaw is joining the meeting via zoom from the alternate location.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Orange County Board of Education was called to order by Vice President Barke at 2:31 p.m., April 2, 2025, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, an alternate location at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, 1500 Court Place, Denver, Colorado 80202, and via YouTube live stream <https://youtube.com/live/pCwWbwA9zeY>.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Jorge Valdes, Esq.
Tim Shaw
Mari Barke
Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.

Absent:

Ken L. Williams, D.O. (arrived at 2:54 p.m.)

AGENDA

Motion by Valdes, seconded by Sparks and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Williams Absent) to approve the agenda of the Regular meeting of April 2, 2025.

MINUTES

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Williams Absent) to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of March 5, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to Closed Session) - None

The Board took a recess from 2:32 p.m. to 4:44 p.m. to go into closed session.

TIME CERTAIN

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #04022025002I - Irvine Unified School District to Newport Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Williams Absent) 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).

2. Expulsion Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #04022025003E – Huntington Beach Union High School District.

Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

CLOSED SESSION 1

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION Orange County Board of Education v. OC Superintendent of Schools, Al Mijares, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond Case No 30-2019-01112665-CU-WM-CJC - Government Code §§ 54956.9(a) and (d)(1)

CLOSED SESSION 2

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Potential litigation pursuant to (d) (4) of Government Code Section 54956.9

TIME CERTAIN (Continue)

3. Budget Study Session- David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services conducted the budget study session for approximately 10 minutes. The Board requested Mr. Giordano finish the presentation at the end of the meeting.

INVOCATION

Rabbi Stephen J. Einstein, DHL, DD
Founding Rabbi Emeritus
Congregation B'nai Tzedek
Fountain Valley, CA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Chloe and Nova

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

4. Presentation of Certificate to Reagan, Civics Bee Winner (Sparks) – tabled to the May board meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Michelle
- Aaron
- Wayne
- Heidi
- Karissa
- Carlos
- Linda
- Cyndie

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Consent Calendar items #5, #6, #7, and #8.

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

6. Adopt Resolution #07-25 to recognize May 18-24, 2025 as Classified School Employee Week.
7. Adopt Resolution #08-25 to recognize May 14, 2025 as California Day of the Teacher.
8. Accept the monetary donation of \$2,000.00 from the Council of Exceptional Children to the Special Education Programs – Connections.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

9. Charter submissions – None
10. Charter School Public Hearing – Magnolia Science Academy - Orange County material revision.
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
 - Dr. Maria Rowell, Magnolia Science Academy – Orange County

PUBLIC COMMENTS (#10 Magnolia Science Academy Only)

- Veronica
 - Laura
 - Aracely
 - Javier
11. Motion by Sparks, seconded by Barke, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Option I (approve the charter petition as written) for Magnolia Science Academy - Orange County.

The Board took a recess from 5:38 p.m. to 5:44 p.m.

12. Charter School Public Hearing – Tustin International Charter School
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
 - Steven Cheung, Tustin International Charter School
 - Jennifer Reiter-Cook, Tustin International Charter School
 - Tabitha Obligacion, Tustin International Charter School
 - Joe Liu, Tustin International Charter School
 - Delano Jones, Tustin International Charter School

PUBLIC COMMENTS (#12 Tustin International Only)

- Emily
- Deko
- Destiny
- Liping
- Dora

- Jason
- Karen
- Mei Chi
- Richard

13. Motion by Barke, seconded by Williams to approve Option II for Tustin International Charter School. The motion failed by a roll call vote of 1-4 (Barke voted Yes; Williams, Valdes, Shaw, and Sparks voted No).

Subsidiary motion by Valdes, seconded by Williams, and carried by a roll call vote of 4-1 (Valdes, Williams, Shaw, and Sparks voted Yes; Barke voted No) to deny the charter petition.

The Board took a recess from 7:04 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.

- (*) 14. Charter School Public Hearing – Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
- Elizabeth Brenner, Superintendent, Compass Charter Schools

PUBLIC COMMENTS (#14 Compass Charter Only)

- Antonio
- Katie
- Linda
- Blaire
- Micah
- Lauren
- Truett
- Silas
- Oliver
- Dottie
- Anna
- Blake
- Emily
- Christine
- Janelle

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to adopt resolution #09-25 in support of AB 1224.
16. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to adopt resolution #10-25 in support of AB 927.
17. Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Barke, Valdes, Williams, and Sparks voted Yes; Shaw Abstained) to approve the

appointment of Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent as the Real Property Negotiator, acting on behalf of the Orange County Board of Education, for the acquisition of the property at Argosy, 601 S. Lewis Street, Orange, CA 92868. This site is currently leased by our ACCESS & Connections programs.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

18. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to adopt resolution #11-25, Recognizing Kids Run the OC.
19. Presentation – Legislative Update by Tom Sheehy, Sheehy Strategy Group
20. Motion by Williams, seconded by Barke, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to adopt resolution #12-25, Opposing Senate Bill ("SB") 249 Regarding County Board Elections.
21. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to adopt the legislative platform as recommended (Support AB 600, SB 64, and SB 267; Oppose SB 249.)
22. Board discussion - Executive Liaison to the Orange County Board of Education.

CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

For closed session I, Mr. Rolen, General Counsel, reported the Board voted 4-1 (Williams, Barke, Shaw, and Sparks voted Yes; Valdes voted No) to accept Superintendent Thurman's Code of Civil Procedure Section 998 offer of compromise to resolve the budget litigation with the state's superintendent of public instruction. Direction was given to legal counsel to sign and file a stipulated judgment, and a statement was read into the record by Board President Williams.

For closed session II, the Board provided direction to pursue a real property acquisition.

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Ethnic Studies Curriculum Update – Jonathan Swanson and Trish Walsh
- Charter Schools Update – tabled to the May 7 meeting

TIME CERTAIN (Continue)

3. Budget Study Session- David Giordano, Associate Superintendent. Administrative Services presented the second half of the budget study session as requested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Deputy Superintendent
 - The next board meeting is on Wednesday, May 7; the submission deadline is April 23; the board packet delivery is May 2.

- Darou will send out an email regarding Memorial Day Essay contest contributions.
- Polled the Board for a June board date change from June 4 to June 2. The Board will take action to change the date at the May meeting.

▪ Superintendent

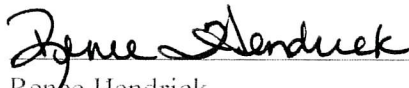
- Four students in the Connections program completed the DHH Academic at California School for the Deaf in Fremont, placed in the top four, will travel to the university in Washington, D.C., to compete in the national championship.
- Connections wrestling team competed and did very well.
- OC Pathways Showcase – over 600 students
- Otter Fischer – Monthly Cribbage with Dr. Bean
- Dr. Bean shared student letters with the Board.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

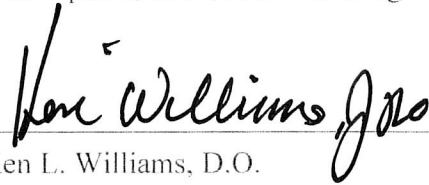
- Trustee Barke – OCSA Gala, GGUSD State of the District, Sarah Bach from Sycamore, Bill Essayli appointed to the United States Attorney for the Central District of California

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the April 2, 2025, board meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.



Renee Hendrick
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Ken L. Williams, D.O.
President, Board of Education

The next Regular Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. All meetings will be held onsite at 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream.

Individuals with disabilities in need of copies of the agenda and/or the agenda packet or auxiliary aides and services may request assistance by contacting Darou Sisavath, Board Clerk, at (714) 966-4012.