



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 3:35 p.m., August 6, 2025, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream https://youtube.com/live/ZLa_yOfBefY?feature=share.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

AGENDA

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Williams and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the agenda of the Regular meeting of August 6, 2025.

MINUTES

Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of July 9, 2025.

The Board recessed into closed session at 3:36 p.m. to conduct student appeals, followed by closed session items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to Closed Session) - None

TIME CERTAIN

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) - Student #08062025001I - Santa Ana Unified School District to Newport Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks 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 (2025-2026).

2. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #08062025003I - Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District to Cypress School District.

Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Cypress School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:05 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education, ACCESS
Dr. Kimberly Benaraw, Associate Superintendent, Student Services

INVOCATION

Rev. Jack Veatch
The Donna (Ford) and Fahmy Attallah Endowed Director of Church Relations,
Chapman University
Ordained, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jill Wallace

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Robert
- Linda
- Heidi
- Brigitta
- Brenda

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

3. Nominate and approve Board member assignments for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
By consensus of the Board, the following assignments were approved for the 2025–2026 fiscal year:
 - Executive Committee: Barke and Shaw
 - OCSBA Liaison: Williams
 - PTA Liaisons: Sparks and Valdes
 - ACCBE Representative: Williams

PRESENTATIONS

4. Working Wardrobes
 - Suzy Betz, Board Member
 - Bonnie Pomush, CEO
5. California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI)
 - Mayu Iwatani, Senior Administrator, OCDE Student Services

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Williams, seconded by Barke and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Consent Calendar items #6 through #9.

6. Approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division.
7. Accept the 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.
8. Approve apportionment of Federal Forest Reserve receipts in the amount of 31,720.06.
9. Approve registration and travel for Board Members to attend the Charter Schools Development Center (CSDC) Conference, October 6-8, 2025 in Palm Springs.

The Board took a recess from 5:53 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. from the Regular Board Meeting to conduct a Meeting of the Orange County Department of Education Facilities Corporation.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

10. Charter submissions
 - Nova Academy, Orange County
 - California Public Leadership Academy of Orange County
11. 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
 - Noel Russell-Unterburger, CFO
 - Crystal O'Rourke, CAO
 - James Dent, Founder
 - Justin Stiner, Director
 - Kamille Geneva, Primary School Principal
 - Mariah Butron, Secondary School Principal

PUBLIC COMMENTS (#11 Only)

- Nora
 - Janelle
 - Noel
 - Victoria
 - Arpinder
 - Jeff
 - Oswaldo
 - Arleen
12. Charter School Public Hearing – Stembridge Academy

Aracely Chastain, Executive Director of the Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing. Representatives from Stembridge Academy were not present at the meeting; however, staff will proceed with the review process, as the petition was certified complete upon submission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (#12 Only)

- Sukhi

TIME CERTAIN

13. Public Hearing – Textbooks and Instructional Materials
Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education, ACCESS, conducted the public hearing for the sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials in accordance with education code 60605 and 33126. The hearing was opened at 6:58 p.m.. There being no input from the audience, the hearing was closed at 6:59 p.m..
14. Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a 5-0 to adopt Resolution #22-25 stating that each pupil of the county office has available textbooks and instructional materials.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Motion by Valdes, seconded by Williams and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the Proposed Charter Schools MOU.

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent
 - Model Curriculum & Cultural Studies - OCDE continues to present the Cambodian, Hmong, and Vietnamese American studies curriculum; well-attended educator events (220+ in Irvine, upcoming in Long Beach).
 - OC Pathways & Student Ambassadors - 90+ students engaged in professional development around apprenticeships, AI, and career pathways; parents also participated.
 - Support for LEAs & Students Experiencing Homelessness - Nearly 2,000 backpacks and supply kits distributed to students experiencing homelessness, with strong community donations.
 - Summer at the Center - A 34-year tradition bringing together probation and ACCESS students for two weeks of performance arts, supported by community leaders and philanthropists.
- Deputy Superintendent
 - Next board meeting is on September 3; submission deadline is August 20; Board packet delivery on August 29
- Board Liaison – Brandon Guevara

- Thanked the board, trustees, superintendent, and staff for being welcoming and supportive.
- Working on a new OCBE newsletter to keep the public informed.
- Activities/ Events:
 - Traveled to Sacramento with President Barke to testify against SB 249.
 - Attended the California MTSS Learning Institute to bring back best practices.
- Monthly updates to ensure transparency and accountability

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Trustee Barke – Clip of President Barke and Brandon Guevara at the SB 249 Senate hearing
- Trustee Shaw – Special Election

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Williams - Mahmoud versus Taylor
- Trustee Shaw – Lowell Joint Superintendent Jim Coombs retirement

CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

Mr. Greg Rolen, General Counsel reported:

- Closed Session Item #1: Not held; no change in real property negotiations.
- Closed Session Item #2: Board received information on anticipated/ potential litigation. No action was taken, except approval of invoice #1206351 from Epstein Becker & Green, dated July 31, 2025, by a 5-0 vote.
- Noted that Jonathan Brenner was not present.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the August 6, 2025, board meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Renee Hendrick
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Mari Barke
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, Sep 3, 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.