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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 3:32 p.m., November 5, 2025, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream https://youtube.com/live/LK8SecRd_cM?feature=share.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.
Jorge Valdes, Esq.
Mari Barke
Tim Shaw
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 November 5, 2025, removing item #4 from the agenda.

MINUTES

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Williams and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of October 8, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to Closed Session) - None

The Board recessed into closed session at 3:33 p.m. to conduct student appeals.

TIME CERTAIN

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) - Student #11052025001I – Orange Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes and carried by a roll call vote of 4-1 (Williams, Valdes, Sparks and Barke voted Yes; Shaw voted No) to deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

2. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #11052025002I - Santa Ana Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified 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 Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

3. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #11052025003I - Ocean View School District to Huntington Beach City 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 Huntington Beach City School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

The Board reconvened to open session at 5:16 p.m.

INVOCATION

Pastor Craig Hill
Taft Avenue Community Church in Orange

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dennis Cole, Chief of Staff

INTRODUCTIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Charles
- Michelle
- Laurie
- Rob
- Christine
- Jacqueline
- Dana
- Mariah
- Christopher
- Catherine
- Rosalinda
- Joe
- Brittanie
- Katherine
- Heidi
- Ronna
- Michele
- Michael
- Marcia
- Amy
- Darren

PRESENTATIONS

5. AI Framework presentation by Jonathan Swanson, Executive Director, Educational Services & Wes Kriesel, AI Education Lead

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Williams and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Consent Calendar items #6 through #11.

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 1st Quarter Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for Orange County Department of Education ACCESS and Connections for the period of July 1 to September 30, 2025.
8. Accept the monetary donation of \$10,000 from Tony Roy to the Connections Division and send a letter of appreciation to the donor.
9. Accept the monetary donation of \$5,000 from Sandy Fainbarg to the Connections Division and send a letter of appreciation to the donor.
10. Accept the monetary donation of \$5,000 from Nancy and Irv Chase to the Connections Division and send a letter of appreciation to the donors.
11. Accept the monetary donation of \$2,000 from The Suburban Optimist Club to the Connections Division and send a letter of appreciation to the donor.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

12. Charter submissions – No new submissions.
13. Charter School Public Hearing – Nova Academy OC
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
 - Dustin Lester, CFO
 - Daryl Tripp, Teacher
 - Kimberly Beckstrom, Principal

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Item #13)

- Renee
- Hailey
- Joseph
- Alex
- Ana
- Javier
- Joe
- Yolanda
- Luis

- Janelle
- Lorraine
- Hailey
- Sonta

14. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Option I for NOVA Academy Orange County.

The Board took a recess from 7:08 p.m. to 7:21 p.m.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Presentation – Overview of Charter Oversight depth and scope of academic support provided to charter schools.
 - Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit
 - Trish Walsh, Director, Academic Content & Instructional Support
 - Diane Ehrle, Ed.D., Director, Continuous Improvement & Leadership
16. Board Discussion: Consider requesting Dr. Bean create a committee of OCDE to evaluate charter school academic performance and proposed best practices to raise test scores and overall performance.

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Board Liaison Update – Brandon Guevara
 - Completed Brown Act training for compliance.
 - Announced OCBE Quarterly newsletter nearing launch - partnered with Fullerton Joint Union High School District for first issue.
 - Expanding outreach through local board meetings and events - represented board at pediatric health seminar, Rotary meeting, and OCBSA/ACSA dinner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent
 - Highlighted support for local education agencies (LEAs), both charter and traditional.
 - Introduced Orange County Impact Schools - 12 schools recognized for innovation, including Sunburst Academy.
 - Recognized four Blue Ribbon nominees: Oxford Academy, Troy High, Orange Lutheran, Tustin Memorial Academy.
 - Expanded multilingual academic services, focusing on cross-linguistic learning support.
 - OCDE hosted HR and business conferences for district collaboration and compliance training.
 - Announced shift to “Student 2030 Vision”, integrating ACCESS and Connections programs.
 - Celebrated 50 years of IDEA, emphasizing equity and inclusion for students with disabilities.

- Reinforced mission: supporting districts and charters to better serve students.
- Deputy Superintendent
 - Esplanade Quarterly Report by David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services
 - Fall Charter Schools Update by Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit
 - Next board meeting is on Wednesday, December 3, 2025; submission deadline is November 17; board packet delivery is November 26
 - Office closed: December 24, 25, 31 and January 1, 2026

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

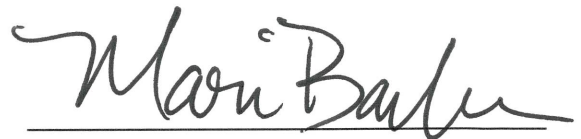
- Trustee Shaw – Acknowledged and thanked county teachers, especially those working in challenging settings like juvenile hall, for their dedication and impact.
- Trustee Barke – Thanked the teachers for attending and sharing their thoughtful, compelling remarks.
- Trustee Valdes – Thanked the teachers for sharing their stories and clarified that the board values both charter and public schools equally.
- Trustee Williams – Praised ACCESS staff for their dedication and experience, clarified that Dr. Bean’s salary adjustment was made solely for equity with other county superintendents. Trustee Sparks affirmed that a fair and thorough salary analysis was conducted. Trustee Barke noted the raise aligned Dr. Bean’s pay with peers and reflected his travel and extensive efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the November 5, 2025, board meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



Renee Hendrick
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Mari Barke
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 3, 2025

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

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