

REGULAR MEETING
January 7, 2026
5:00 p.m.

[X] Mailed [] Distributed at meeting

PK

Location: Orange County Department of Education, Boardroom, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
YouTube Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/live/B7e-5Vp1hs>

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER: For the benefit of the record, this Regular Meeting of the Orange County Board of Education is called to order.

ROLL CALL

(*) AGENDA

Regular Meeting of January 7, 2026 – Adoption

(*) MINUTES

Regular Meeting of December 3, 2025 – Approval

INVOCATION

5:00 p.m.

Pastor Christina Williams
Harbor Light Church, Costa Mesa

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

CONSENT CALENDAR

- (*) 1. Approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division.
- (*) 2. Approve new Board Meeting dates for July 2026 through June 2027.
- (*) 3. Receive the Orange County Department of Education's audit report from Nigro & Nigro for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.
- (*) 4. Approve membership dues of \$7,557 for the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE), effective January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

5. Charter submissions
- (*) 6. Charter School Public Hearing – Samueli Academy Renewal Charter Petition
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, will facilitate the public hearing.
Discussion Format:
Samueli Academy
Public Comments
Board Questions
- (*) 7. Charter School Public Hearing – Ednovate-OC College Prep
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, will facilitate the public hearing.
Discussion Format:
Ednovate-OC College Prep
Public Comments
Board Questions
- (*) 8. Charter School Public Hearing – California Republic Leadership Academy
Orange County
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, will facilitate the public hearing.
Discussion Format:
California Republic Leadership Academy-OC
Public Comments
Board Questions

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- (*) 9. Adopt Resolution #01-26 to recognize February 2026 as National Black History Month. (Williams)

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Board Liaison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent
- Deputy Superintendent
 - Charter Schools Oversight

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

COMMITTEE REPORT

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

ADJOURNMENT



Renee Hendrick

Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting - Monday, February 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

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.

(*) Printed items are included in materials mailed to Board Members.

MINUTES
 Regular Meeting
 December 3, 2025

[X] Mailed [] Distributed at meeting

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF
 MINUTES

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Orange County Board of Education was called to order by President Barke at 4:30 p.m., December 3, 2025, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream <https://youtube.com/live/cE1GLvgys9s>.

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 Valdes and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the agenda of the Regular meeting of December 3, 2025, with an amendment to Item #8. The amendment updates board meeting dates as follows:

- January 14, 2026, to **January 7, 2026**
- February 4, 2026, to **February 2, 2026**

MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to Closed Session) - None

The Board recessed into closed session at 4:31 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

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

The Board reconvened to open session at 5:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Ken L. Williams, Trustee, Area 3

INVOCATION

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Students from Beckman High School

- Angel Nguyen
- Jerry Yuan
- Panyun Zeng
- Zachary Chen
- Joseph Lin
- Jake Roll
- Julie Lee

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Veronica
- Heidi
- Bianca
- Lisa
- Roberto

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Holiday Musical Presentation – Students of the Musical Theatre Conservatory, Orange County School of the Arts performed Carol of the Bells under the direction of Kaitlyn Tice.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Presentation – Acceptance of the monetary donation of \$3,500 from Charitable Ventures (Laura Drago) to the Connections Division.
 - Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, Connections
 - David Longo, Principal, DHH

The Board formally accepted a generous \$3,500 donation from Charitable Ventures, presented by Laura Drago in support of the Connections Division.
3. Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE)
Dr. Yvonne Chan joined the meeting via Zoom to express her appreciation for the Board's support as a founding member of the Association of California County Boards of Education. Dr. Chan, who serves as a Trustee on the Los Angeles County Board of Education and Treasurer of ACCBE, provided remarks of gratitude and recognition.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

5. Charter submissions
 - Ednovate-OC College Prep - Material Revision
 - Samueli Academy - Charter renewal
 - California Republic Leadership Academy-OC - Material Revision
 - Vista Condor Global Academy - Charter Renewal

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Budget Presentation – Dave Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services
7. Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the First Interim Report that is certified Positive by the County Superintendent of Schools.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the board date changes as follows:
 - January 14, 2026, to January 7, 2026
 - February 4, 2026, to February 2, 2026

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Board Liaison Update – Brandon Guevara
 - Quarterly newsletter nearly ready; sign-ups available.
 - Content includes school highlights, trustee insights, and board actions.
 - New unified social media account launching to improve transparency and public engagement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent
 - Bright Futures Foundation: Launched to support countywide programs like ACCESS and CTE pathways; David Blair named Executive Director; fundraising campaign begins early 2026.
 - Teachers of the Year Gala: Honored 62 educators at the Disneyland Hotel; six finalists received \$25,000 and advance to the state level; surprise finalist tour coming, board invited; event sponsored by SchoolsFirst FCU.
 - Skyhook Foundation Partnership: Expanding STEM-focused outdoor learning with Inside the Outdoors; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar donated 3,000 shoes and backpacks for students.
 - United Way Art Contest: Student artwork showcased at OCDE hallway and at the Bowers Museum in February.
- Deputy Superintendent
 - Next board meeting is on Wednesday, January 7, 2026; submission deadline is December 19; board packet delivery is January 2

- Office closed: December 24, 25, 31 and January 1, 2026

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Shaw – Acknowledged students from Beckman High School.
- Trustee Barke – Shared appreciation of the Teachers of the Year event; expressed deep sorrow for the Mejia family's loss and gratitude for their courage in sharing something so difficult.
- Trustee Williams - Appreciated the OSHA students' performance; offered condolences to the Mejia family, underscored the seriousness of mental health issues and the board's commitment to student support, clarified that investigations fall under law enforcement, and expressed ongoing prayers for their families.
- Trustee Valdes – Offered condolences to the Mejia family and, as Mia's district trustee, committed to writing to the Orange County District Attorney and the Anaheim School District requesting further investigation, with plans to send the letters within the week.

CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

Mr. Rolen, General Counsel, reported the board received information and took action on a matter of anticipated litigation, approving it on a 4–1 vote. Trustees Williams, Sparks, Barke, and Shaw voted yes; Trustee Valdes voted no.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the December 3, 2025, board meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.



Renee Hendrick
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

Mari Barke
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 7, 2025

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

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January 7, 2026

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

DATE: January 7th, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Maria Martinez-Poulin Ed.D., Chief of Alternative Education - ACCESS

SUBJECT: Granting of Diplomas

The students listed on the attached pages have been certified for graduation by the Custodian of Records or their designee for the Division of Alternative Education and the Division of Special Education Services of the Orange County Department of Education. These students have met the standards of proficiency in the basic skills prescribed by the governing board in accordance with Education Code 51412. It is requested that the Board approve the granting of diplomas to these students.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

MMP

Pages 9-11 removed (CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT INFORMATION)

January 7, 2026

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: January 7, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Darou Sisavath, Recording Clerk

SUBJECT: 2026-2027 Board Meeting Dates

The Orange County Board of Education regular board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. All board meetings listed will begin at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

2026-2027 Board Meeting Dates

Wednesday, July 1, 2026
Wednesday, August 5, 2026
Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Wednesday, November 4, 2026
Wednesday, December 2, 2026
Wednesday, January 6, 2027
Wednesday, February 3, 2027
Wednesday, March 3, 2027
Wednesday, April 7, 2027
Wednesday, May 5, 2027
Wednesday, June 2, 2027
Wednesday, June 16, 2027

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve new board meeting dates for July 2026 through June 2027.

Date, time, and location of Board meetings subject to change by Board order

January 7, 2026

DK

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: January 7, 2026
TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent
FROM: David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services Division
SUBJECT: Orange County Department of Education Audit for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with State regulations, the audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 has been completed by Nigro & Nigro, and may be received by the Board of Education.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the Orange County Department of Education's audit report from Nigro & Nigro for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

DG:sh



December 8, 2025

To the Board of Directors
Orange County Department of Education

We have audited the financial statements of Orange County Department of Education for the year ended June 30, 2025, and we will issue our report thereon dated December 2, 2025. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated March 31, 2025. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Orange County Department of Education are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during fiscal year 2024-25. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the LCFF and In-Lieu Property Tax revenues are based on estimated State apportionment schedules and County property tax apportionments. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the LCFF and In-Lieu Property Tax revenues in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the State Lottery and other State categorical program revenues are based on estimated appropriations provided by the California Department of Education. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the State Lottery and other State categorical program revenues and the related accounts receivables in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

*Elizabeth Nigro, CPA / Jeff Nigro, CPA, CFE / Shannon Bishop, CPA / Peter Glenn, CPA, CFE / Paul J. Kaymark, CPA
Jessica Miller, CPA / Angelika Vartikyan, CPA / Jared Solmsonen, CPA*

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www.nncpas.com • Licensed by the California Board of Accountancy

Management's estimate of capital asset depreciation is based on the expected useful life for assets being capitalized and as described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. This information is disclosed in Note 5 to the financial statements.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 2, 2025.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Organization's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

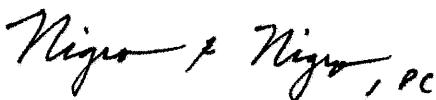
We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Organization's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Education of Orange County Department of Education and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,



Nigro & Nigro, PC

January 7, 2026 

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF Mailed Distributed at meeting

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: January 7, 2026

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Darou Sisavath, Board Recording Clerk

SUBJECT: Membership Renewal – ACCBE

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve membership dues of \$7,557 for the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE), effective January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

Board Members

Bina Lefkovitz
ACCBE President
Sacramento County
Board of Education

Yvonne Chan
Los Angeles County
Board of Education

David Patterson
Placer County Board of
Education

Juliani Feriani
Tuolumne County
Board of Education
Emeritus

Beverly Gerard
San Mateo County
Board of Education

Janet Wohlgemuth
Monterey County
Board of Education
Emeritus

Shelton Yip
Yolo County Board of
Education

Date: December 10, 2025

T0: Orange County Board of Education
RE: Membership Renewal (1/1/2026-12/31/2026)

Thank you for being a founding member of the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE).

Over the past year, we have worked diligently to provide valuable benefits and services to our members—and we remain committed to expanding and enhancing those efforts to meet your needs.

ACCBE is an independent, nonprofit organization created **by county trustees, for county trustees** to serve and empower County Boards of Education across California. We are dedicated to amplifying the collective voice of county boards, championing equity, and improving outcomes for the students who need us most. Membership in ACCBE offers a wide range of benefits and opportunities designed specifically to support the vital work of County Boards of Education and the communities they serve.

We value your membership. ACCBE EIN 33-1399420

- **Membership dues for the Orange County Board of Education: \$7,557 (no rate increase; remain the same as 2023 former CCBE dues)**
- **Effective Dates: January 1, 2026 – 12/31/2026 (one calendar year)**
- **Invoice Number: accbe.102**
- **Payable to: Association of California County Boards of Education**
- **Mail Payment to: ACCBE**
2351 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 170, # 850
Rocklin, CA 95765

Thank you.

For questions, please contact ACCBE Treasurer: Dr. Yvonne Chan
treasurer@accbe.org or call 818-378-5740.

Website www.accbe.org

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025)



1/2026-12/2026

County	Class by Size	2023 Former CCBE	2026 ACCBE DUES	
Los Angeles	1	\$9,756	\$9,756	
San Diego	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	
Orange	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	
Riverside	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	
San Bernardino	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	
Santa Clara	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	
Alameda	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	
Sacramento	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	
Contra Costa	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	
Fresno	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	
Kern	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	
Ventura	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	
San Joaquin	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	
San Mateo	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	
Stanislaus	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	
Tulare	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	
Santa Barbara	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	
Monterey	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	
Placer	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	
San Francisco	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	
Sonoma	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	
Solano	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	
Merced	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	
San Luis Obispo	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	
Marin	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	
Santa Cruz	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	
Imperial	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	
Yolo	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	
Butte	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	
El Dorado	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	
Shasta	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	
Madera	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	
Kings	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	
Napa	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	
Sutter	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	
Humboldt	5	\$1,825	\$1,375	
Lake	6	\$1,375	\$1,825	
Mendocino	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	
Yuba	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	
San Benito	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	
Tehama	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	
Nevada	7	\$961	\$961	
Tuolumne	7	\$961	\$961	
Calaveras	7	\$961	\$961	
Siskiyou	7	\$961	\$961	
Amador	7	\$961	\$961	
Lassen	7	\$961	\$961	
Glenn	7	\$961	\$961	
Del Norte	7	\$961	\$961	
Colusa	7	\$961	\$961	
Plumas	7	\$961	\$961	
Inyo	7	\$961	\$961	
Mariposa	7	\$961	\$961	
Trinity	7	\$961	\$961	
Mono	7	\$961	\$961	
Modoc	7	\$961	\$961	
Sierra	8	\$654	\$654	
Alpine	8	\$654	\$654	

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF
BOARD AGENDA IT**

Item: Charter Schools #6

January 7, 2026

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DATE: January 7, 2026

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools

SUBJECT: Public Hearing – Samueli Academy Renewal Charter Petition

DESCRIPTION:

On November 21, 2025, Samueli Academy submitted a renewal charter petition. The current charter expired on June 30, 2023. However, due to extensions codified in law, the term was extended through June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

Per California Education Code, Orange County Board of Education shall hold a public hearing on the provisions of the Samueli Academy charter petition and consider the level of support for the school at the January 7, 2026, board meeting.

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION**
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item: Charter Schools #7

January 7, 2026

Mailed Distributed at meeting

DATE: January 7, 2026

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools

SUBJECT: Public Hearing – Ednovate-OC College Prep, Material Revision

DESCRIPTION:

On November 21, 2025, Ednovate-OC College Prep submitted a material revision to open locations within the boundaries of Orange Unified School District and Irvine Unified School District. The charter school is scheduled to open in fall 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

Pursuant to California Education Code 47605.6, the Orange County Board of Education will hold a public hearing to consider the level of support for the material revision at the January 7, 2026, board meeting.

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF
BOARD AGENDA IT]**

Item: Charter Schools #8

January 7, 2026

Mailed Distributed at meeting

PAK

DATE: January 7, 2026

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools

SUBJECT: Public Hearing – California Republic Leadership Academy Orange County, Material RE

DESCRIPTION:

On December 1, 2025, California Republic Leadership Academy Orange County submitted a material revision to add an independent study component, Classical Education Flex Program, to its educational program. The school is scheduled to open in fall 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

Pursuant to California Education Code 47605.6, the Orange County Board of Education will hold a public hearing to consider the level of support for the material revision at the January 7, 2026, board meeting.

January 7, 2026

Mailed Distributed at meeting

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: January 7, 2026

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Ken Williams, D.O., Trustee Area 3

SUBJECT: Resolution #01-26
Recognizing and Honoring Black History Month

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution #01-26 to recognize February 2026 as National Black History Month.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Recognizing and Honoring Black History Month

Whereas, in 1776, the American Founding Fathers and people envisioned a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that *“all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . .”*;

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of America as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of racism, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas, since 1926, and the creation of Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the accomplishments of persons of African descent have been recognized each February; and

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas, the month of February is observed nationally as Black History Month to share the accomplishments black Americans have made and continue to offer to this nation; and

Whereas, Black History Month acknowledges and honors numerous past and present educators, scientists, activists, pioneers, leaders, artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and elders with special ceremonies and activities; and

Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the Orange County Board of Education, that we commemorate and honor the achievements of black Americans and their role in the development and history of our great nation, and we join in recognizing the annual celebration of Black History Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Orange County Board of Education at a meeting held on January 7, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, Mari Barke, President to the Board of Education of Orange County, California hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 7th day of January 2026.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 7th day of January 2026.

Mari Barke, President
Orange County Board of Education