

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
January 7, 2026

Item: Meeting Minutes - January 7, 2026

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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 5:01 p.m., January 7, 2026, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream <https://www.youtube.com/live/B7e-5Vp1ihs>.

ROLL CALL

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

AGENDA

Motion by Valdes, seconded by Shaw and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the agenda of the Regular meeting of January 7, 2026.

MINUTES

Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of December 3, 2025.

INVOCATION

Pastor Christina Williams
Harbor Light Church, Costa Mesa

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tim Shaw, Board Vice President

INTRODUCTIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Allison
- Haoyu
- Katherine
- Javier
- Heidi
- Chris
- Ronna
- Brittania
- Laurie
- Michele

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Shaw and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Consent Calendar items #1, #2, and #3.

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. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Williams and carried by a vote of 5-0 to 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
 - Vista Condor Global Academy
 - Suncoast Charter
 - Tomorrow’s Collaborative Leadership (TLC)

Note

Board Vice President Tim Shaw recused himself from discussion and participation regarding Item #6, Samueli Academy Renewal Charter Petition.

6. Charter School Public Hearing – Samueli Academy Renewal Charter Petition
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
 - Anthony Saba, Executive Director, Samueli Academy

PUBLIC COMMENTS (item #6)

- Kiara
 - Margie
 - Amy
 - Brandon
 - Diana
 - Owen
 - Martin
 - Isaac
 - Claudia
 - Cristina
 - Mark & Isela
7. Charter School Public Hearing – Ednovate-OC College Prep
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.

- Katie Hart, Chief Operating Officer, Ednovate Charter Schools

PUBLIC COMMENTS (item #7)

- Isela
 - Genesis
 - Alex
8. 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, CRLA

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

9. Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adopt Resolution #01-26 to recognize February 2026 as National Black History Month.

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Board Liaison Update – Brandon Guevara
 - Presented a semi-annual board liaison update focused on transparency and communication.
 - Reported launching social media and newsletters to improve public access and awareness.
 - Noted improved coordination and clearer structure for the liaison role.
 - Outlined next steps to expand outreach and use data to refine messaging and alignment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent
 - Student Advocates for Mental Health program
 - Uses peer leadership to promote mental health awareness and suicide prevention.
 - Since 2020, it has trained nearly 6000 student leaders across 97 schools and reached over 153000 students, families, and staff.
 - Although current funding ends in June, leadership emphasized mental health remains a priority and efforts will continue to sustain the program.
- Deputy Superintendent
 - Next board meeting is on Monday, February 2, 2026; submission deadline is January 16; board packet delivery is January 28
 - Office closed: January 19, Martin Luther King Day
 - Charter School Oversight
 - Governor's Budget
 - Childcare Reimbursements

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

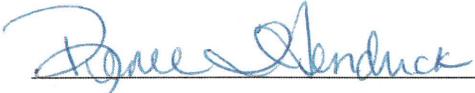
- Trustee Shaw – Tax credit

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Valdes – Discussion of comments received regarding interest income, teacher starting salaries, and negotiations.
- Trustee Shaw – Acknowledged Dr. Sonje Berg and his accomplishments, including his 25 years in the Air Force.
- Trustee Barke – Attended the Sunburst Youth Academy graduation.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the January 7, 2026, board meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



Renee Hendrick
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Mari Barke
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Monday, February 2, 2026

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

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