

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 4:00 p.m., April 8, 2026, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream <https://www.youtube.com/live/tQ8wMO7OE5M>.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Absent:

Lisa Sparks, Ph.D. (joined the meeting via Zoom at approximately 5:02 p.m.)

AGENDA

Motion by Williams, seconded by Shaw, and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to approve the agenda for the April 8, 2026, Regular Meeting.

MINUTES

Motion by Williams, seconded by Shaw, and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of March 4, 2026.

TIME CERTAIN

The Board recessed into closed session at 4:01 p.m. to conduct student appeals.

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) - Student #04082026001I – Irvine Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a roll call vote of 3-1 (Barke, Shaw, and Valdes voted Yes; Williams voted No; Sparks Absent) to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Newport-Mesa Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2026-2027).

2. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #04082026002I – Laguna Beach Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a roll call vote of 3-1 (Barke, Shaw, and Valdes voted Yes; Williams voted No; Sparks Absent) to

approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Newport-Mesa Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2026-2027).

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:02 p.m., with Trustee Sparks present.

INVOCATION

Cantor Jenna Sagan  
Congregation B'nai Tzedek

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

District Attorney Todd Spitzer

Note

President Barke moved the district attorney's presentation ahead of public comment as a minor adjustment.

INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions at the meeting.

TIME CERTAIN

3. Presentation - OC GRIP
  - District Attorney Todd Spitzer
  - Senior Deputy District Attorney Shannon Back
  - Assistant District Attorney Katie David
  - Investigator Kevin Reese and Investigator Jose Flores

The Board joined guests for photos.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Julie
- La Chelle
- Liliann
- Sandy
- Kim
- Teren
- Sagui
- Maritza
- Sharon
- Patricia
- Bill
- Anthony
- Kapil
- Dawn
- Rudi
- Linda
- Zoila
- Karen
- Alyssa



11. Accept the 3rd Quarter Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for Orange County Department of Education ACCESS and Connections for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2026.
13. Adopt a proclamation to recognize April 26 - May 2, 2026, as National Apprenticeship Week.

CONSENT CALENDAR (continue)

12. Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0 (Williams, Shaw, Valdes, and Sparks voted Yes: Barke Abstained) to approve registration and travel for Board President Barke to attend the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Conference in New Orleans, Wednesday, June 24 to Friday, June 26, 2026.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

14. Charter submissions - California Online Public Schools Southern California Countywide Charter Petition.
15. Charter School Public Hearing – Suncoast Charter School Countywide Charter Petition.  
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
  - Windi Eklund
  - Bethany Ewers

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Item No. 15)

- Gloria
- Nikolai
- Girgitta
- Grace
- Stephanie
- Danielle
- Jessica
- Vickie
- Alex
- Iris
- Sasha
- Laurel
- Nikki
- Heidi
- Joshua
- Rayanna

16. Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Option I for the Suncoast Charter School Countywide Charter Petition.

The Board took a recess from 7:21 p.m. to 7:34 p.m.

17. Charter School Public Hearing – TLC (Tomorrow's Leadership Collaborative) Renewal Charter Petition & Material Revision  
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
  - Jessica Tunney

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS (Item No. 17)

- Charlotte
  - Javier
  - Michal
  - John
18. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Option I for the TLC (Tomorrow's Leadership Collaborative) Renewal Charter Petition.
  19. Motion by Barke, seconded by Williams, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve the TLC (Tomorrow's Leadership Collaborative) Material Revision.
  20. Charter School Public Hearing – Orange County Workforce Innovation High School Material Revision  
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
    - Liliana Childs, Regional Director
    - Sandy Salazar, Principal
  21. Motion by Barke, seconded by Williams, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve the Orange County Workforce Innovation High School Material Revision.

#### BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

22. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve Resolution No. 12-26 in support of SB 1082 (Niello) regarding interdistrict transfer timelines and transparency.
23. Discussion: Joint Legislative Audit Committee Report by General Counsel Greg Rolen

## STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

24. Motion by Barke, seconded by Williams, and carried by a roll call vote of 5-0 to approve the retiree health “gap” coverage benefit as outlined in accordance with Education Code 1302.

## TIME CERTAIN

25. Public Hearing – David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Division of Administrative Services, conducted a public hearing on CSEA’s Initial Proposal to Superintendent. The hearing was opened at 8:44 p.m. There being no input from the audience, the hearing was closed at 8:45 p.m.
26. Public Hearing – David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Division of Administrative Services, conducted a public hearing on Superintendent’s Initial Proposal to CSEA. The hearing was opened at 8:45 p.m. There being no input from the audience, the hearing was closed at 8:46 p.m.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Salary Increases over \$10,000 in accordance with Education Code 1302 and board policy 100-10

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent
  - Orange County State of Education event drew nearly 500 attendees across education, business, and government, with strong positive feedback.
  - Orange County earned 42 California Distinguished School recognitions, a high statewide total.
  - Hosted National History Day with participation from 43 schools.
  - CTE efforts advancing, including SB 1222 and potential designation as a state lead agency.
  - Pursuing \$2M in federal funding with Congressman Lou Correa to expand workforce pathways programs.
- Deputy Superintendent
  - Next board meeting is Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m. and the submission deadline is Wednesday, April 22. Board packet delivery is Friday, May 1.
  - Budget Study in May
  - Memorial Day Essay board participation – Trustee Williams

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

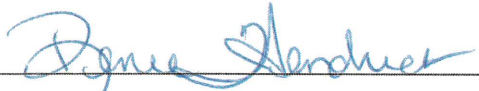
- Discussed SB 249, SB 2086, and SB 907.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Video - Trustee Williams gave brief remarks, expressed appreciation and introduced the video's context.
- Trustee Valdes addressed prior concerns and discussed allegations about charter schools.
- Trustee Sparks praised the State of Education event, calling it highly successful and well-received, with strong enthusiasm from attendees.
- Board President Barke discussed how constituents can learn about events, noting outreach efforts and encouraging subscription to the OCDE Newsroom for updates.
- Vice President Shaw thanked those supporting the Board, defended it against criticism regarding charter schools and legal matters, and emphasized that many claims are inaccurate. He also shared a personal update about his son's upcoming mission.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, April 8, 2026, board meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.



Renee Hendrick  
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Mari Barke  
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 6, 2026

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

Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodation, 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.