

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 2:01 p.m., May 6, 2026, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream <https://www.youtube.com/live/tmc6qQ6DZqU>.

ROLL CALL

Present:
Jorge Valdes, Esq.
Tim Shaw
Mari Barke
Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.

Absent:
Ken L. Williams, D.O. (arrived at approximately 3:08 p.m.)

AGENDA

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Williams Absent) to approve the agenda for the May 6, 2026, Regular Meeting with an amendment, removing an interdistrict appeal item #5.

MINUTES

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Shaw, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Williams Absent) to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of April 8, 2026.

TIME CERTAIN

The Board recessed into closed session at 2:03 p.m. to conduct student appeals.

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student # 05062026001I – Huntington Beach Union High School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Williams Absent) to deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

2. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student # 05062026002I – Irvine Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Williams 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).

Note

Trustee Williams arrived at approximately 3:08 p.m.

3. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student # 05062026003I – Irvine Unified School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes, 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 (2026-2027).

4. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student # 05062026005I – 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 (2026-2027).

CLOSED SESSION 1

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

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

Report Out

Greg Rolen, General Counsel, reported the board received information on anticipated litigation, no action was taken.

INVOCATION

Rev. Sarah Fiske-Phillips
Live Oak United Church of Christ, Brea

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sunburst Youth Academy Color Guard Presentation of Flags
National Anthem
Pledge of Allegiance lead by Cadet Rosales

INTRODUCTIONS

Michael, Beckman HS student

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

6. Special Awards Presentation –Presentation of awards to the 12th Annual Jack R. Hammett Memorial Day Essay and Art Contest participants and winners.
 - Trustee Williams introduced the 12th annual Jack Hammett Memorial Day essay contest, honoring nine Orange County students for their moving essays on the meaning of Memorial Day. He also recognized the Freedom Committee and former Costa Mesa Mayor Jack Hammett for their leadership in educating the community about World War II.

- The Freedom Committee of Orange County Veterans – Jim Grimm, Scott Williams, Ray Wallace, Lucky Walsh, and Dwight Hanson
- Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, Connections and Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Chief of ACCESS facilitated the presentation and announced the contest winners as follows:
 - Connections Art Winners
 - An, 3rd Place
 - Bryan, 2nd Place
 - Ms. Pulido’s Class, 1st Place
 - Connections Essay Winners
 - Phelo, 3rd Place
 - Emmalie, 2nd Place
 - Savannah, 1st Place

Savannah, first place winner for Connections, read her essay on “What does Memorial Day mean to you.”

- ACCESS Essay Winners
 - Rylie, 3rd Place
 - Armando, 2nd Place
 - Titus, 1st Place

Titus, first place winner for ACCESS, read his essay “Beyond the Uniform.”

7. Motion by Williams, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adopt Resolution #15-26 to recognize May 25, 2026 as Memorial Day.

The Board took a recess from 5:50 p.m. to 5:57 p.m. to join guests for photos.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (General)

- Windi
- Heidi
- Ronna
- Rudi
- Cara
- Bill

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Shaw, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Consent Calendar Items No. 8-13.

8. Approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division.
9. Approve apportionment of Federal Forest Reserve receipts in the amount of \$1,917.33.

10. Adopt the annual updated Orange Department of Education Investment Policy.
11. Adopt Resolution #16-26 Recognizing Kids Run the OC.
12. Approve revisions to Board Policy 100-3.
13. Approve revisions to Board Policy 100-7.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

14. Charter submissions - None
15. Charter School Public Hearing – California Online Public Schools Southern California Countywide Charter Petition
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.
 - Richie Romero, Co-Superintendent
 - Leslie Dombeck, Director of Educational Services
 - Dan Hertzler, Director of Operations
 - LaChelle Carter, Director of Finance
 - Mackenzie Duran, Director of Student Services

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Item No. 15)

- Santino
- Heather
- Kristen
- Rebecca
- Jorgelina
- Ethan & Austin
- Jennifer
- Beth
- Saul
- Shannon
- Anoxx
- Ashley
- Lauren

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

16. Budget Study Session- David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services conducted the budget study session.

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Rancho Sonado Update by Dave Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services

- Charter Schools Update by Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

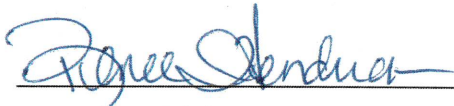
- Superintendent
 - Emphasized the district’s focus on “vision for students” under the 5-3-1 framework.
 - Recognized student winners from the Connections artwork competition.
 - Shared that Sunburst Youth Academy paraeducator Raelene was named 2026 California Classified Employee of the Year and a National RISE Award nominee.
 - Honored six Orange County Teachers of the Year, with a celebration planned for November 13.
 - Highlighted participation in the opening of the Mendez Freedom Trail in Westminster.
 - Announced the second round of School Impact Awards applications.
 - Expanded the Professional Learning Institute to include an executive leadership pathway.
 - Partnered with DA Spitzer on training related to hate crimes and hate incidents in schools.
- Deputy Superintendent
 - Teachers of the Year event is on November 13.
 - Next board meeting is Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 5:00 p.m. and the submission deadline is Wednesday, May 20. Board packet delivery is Friday, May 29.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Sparks expressed appreciation for Deputy Tony.
- Trustee Valdes commented on appropriateness of public comments.
- Board Vice President Shaw announced he will participate virtually in the June 17 board meeting.
- Trustee Sparks also announced virtual participation for the June 17 board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the May 6, 2026, board meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Renee Hendrick
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education



Mari Barke
President, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 3, 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.