

Contra Costa County Board of Education
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION AND COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
December 17, 2025

MEMBERS

Daniel Nathan-Heiss, Area 1 Trustee
Sarah Butler, Area 2 Trustee
Yazmín Llamas, Area 3 Trustee
Mike Maxwell, Area 4 Trustee
Annette Lewis, Area 5 Trustee
Keerthi Eraniyan, Student Trustee
Sanvi Panda, Student Trustee

STAFF PRESENT

Lynn Mackey, County Superintendent of Schools
Daniela Parasidis, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services
Hector Galicia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Andrea Arnold, Director, Internal Business Services
Neil McChesney, Coordinator, Charter Oversight
Natalia Ciccone, Exec. Asst. to the Superintendent and Board
Michelle Kiernan, Exec. Asst. to the Superintendent and Board
Cynthia Schwerin, Assistant County Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The President will call the meeting to order

Board President Annette Lewis called the Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. (Video: [0:00](#))

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 General Information

3. OPENING PROCEDURES

3.1 Roll Call

Seven Board members were present. (Video: [0:18](#))

3.2 Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Nathan-Heiss read the Land Acknowledgement. (Video: [1:14](#))

3.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Butler led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. (Video: [1:41](#))

3.4 Agenda Review and Adoption

Action: Approve agenda as presented. (Video: [2:10](#))

Motion by Daniel Nathan-Heiss, second by Mike Maxwell

Yes: Sarah Butler, Annette Lewis, Yazmín Llamas, Mike Maxwell, Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote – Keerthi Eraniyan, Sanvi Panda

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

3.5 Board Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2025, Board Meeting and November 12, 2025, County Committee Meeting

Action: Adopt minutes as presented. (Video: [2:54](#))

Motion by Daniel Nathan-Heiss, second by Mike Maxwell

Yes: Sarah Butler, Annette Lewis, Yazmín Llamas, Mike Maxwell, Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote – Keerthi Eraniyan, Sanvi Panda

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

4. CLOSED SESSION

None.

5. RECOGNITIONS

None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Consent Agenda

Items listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be approved by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items; however, any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda upon the request of a member of the Board or Superintendent and acted upon separately. (Video: [3:54](#))

6.2 Temporary County Certificates (TCCs) - November 2025 (GALICIA) – ACTION

6.3 Certification of Supervisors of Attendance (BERGER) – ACTION

6.4 Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to Community School Student GGCS-121725 (BERGER) – ACTION

6.5 Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to Community School Student GGCS-121725 (BERGER) – ACTION

Action: Adopt consent agenda as presented.

Motion by Mike Maxwell, second by Daniel Nathan-Heiss

Yes: Sarah Butler, Annette Lewis, Yazmín Llamas, Mike Maxwell, Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote – Keerthi Eraniyan, Sanvi Panda

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

7.1 Public Comment

(Video: [4:32](#))

Sky Nelson, Parent and Teacher

Shawn Benjamin, Executive Director, Invictus Academy of Richmond

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Reorganization of the Board of Education – Elect President and Vice President – ACTION

The Board nominated and voted for Trustee Butler and Trustee Llamas for President and Vice President, respectively, for the Board of Education beginning December 17, 2025. (Video: [11:03](#))

Action: Elect President Butler and Vice President Llamas for one-year terms beginning December 17, 2025.

Motion by Sarah Butler, second by Yazmín Llamas

Yes: Sarah Butler, Yazmín Llamas, Mike Maxwell; Preferential Vote – Keerthi Eraniyan

No: Annette Lewis

Abstain: Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote – Sanvi Panda

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

9.2 Acting as the County Committee on School District Organization, elect officers for the County Committee on School District Organization for 2026 – ACTION

The County Board of Education acts as the County Committee on School District Reorganization. Historically, the board members elect as the officers for the County Board of Education also hold the same offices on the County Committee. The Board members elected Trustee Butler as President and Trustee Llamas as Vice President. (Video: [23:05](#))

Action: Elect Trustee Butler as President and Trustee Llamas as President and Vice President, respectively, for the County Committee on School District Reorganization for one-year terms beginning December 17, 2025.

Motion by Sarah Butler, second by Daniel Nathan-Heiss

Yes: Sarah Butler, Yazmín Llamas, Annette Lewis, Mike Maxwell, Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote – Keerthi Eraniyan, Sanvi Panda

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

9.3 Announcement of Superintendent as Secretary & Executive Officer to the County Board – INFORMATION

The County Board announced the Superintendent Mackey as the secretary and executive officer to the County Board, per Board Bylaw 9100. (Video: [24:54](#))

9.4 Authorize Board Signers – ACTION

The County Board voted on approving Trustee Butler (President) and Trustee Llamas (Vice President) as authorized signers, per Board Bylaw 9100. ([25:14](#))

Action: Approve authorized signers as Trustee Butler (President) and Trustee Llamas (Vice President)

Motion by Mike Maxwell, second by Sarah Butler

Yes: Sarah Butler, Yazmín Llamas, Annette Lewis, Mike Maxwell, Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote – Keerthi Eraniyan, Sanvi Panda

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

9.5 Review the 2026 Proposed Schedule of Regular Meetings of the County Board of Education – ACTION

The County Board reviewed and voted on the proposed 2026 Board meeting calendar. Trustee Butler, acting as Board president, facilitated the Board members' discussion about possible conflicts among Board members but it was decided to vote on the calendar as presented, and any conflicts could be addressed at a later Board meeting, if necessary, ([26:20](#))

Action: Approve calendar of regular board meetings for 2026

Motion by Daniel Nathan-Heiss, second by Mike Maxwell

Yes: Sarah Butler, Yazmín Llamas, Annette Lewis, Mike Maxwell, Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote: Sanvi Panda, Keerthi Eraniyan

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

9.6 Committee Assignments 2026 – ACTION

As per Board Bylaw 9130, the Board president may appoint standing committees, as necessary. Trustee Butler asked Board members to submit their preferences for committees, and she would announce the committees at the January Board meeting. ([28:58](#))

9.7 Charter Schools Update (MCCHESNEY) – INFORMATION

Neil McChesney, Coordinator, Charter School Oversight, provided the Board with up-to-date information related to charter oversight. Topics included an update on district charter renewals statuses, announced that the Notice of Concern

issued to Invictus Academy of Richmond has been resolved, and reviewed the renewal timing for the Invictus Academy Charter Renewal petition.

McChesney also introduced Jasmine Landers, Principal, of AMPS: Richmond, and Kathleen Coakley, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Marisa Wilson, Director of Finance, of Clayton Valley Charter School, who presented the 2025-26 LCAP for their respective schools. These presentations are an opportunity for charter schools to inform the Board members of the school's current performance and progress with a focus on the most recent LCAP, goals, actions and expenditures associated with it. (Video: [33:12](#))

9.8 2025-2026 First Period Interim Report (PARASIDIS) – INFORMATION/ACTION

The California Education Code provides that each school district and county office of education complete an interim financial report for the period ending October 31 of each fiscal year. Daniela Parasidis, Deputy Superintendent, provided the Board with a report on the 2025-26 First Interim report for the County Office of Education. The report detailed the financial condition of the County Office of Education and compares current year projected expenditures and revenues to the Board approved operating budget. The report results in a Positive Certification indicating that the Contra Costa County Office of Education will meet its financial obligations for the current and two subsequent fiscal years. (Video: [1:28:12](#))

Public Comment:

Sky Nelson, Parent and Teacher

Action: Approve the 2025-26 First Interim Report of the Contra Costa County Office of Education as presented
Motion by Annette Lewis, second by Mike Maxwell

Yes: Sarah Butler, Yazmín Llamas, Annette Lewis, Mike Maxwell, Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote – Keerthi Eraniyan, Sanvi Panda

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

9.9 ACCBE Discussion (BUTLER) - DISCUSSION/ACTION

David Patterson, a member of the ACCBE Board, was invited to present to the Board about the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) and provide information about joining the organization. An ACCBE membership provides advocacy and the opportunity to amplify voices, the County Board Resource Library and Trustee Handbook, as well as workshops and networking opportunities for Student Board members. The Board members voted to table the discussion to a future meeting. (Video: [1:55:34](#))

Public Comment:

Gina McClean, CCCSEA

Action: The CCC Board of Education will table the discussion to join the ACCBE pending further discussion at a future meeting.

Motion by Daniel Nathan-Heiss, second by Mike Maxwell

Yes: Yazmín Llamas, Mike Maxwell, Daniel Nathan-Heiss; Preferential Vote – Keerthi Eraniyan; Sanvi Panda

No: Sarah Butler

Abstain: Annette Lewis

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

10.1 Superintendent's Update

(Video: [2:37:58](#))

- Presented the State of our County Schools to the Lesher Center Board and the Walnut Creek Rotary
- Met with newly appointed school district Superintendent's in the county
- Attended breakfast meetings with the Certificated and Classified Union leaders

- School site visits to Marchus School visit for the annual Marchus Appreciation Feast and classroom visits with Director Tom Scruggs
- Visited Mt. McKinley School with Board members Trustee Llamas and Trustee Nathan-Heiss
- Hosted a digital citizenship webinar in partnership with Commonsense Media with the focus being on keeping students safe
- Attended regional and state meetings, including the East Bay EDA meeting, East Bay Leadership Board Council Board of Director's meeting, the Alliance to End Abuse team meeting and Community Corrections Partnership meeting.
- Met with Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's staff regarding State Education Funding
- Handed out the CCCOE ROP/CTE newsletter to share information. The Trade Unions have visited the jail schools for alternative education opportunities and will visit again in February.

11. BOARD UPDATES

11.1 Board Standing Committee Reports

(Video: [2:41:24](#))

- Charter Committee: No update
- Policy Committee: Provided update status of the CCCOE Policy Manual
- Legislative Committee: No update

11.2 Comments from Board Members

(Video: [2:44:57](#))

Mike Maxwell:

- Met with ACCBE President last week to discuss and ask questions about the membership benefits

Annette Lewis:

- Attended Special Olympics at Heritage High School on Nov. 14
- Attended the Marchus School Appreciation Feast on Nov. 20
- Attended the CSBA Board of Directors meeting on Nov. 30
- Attended Delegate Assembly on Dec. 1-2, and discussed policy pillars and one is county office, specific. The policy pillars are what drives CSBA's advocacy work
- Attended the CSBA Annual Education Conference on Dec. 3-5 in Sacramento, where there was a gubernatorial forum with most of the candidates for governor; as well as a forum for the Superintendent for Public Instruction
 - o Attended workshops on building local partnerships; safe and supportive schools for LGBTQ+; "Hiding in Plain Sight," supporting unseen and underserved students; preparing students for high demand careers for tomorrow; and meeting students where they are as a system-wide approach to equity and safety.
 - o Attended Golden Bell Awards where the Oakley School District was honored
 - o CSBA's focus will be closing the achievement gap
 - o Rachel Herd will serve as the Region 7 director, and Ramon Flores will be the director-at-large on the CSBA Board of Directors

Yazmín Llamas:

- Attended the Marchus School Appreciation Feast
- Attended a school board conference and attended several workshops, including a keynote speech at the end about AI. Newer generation of students are starting to become very dependent on it and very inaccurate, and how dangerous the reliance of AI

Daniel Nathan-Heiss

- Met with an El Cerrito parent group with students in the WCCUSD School District and discussed their concerns
- Visited Mt. McKinley with Superintendent Mackey
- Hosted a panel discussion in Richmond for parents and community members, featuring Richmond council member and the CEO of Men and Women of Purpose, said theme was education and the economy
- Met with the President of ACCBE
- Wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah

Sarah Butler:

- Attended CSBA AEC conference and attended the delegate assembly
- Attended the convening of the county representatives at the conference
- Attended the gathering of Region 7 Caucus
- Gave a brief report on the AEC Conference and the theme of focusing on closing the achievement gap
- Wished everyone a good holiday season

11.3 Comments from Student Board Members

(Video: [2:55:45](#))

Keerthi:

- Working with the San Ramon Teen Council, launched an ambassador program
- Planning youth council summit that will be attended by neighboring city youth council members
- Contra Costa Youth Journalism program, working on a photo essay on animal shelters, how shelters and animal rescues across the county deal with overflow

Sanvi Panda:

- With Courage, went to a youth-to-youth conference in Oakland with different peer advocacy schools from around the Bay Area
- Antioch High School has a peer-to-peer intervention program to intervene when there are behavior issues and have found they are getting a good response rate when peers are involved. Is exploring how to expand this program to other schools
- Wished students good luck on finals and pulling all-nighters

11.4 Future Agenda Items

(Video: [2:59:40](#))

- Continue ACCBE discussion
- Email agenda requests

12. EVENTS CALENDAR

12.1 Calendar of Events 2025

(Video: [3:00:03](#))

12.2 Board Meeting Dates 2025

Next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2026.

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1 The President will adjourn the Board meeting

President Butler adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

(Video: [3:00:47](#))