

Contra Costa County Board of Education
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES
October 8, 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
Nikki Pitcher, Director, Court and Community
Ricky Mendoza, Principal, Golden Gate Community School
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

Six Board members were present. (Video: [0:51](#))
Trustee Panda was not present.

3.2 Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Maxwell read the Land Acknowledgement. (Video: [1:09](#))

3.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Lewis 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 Mike Maxwell, second by Daniel Nathan-Heiss

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

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

3.5 Board Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2025

Action: Adopt minutes as amended. (Video: [3:07](#))

Motion by Mike Maxwell, second by Keerthi Eraniyan

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

No: None
Absent: None
Final Resolution: Motion Passes

4. CLOSED SESSION

None.

5. RECOGNITIONS

5.1 Resolution #11-25/26: Native American Heritage Month

Action: Adopt resolution as presented. (Video: [7:37](#))

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

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

5.2 Resolution #12-25/26: Homeless Youth Awareness Month

Action: Adopt resolution as presented. (Video: [11:32](#))

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

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

5.3 Resolution #13-25/26: Augmentative and Alternative Communication Awareness Month

Action: Adopt resolution as presented. (Video: [15:56](#))

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

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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: [18:09](#))

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

6.3 Review of Williams Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report (BERGER) – ACTION

6.4 Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to Adult School Student CCAS1-100825 (BERGER) – ACTION

6.5 Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to Adult School Student CCAS2-100825 (BERGER) – ACTION

6.6 Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to Community School Student GGCS1-100825 (BERGER) – ACTION

6.7 Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to Community School Student GGCS2-100825 (BERGER) – ACTION

6.8 Consider Granting of a Contra Costa County High School Diploma to Court School Student MM1-100825 (BERGER) – ACTION

6.9 Investment Activities Report (PARASIDIS) – INFORMATION

Action: Adopt consent agenda as presented.

Motion by Anette Lewis, second by Daniel Nathan-Heiss

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

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

7.1 Public Comment

(Video: [19:00](#))

Shawn Benjamin, Executive Director, Invictus Academy

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Charter Schools Update (MCCHESENEY) – INFORMATION

Superintendent Lynn Mackey introduced Dr. Nikki Pitcher, Director, Court and Community Schools, who presented the 2025-26 LCAP for Golden Gate Community Charter School. The LCAP presentation is an opportunity for charter schools to inform the Board members of their current performance and progress with focus on the most recent LCAP, and goals, action and expenditures associated with it. (Video: [23:03](#))

9.2 Board Retreat Ad Hoc Committee (LEWIS) – ACTION

The ad hoc committee of Trustee Lewis and Trustee Butler discussed how to best move forward with the concept of a retreat and recommend topics for discussion. The committee asked the Board to approve the cost of a new County Board Self Evaluation Tool by the CSBA which is administered before a retreat is scheduled. The results will help determine the subject matter to discuss and how to structure the retreat. (Video: [46:54](#))

Action: Approve the \$300 fee for the CSBA County Board Self Evaluation Tool

Motion by Annette Lewis, second by Mike Maxwell

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

No: None

Absent: None

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

10.1 Presentation on Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) Process (BERGER) – INFORMATION

Superintendent Lynn Mackey introduced Dr. Nikki Pitcher, Director, Court and Community Schools, who gave a presentation on how the Contra Costa County Office of Education is assisting districts and our student programs regarding truancy and chronic absenteeism, as well as supporting efforts to raise awareness regarding the link between attendance and achievement. (Video: [51:07](#))

10.2 Superintendent's Update

(Video: [1:16:51](#))

- Met with the East Richmond, North Richmond and Rodeo Advisory Councils and provided updates on the County Office of Education and education in the county
- Attended the Stand Rebuilding Lives event in Pleasant Hill
- Interviewed by a Dougherty Valley High School student for the school newspaper about the new immigration legislation that was passed
- CCCOE immigration policies are already aligned with the new laws that have been passed and does not change what is done at the CCCOE
- Met with the new John Swett Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Leticia Bhatia

- Visited CCCOE school sites, including on days where it was Picture Day for the students
- Along with Marcus Walton, Director, Communications and Special Events, met with the KVHS volunteers to begin talking about the relaunch of the radio station
- Facilitated the county office leadership council, and had the first of three meetings of the year
- Attended the County Superintendents Association General Membership meeting
- On the FCMAT (Financial Crisis Management Assistance Team) and CCEE (California Collaborative of Educational Excellence) advisory boards which have met in the last month
- Attended a convening in Oakland about a reimagining of high schools, sponsored by the Youth Thriving Through Learning Coalition

11. BOARD UPDATES

11.1 Board Standing Committee Reports

(Video: [1:20:04](#))

- Charter Committee: Next meeting is Oct. 28
- Policy Committee: Next meeting is Oct. 17
- Legislative Committee: Next Meeting is Oct. 21

11.2 Comments from Board Members

(Video: [1:21:13](#))

Mike Maxwell:

- Visited Manzanita Charter School
- Visited Clayton Valley Charter High School
- Was invited to Monte Vista High School and Sam Ramon High School
- Presented with a frame recognizing Clayton Valley Charter High School as one of the Best High Schools U.S. News and World Report

Sarah Butler:

- On Sept. 11, attended the West County forum where Superintendent Cheryl Cotton was the guest speaker
- On Sept. 30, attended the Board Retreat ad hoc committee with Trustee Lewis
- On Sept. 30, attended Congressman DeSaulnier's town hall meeting
- On Oct. 4, the ACCBE put on a learning and networking session for student board members and adult board member allies
- The ACCBE is hosting several sessions in October and November, which are free zoom events. Topics include deeps dives into the court and community schools, as well as the Brown Act
- Part of CCCSBA which is hosting on Nov. 3 a session with speaker Rob Bonta, California Attorney General at Acalanes Union High School District

Yazmín Llamas

- Visited Manzanita Middle School and was impressed with the passionate teachers
- Attended ACCBE online workshops

Daniel Nathan-Heiss:

- Will be attending the Policy Committee meeting later this month
- Will be following the AB 749 which is the Youth Sports Blue Ribbon Commission Bill

Annette Lewis:

- Visited Clayton Valley Charter High School
- Attended the CSBA Board of Directors meeting on Sept. 27 and 28
- Attended the Superintendent's Compensation Ad Hoc committee meeting where it was discussed how to gather salary information

11.3 Comments from Student Board Members

(Video: [1:28:01](#))

Keerthi Eraniyan:

- Contra Costa Youth Journalism program is partnering with CCCOE on the new radio station to do a podcast
- This year's group is the biggest cohort of youth journalists so far
- Interviewed Christine Baransky who was in the Big Bang Theory
- The school newspaper discussing the Mahmoud v. Taylor Supreme Court case about parents can now opt out based on religious reasons and may write a story about it
- ACCBE student board member workshops, included a guest speaker who was a former two time student board member from LA County

11.4 Future Agenda Items

(Video: [1:30:43](#))

- Requests can be emailed

12. EVENTS CALENDAR

12.1 Calendar of Events 2025

(Video: [1:31:03](#))

12.2 Board Meeting Dates 2025

Next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025.

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1 The President will adjourn the Board meeting

President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

(Video: [1:31:56](#))