

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

08/06/2025 [03:00 PM]

REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of August 6, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., in the Redwood Conference Center at the Jim Vidak Education Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Welcome

Minutes

Board President, Chris Reed, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. President Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked that the record show that three board members, Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, and Tony Rodriguez, are absent.

2. Board Members and Staff

Minutes

Board members present: President Chris Reed, Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Mike Waters, and Ex-Officio Secretary Tim A. Hire. Board members absent: Vice President Tony Rodriguez, Judy Coble, and Ruben, Macareno. Staff members present: Julie Berk, Tammy Bradford, John Davis, Jennifer Fisher, Liliana Flores, Michelle French, Rob Herman, Brook Killingsworth, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Chris Meyer, Bob Mayo, Anthony Paz, Jeff Ramsay, and Dedi Somavia. Guests present: Robert Arroyo, Olivia Harden, Elliana Hendrickson, Carly Jensen, Jitendra Kadam, Sandhya Kadam, Sarvadhya Kadam, and Gail Zurek.

3. ADA ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENT

Persons who are in need of a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the board meeting must make a request in writing to the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools, 6200 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California, P.O. Box 5091, 559/733-6301. A request for accommodation should specify the nature of the modification or accommodation requested, including any necessary auxiliary aids or services required and the name and telephone number of the person making the request. The written request should be made as soon as possible and no later than 2 days before the meeting. The agenda, agenda packet and any written documents distributed to the board during a public meeting will be made available in appropriate alternative formats upon request by a person with a disability as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Written documents concerning agenda items are available for public inspection during normal business hours within 72 hours of a regular board meeting at the Tulare County Office of Education, 6200 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the board on any agenda item, or other item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board during the public comment period. Agenda items may also be addressed by the public at the time they are taken up by the board. The board is not able to discuss or take action on any item not appearing on the agenda. A five-minute time limit can be imposed on public input for individuals/issues as deemed necessary.

Minutes

No public comments were received.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Presentation of Miss Tulare County Scholarship Organization Titleholders - Michelle French

Minutes

Michelle French has proudly served as the Miss Tulare County organization's local director for the last three years. The Miss Tulare County Organization is the local affiliate to the Miss California and Miss America organizations. The Miss Tulare County organization awarded over \$11,000 in scholarships and awards this year. Over the last three years, TCOE has provided facilities for mock interviews, competition interviews, a mock stage competition, and the send-off party, which was a combination of cake, fun, and family. Ms. French thanked TCOE staff for their help to arranging and setting up the facilities. Additionally, she thanked the TCOE staff for welcoming the title holders' participation in TCOE student events.

Elliana Hendrickson, Miss Central Valley, shared her experience running for Miss California. Preparing for the competition required discipline, public speaking, and community engagement, all of which helped strengthen her confidence and purpose. Since May, she has attended three TCOE events. The one that really stood out the most was the Lip Sync battle. She had the honor of singing the national anthem at that event. She shared that it was such a fun and energetic atmosphere. Each performance was filled with creativity, heart, and personality. It reminded her how powerful and uplifting these types of events can be. Miss Hendrickson's community service initiative is Empowering Resilience through Action, which encourages others to recognize their inner strength and needs to overcome hardships. Through workshops, school visits, and social media outreach, she shares tools and stories that promote resilience, like how to stay grounded during tough times, build a supportive system, and to take proactive steps towards healing and growth. She recently completed her AA at College of the Sequoias (COS) and will be continuing her education at Fresno State, majoring in Mass Communication Journalism, with an emphasis in public relations and advertisement. Her long-term goal is becoming a social media manager.

Carly Jensen, Miss City of Visalia, is also on the team captain of the COS national cheerleading championship team. She shared that she was the youngest contestant for Miss California at only 18 years old. She started performing with TCOE's Theatre Company in first grade. She was honored to be a part of the Slick Rock Film Festival. She enjoyed helping students get settled for the event and support them. It was very exciting to go on stage and hand out the awards because she didn't realize that the awards were actual rocks with their name on them. She enjoyed being part of that special moments for the students who had worked so long to be on that stage and crafted all of their videos and films. Her community service initiative is called Caring with Carly. Her mom, who is a social worker, inspired her interest in mental health. This fall she will be a peer-mentor at COS for the Let's Talk internship. Miss

Jensen plans to transfer to UC Berkeley. She is majoring in psychology and hopes to attend medical school and go into psychiatry.

Olivia Harden, Miss Tulare County, was the first runner up to Miss California. She has received over \$8,000 in scholarships. She has a master's in psychology and plans to go back to school to become a sports psychologist. Her community service initiative advocates for athletes' mental health. During the Miss California talent portion, she was able to speak to the audience which was also on livestream about bringing awareness to athletes' mental health. She has attended 10 events with TCOE and was honored to speak at Pursuing Victory with Honor Student-Athletes awards banquet. At the event, she also got to meet other athletes from the Fresno State football team and share their stories and resources for mental health. Miss Harden shared that she was a student of Mr. Hire's and thanked him for his support.

President Reed thanked Michelle French and the titleholders for their presentations.

b. Presentation of 2025 Tulare County Spelling Champion - Chris Meyer

Minutes

Chris Meyer introduced Sarvadnya Kadam, the three-time Tulare County Spelling Champion. Sarvadnya, like millions of other students, started his journey at the school level. Then he won at the county level and at the state. This year, he went on to be runner up at the Scripps National Bee in Washington, D.C.

Sarvadnya thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent Tulare County. He was honored to represent TCOE, Tulare County and the entire state of California. He shared the three elements of his success. The first was luck. The second was hard work. He spent many hours in the past year memorizing the dictionary. The final element was support. He thanked TCOE for their support of his week-long trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Scripps competition. He was delighted to speak at Convocation. Additionally, during the summer he was invited to Boston to tour Harvard. Sarvadnya shared that now he's a retired speller and that journey is over, he wants to give back to the community.

Chris Meyer presented a certificate and photo album for this year's spelling journey to Sarvadnya.

Mrs. Reed thanked Sarvadnya for his hard work and his example, noting that he's an inspiration to many other children in Tulare County and a wonderful role model.

c. Routine Matters

1. Consent Calendar

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Tony Rodriguez

Motion: Celia Maldonado-Arroyo **Second:** Tom Link

a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of June 4, 2025

b. Authorization of Countywide Registration of Credentials

c. Authorization of Temporary County Certificates

d. Authorization of Countywide Emergency Permit Applications

e. Acceptance of donation from Charities Aid Foundation America (\$500.00) to AcCEL, LB Hill

d. New Business

1. Presentation of the Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2025 from Tulare County School Districts - Dedi Somavia

Minutes

Dedi Somavia presented the 2nd Quarter of the 2025 Williams Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report through June 30, 2025. There were no complaints received during this period.

2. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 25/26-01, for accepting Grant Award from CHP Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP) FY 2025/2026 (\$217,895.90) - Robert Mayo

Minutes

Bob Mayo asked for the Board to adopt Resolution No. 25/26-01 from CHP Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP) for \$217,895.90. Mr. Mayo shared that last year's program allowed staff to participate in 57 events, which ranged from football games to school assemblies, and included national nights out. Staff met and served or influenced 51,000 students through these events.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Tony Rodriguez

Motion: Mike Waters **Second:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

3. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution 25/26-04, Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay requested the Board to adopt Resolution No. 25/26-04 for the sale of surplus property.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Tony Rodriguez

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Mike Waters

6. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence

b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff

Minutes

Mr. Hire reported on the success of the Theatre Company's production of *Mary Poppins*. He received compliments and Board shared their experience at the performances. Superintendent Hire thanked the Board for attending Convocation, which was attended by 1,579 staff. He also reported the student events calendar had been posted

online. Additionally, he reminded the Board of upcoming construction dates, including ground breaking in February at the Mooney site and in April at the Liberty site.

Superintendent Hire shared updates from the California County Superintendents and Department of Education. He reported on a funding update for TCOE programs. The Center's residency funding was pulled, but new funds were secured for an apprenticeship program. There were no cuts to Head Start. Although Migrant Education funds held back, they have now been released. Mr. Hire reported that he has been doing advocacy for funding.

Mr. Hire explained that requirements are changing day to day. Currently, parental documentation is not required for Head Start and immigration status is not collected for migrant education. There are four priorities for federal funding, which include evidence-based literacy education, expanding education options (more college and career options specifically), returning educational decisions to the states, and AI in education. There is a back to basics approach to streamlining the department of education.

The Board and Mr. Hire discussed the possibility of vouchers and how that might affect our schools. Mr. Hire shared that a competitive market for schools will make them work hard to attract parents to their sites.

c. Reports from Board, Information, and Questions

Minutes

President Reed reported that Celia Maldonado-Arroyo will chair a committee to review the superintendent's salary. Tony Rodriguez and Mike Waters will also be included in the committee.

7. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

September 3, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.