

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

11/05/2025 [05:00 PM]

REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of November 5, 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 3:01 p.m. Vice President Tony Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Celia Maldonado-Arroyo was absent.

2. Board Members and Staff

Minutes

Board members present: President Chris Reed, Vice President Tony Rodriguez, Tom Link, Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Mike Waters, and Ex-Officio Secretary Tim A. Hire. Board members absent: Celia Maldonado-Arroyo.

Staff members present: Julie Berk, Jaime Burnitzki, John Davis, Jennifer Fisher, Liliana Flores, Sarah Hamilton, Rob Herman, Lisa Lemus, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Joe Martinez, Chris Meyer, Robert Mayo, Ron Pekarek, Jeff Ramsay, Freddy Reyes, Jesse Sanchez, Dedi Somavia, Courtney Venegas, 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. Routine Matters

1. Consent Calendar

Minutes
President Reed thanked Blanket Ladies for their support of the AcCEL Yettem Learning Center. Blanket Ladies is an organization of women who volunteer their time to sew bibs and blankets for students in the AcCEL mobility classrooms.
Mrs. Reed thanked Read for Life for their generous \$6,699.41 donation, which will help provide books to about 900 Bright Start families through teacher distributions.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 1 Celia Maldonado-Arroyo
Motion: Judy Coble **Second:** Tony Rodriguez

- a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of October 1, 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 Blanket Ladies (\$100) to AcCEL Yettem Learning Center**
- f. Acceptance of Donation from Read for Life (\$6,699.41) to Bright Start Parent-Infant Program**

b. Old Business

1. Consideration and Approval, Second Reading, Board Policy/Superintendent Policy and Administrative Regulation 6173 - Education for Homeless Children - Joe Martinez

Minutes

Courtney Venegas asked the Board for their approval of the Board Policy/Superintendent Policy and Administrative Regulation 6173 - Education for Homeless Children.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Ruben Macareno

c. New Business

1. Presentation of the Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report for the 3rd Quarter of 2025 from Tulare County School Districts - Dedi Somavia

Minutes

Dedi Somavia presented the board with the Williams third-quarter report (July–September), one complaint was received for Woodlake Unified. The issues included water fountains, urinal height in boys’ restrooms, and the absence of a TK playground and classroom sink/water fountain. Woodlake has plans to address all concerns: the TK projects will be completed over the summer, while the restroom and water fountain issues were being resolved promptly.

2. First Reading of Administrative Regulation 5113 - Absences and Excuses - Julie Berk

Minutes

Julie Berk presented to the board the first reading of Administrative Regulation 5113, Absences and Excuses.

3. First Reading of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses - Julie Berk

Minutes

Julie Berk presented the board with the first reading of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses.

Tony Rodriguez asked about student re-evaluations.

Mrs. Berk explained that some students are re-evaluated after their first year when certain triggers arise, typically poor grades or parental concerns brought to the counselor. In some cases, outstanding performance can also prompt re-evaluation if the student is ready to advance.

4. Consideration and Approval, Attendees of the 2025-26 Supervisor of Attendance Certification Training - Lisa Lemus and Jesse Sanchez

Minutes

Lisa Lemus and Jesse Sanchez presented the board with a Consideration and Approval, Attendees of the 2025-26 Supervisor of Attendance Certification Training

The September 12 training included 29 participants from 17 districts. Districts with over 1,000 students are required to have a certified attendance supervisor. The training lasts 2–3 hours and covers ENCODE requirements, chronic absenteeism, attendance tracking, culture of attendance, and current trends such as moving away from punitive measures for truancy.

In addition to annual certification, a collaborative group of over 60 participants meets for ongoing support and problem-solving. Certification is required by the state for designated districts, but the training itself is only offered once a year by our county office of education. We as a county office of education are not required to offer the training. Individuals must recertify if they move to a different district.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Mike Waters **Second:** Judy Coble

5. Consideration and Approval, 2025 Williams Annual Board Report - Chris Meyer

Minutes

Chris presented the 2025 Williams Annual Report to the board on behalf of the Williams team, which includes Cari Carlson, Tom Giampietro, Mara Sanchez, and Cesar Balboa. The report reviews school site visits conducted under the Williams case requirements, which ensure that all students have access to sufficient instructional materials, qualified teachers, and safe, functional facilities.

The Williams case, originating from a 2004 lawsuit, mandates county offices to monitor identified “Williams schools,” typically those in CSI or ATSI status, or those with 15% or more underprepared teachers. These schools are visited on a three-year cycle, with 25% of visits unannounced. Site reviews confirm instructional material sufficiency, facility conditions (via the FIT report), and accuracy of School Accountability Report Cards (SARC).

In 2025, 53 schools across 23 districts were visited. Findings showed no findings for instructional materials. 89% of facilities rated exemplary or good. Seven schools had minor technical discrepancies on their SARC reports, which were easily corrected.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Tony Rodriguez

6. Presentation of the Prop. 47 Learning Communities for School Success Program (LCSSP) Annual Progress Report - Robert Mayo

Minutes

Bob Mayo presented the Prop. 47 Learning Community School Success Program (LCSSP) Annual Progress Report. In its first year the program, a partnership with TCOE and Visalia Unified School District, served 13,000 students across 27 school sites to improve attendance, reduce chronic absenteeism, build resilience, and strengthen family engagement. Key activities included resilience rallies for fifth graders, classroom attendance competitions, family engagement events, a bilingual postcard campaign, and WhyTry Resilience lessons at the Mid-County Community School. Early outcomes show positive teacher and parent feedback, improved student attendance, and increased engagement. The program is designed to be sustainable beyond the three-year grant cycle, with strategies and materials left for continued implementation by school staff.

7. Public Hearing for Adoption of Extended School Year Waiver for Tulare County/District Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) - Sarah Hamilton

Minutes

Chris Reed opened the public hearing at 3:32 p.m. and no comments were received. Chris Reed closed the hearing at 3:34 p.m.

8. Consideration and Adoption, Extended School Year Waiver - Sarah Hamilton

Minutes

Sarah asked for the board's approval of the Extended School Year Waiver.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Ruben Macareno **Second:** Tony Rodriguez

9. Public Hearing for Public Participation for the TCOE New School Facility - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Chris Reed opened the public hearing at 3:35 p.m. and no comments were received. Chris Reed closed the hearing at 3:36 p.m.

10. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 25/26-16 Regarding Contractor Prequalification Procedure and Rating System - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff asked for the board's approval of Resolution No. 25/26-16 Regarding Contractor Prequalification Procedure and Rating System.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Mike Waters **Second:** Tony Rodriguez

11. Consideration and Approval, Set Date for Annual Organizational Meeting - Tim A. Hire

Minutes

Mr. Hire asked for the board's approval to set the Annual Organizational Meeting date for December 12, 2025.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tony Rodriguez **Second:** Tom Link

6. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence

Minutes

Mr. Hire provided an update on recent and upcoming events, facility projects, and the education workforce housing project.

Trades Day had around 1,200 students attend hands-on trades workshops. Expanding Your Horizons hosted around 700 young women who participated in STEM workshops. The Providence-Salerno Foundation Awards ceremony recognized students of character with around 5,300 nominations. Upcoming events include the Anti-Bullying Conference, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and the Gas Company Challenge Showcase.

Facility updates included the UPHS High School move to Liberty Campus. The project also includes a library/media center, esports arena, robotics lab, performing arts center, and AcCEL classroom.

The Education Workforce Housing Project will provide affordable rentals for educators, support savings for homeownership, and help attract and retain staff. Staff input will be gathered at a meeting on November 20.

b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff

c. Reports from Board, Information, and Questions

Minutes

Chris Reed provided updates and acknowledgments, beginning with thanks to Jeff Lemos, Jennifer Fisher, and Jaime Burnitzki for their support in preparing for the Holiday in the City village.

Mrs. Reed shared with the board that the Porterville Breakfast Rotary Club, which has long supported local programs is disbanding. The Rotary Club has generously donated \$50,000 to Friends of SCICON and \$25,000 to the TCOE Foundation to continue supporting the Prom in the Hills event for students with special needs.

Additionally, Mr. Hire shared that construction has begun on three new restroom facilities at SCICON, partially funded by Friends of SCICON. Overall, Mrs. Reed emphasized gratitude for community support and ongoing facility improvements benefiting students.

7. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

December 12, 2025 - 3:00 p.m. (Friday)

Minutes

December 12, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.