

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

09/03/2025 [03:00 PM]

REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of September 3, 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 3:00 p.m. Ruben Macareno led the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked that the record show that all board members are present.

2. Board Members and Staff

Minutes

Board members present: President Chris Reed, Vice President Tony Rodriguez, Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben, Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Mike Waters, and Ex-Officio Secretary Tim A. Hire. Staff members present: Jody Arriaga, Julie Berk, Jaime Burnitzki, John Davis, Jennifer Fisher, Liliana Flores, Rob Herman, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Chris Meyer, Anthony Paz, Sarah Smigiera, and Dedi Somavia. Guests present: Benjamin Poppas 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

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Judy Coble **Second:** Tom Link

a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of August 6, 2025

b. Authorization of Countywide Registration of Credentials

c. Authorization of Temporary County Certificates

d. Authorization of Countywide Emergency Permit Applications

b. New Business

1. Presentation of the 2024-2025 TCOE Annual Report - Robert Herman

Minutes

Rob Herman presented the 2024-2025 TCOE Annual Report. This year's report celebrates milestones.

The Board and Superintendent Hire thanked Mr. Herman and his staff for all of their work to create the annual report.

2. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution 25/26-09 on Compensation of County Superintendent - Dedi Somavia

Minutes

Dedi Somavia presented an oral summary of County Superintendent's compensation package. She asked for the board's adoption of Resolution No. 25/26-09 on Compensation of the County Superintendent. Celia Maldonado-Arroyo reported on behalf of the committee that HR provided lots of information to help them make their recommendation to increase the Superintendent's salary by 2.2%, which matches other management. Tony Rodriguez thanked Superintendent Hire for his leadership. Tom Link agreed that the raise is well deserved. Mike Waters shared that he has been impressed with his leadership, the culture and climate of the organization, and the Board.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Tony Rodriguez **Second:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

3. Consideration and Approval, 2024-2025 Forest Reserve Apportionment - Sarah Smigiera

Minutes

Sarah Smigiera requested the Board approve the 2024-2025 Forest Reserve Apportionment.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

4. Presentation of the 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report - Jody Arriaga

Minutes

Jody Arriaga presented the 2024-2025 unaudited actual financial report.

5. Consideration and Approval, Budget Revisions through June 30, 2025 - Jody Arriaga

Minutes

Jody Arriaga presented a review of the final Budget Revisions through June 30, 2025. Jody went over the following: the County School Service Fund estimated ending fund balance is \$126,970,927 with federal grant carry over of \$1,611,363 and state revenue grant carry over of \$3,872,496. La Sierra has an estimated ending fund balance of \$376,048. University Preparatory High School has estimated ending fund balance of \$1,221,704. Special Education Pass Through has an estimated ending fund balance of \$2,504. Child Development Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$8,180,642. Cafeteria Fund for SCICON has an estimated ending fund balance of \$61,532. Cafeteria Fund for La Sierra and University Preparatory High School have an estimated fund balance of \$0.00. Forest Reserve Fund estimated ending fund balance is \$167,536. The Foundation Trust Fund (Levis Trust) has an estimated ending fund balance of \$1,632,531.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

6. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution 25/26-08, Establishing Asset Capitalization Threshold - Jody Arriaga

Minutes

Jody Arriaga asked the Board to adopt Resolution 25/26, Establishing Asset Capitalization Threshold of \$15,000 as the minimum capitalization threshold for capital assets and a minimum threshold of \$10,000 for equipment.

President Reed called a recess at 4:14 p.m.

Mrs. Reed called the meeting back to order at 4:31 p.m.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Celia Maldonado-Arroyo **Second:** Tony Rodriguez

7. Public Hearing, Determination of Sufficient Textbooks or Instructional Materials for the 2025-2026 School Year (Education Code 60119) - Julie Berk

Minutes

President Reed opened a public hearing at 4:32 p.m. for the Determination of Sufficient Instructional Materials/Textbooks for the 2025-2026 school year (Education Code 60119). No comments were received. Mrs. Reed closed the hearing at 4:32 p.m.

8. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 25/26-07 on Determination of Sufficient Textbooks or Instructional Materials for the 2025-2026 School Year (Education Code 60119) - Julie Berk

Minutes

Julie Berk asked for the Board to adopt on Resolution No. 25/26-07 adopting the materials/media list for the 2025-2026 school year.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

6. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

- a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence

- b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff
- c. Reports from Board, Information and Questions

Minutes

Mr. Hire invited the Board to the annual celebration of Confucius' Birthday in partnership with the Chinese Cultural Center to honor the Educators of the Year on September 25. He noted the students events booklet and save the date lists in their packet. He called their attention to the flyer for the College and Career Resource Fair hosted by Special Services on October 23. Superintendent Hire reminded the Board of upcoming events including College Night on September 9 at the Visalia Convention Center, CHOICES Leadership Conference on September 18 at McDermott X in Lindsay, and PVWH Huddle: High School Student-Athlete Conference on September 24 in the Administration building.

Our first surplus sale was a success. Mr. Hire thanked Jeff Ramsay and his staff for coordinating the sale. Mr. Hire reported that all of the vehicles were sold, as well as the surplus iPads. Jeff Ramsay will be bringing another list of items in the coming months for the Board's approval.

Mr. Hire gave an update on the solar project. The batteries were tested over the weekend. Our solar project was the first project in the state of California to not only produce solar, but to also include a battery backup system. We are waiting on Southern California Edison to set a timeline for when we will connected to the grid. Superintendent Hire also asked the Board to mark their calendars for February 20 for the groundbreaking for the expansion. He gave an update on Education Workforce Housing. He has been meeting with the City and developers to further research the options available. The goal of the project would be to offer quality housing at a below market rate in order to reduce monthly costs to educators and help them save for a down payment. Data Centers are also being investigated to help offset costs and generate income for the project. Finally, Mr. Hire gave an update on budget concerns, including Migrant Education's funding for this year.

7. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

October 1, 2025 - 3:00 p.m. at Elderwood Room at the Doe Avenue Complex

8. Adjournment

Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.