

# TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

02/04/2026 [03:00 PM]

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## REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of February 4, 2026, 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

#### Minutes

President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Tony Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony Rodriguez acknowledged Celia Maldondo-Arroyo's (Trustee Area 1) passing and requested a moment of silence.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Welcome

### 2. BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

#### Minutes

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

Staff members present: Joe Andrade, Jody Arriaga, Dr. Jose Bedolla, Tammy Bradford, Jaime Burnitzki, John Davis, Dr. Helen Feller, Jennifer Fisher, Liliana Flores, Sarah Hamilton, Rob Herman, Kevin Jesse, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Anthony Paz, Jeff Ramsay, and Dedi Somavia. Guests present: Rafael Pacheco and Gail Zurek.

### 3. ADA ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMEN

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 comments were received.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS

### a. Routine Matters

#### 1. Consent Calendar

### Minutes

Tony Rodriguez thanked Jennifer Fisher and the Red Ribbon Committee for their collaboration and the funds that were raised for FoodLink for Tulare County.

### Vote Results

**Yea:** 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, 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 January 7, 2026

#### 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 TCOE Staff, Various District Staff, and Community Partners (\$5,800) to Red Ribbon Committee

### b. Old Business

#### 1. Consideration and Approval, Second Reading, Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.13 – Response to Immigration Enforcement - Tammy Bradford

### Minutes

Tammy Bradford presented the second reading of the Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.13 – Response to Immigration Enforcement. This policy states that no student shall be denied equal rights and opportunities, nor be subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying within the Tulare

County Office of Education programs or activities on the basis of the student or family's immigration status. She explained that immigration status information cannot be shared unless authorized or court-ordered.

**Vote Results**

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

**c. New Business**

**1. Consideration and Approval, Red Ribbon Donation to FoodLink for Tulare County (\$5,800) - Jennifer Fisher**

**Minutes**

Jennifer Fisher requested the Board's approval of the Red Ribbon Donation to FoodLink for Tulare County in the amount of \$5,800. She shared that staff and community partners participated in events, including shirt sales, movie night, bake sale, taco sales, trike races, candy grams, and a raffle.

**Vote Results**

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

**2. Presentation of the Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report for the 4th Quarter of 2025 from Tulare County School Districts - Dedi Somavia**

**Minutes**

Dedi Somavia presented the Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report for the 4th Quarter of 2025 from the Tulare County School District. No Complaints were filed.  
  
The board congratulated Dedi and staff for the hard work that has been done.

**3. Presentation of Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2025-2026 for TCOE - Kevin Jessee**

**Minutes**

Kevin Jesse presented on the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2025- 2026 for students who are served by TCOE.  
  
Highlights included zero suspensions and increased attendance rates, up to 83% from 69%. New CTE classes are being implemented, with about 90% of Court & Community students participating in one or more of the CTE offerings. The Mid County Cafe is a big opportunity for the students, and they have really enjoyed working in the cafe. Some of the other CTE options are culinary, music, and building trades.  
  
The board expressed how impressed they are with CTE offerings, as it is a great incentive for the students.

**4. Presentation of Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2025-2026 for LSMA - Dr. Jose Bedolla**

**Minutes**

Dr. Jose Bedolla presented the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2025-2026 for La Serria Military Academy. Dr. Bedolla highlighted that LSMA had 8% reduction in suspensions, growth in both ELA and Mathematics. One of the ongoing goals is to improve the college and career readiness indicators.

Dr. Bedolla reported that full WASC accreditation has been granted to LSMA.

The Board congratulated Dr. Bedolla and staff for all the work that has been done to gain this accreditation.

**5. Presentation of Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2025-2026 for UPHS - Dr. Helen Feller**

**Minutes**

Dr. Helen Feller presented the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2025- 2026 for University Preparatory High School. Dr. Feller reported that at UPHS, 88.9% of students meet or exceed standards in ELA, while 73.3% meet or exceed standards in mathematics. She is anticipating that 100% of students will graduate. Dr. Feller reported that more Students are accessing the many resources that are available to assist with class work. She added that mental health services are being used more often, as students and teachers are recognizing when a student needs additional help. Dr. Feller reported that 94% of students are attending college after graduating from UPHS.

Dr Feller mentioned the Mock Trial team made it to the finals!

**6. Consideration and Approval, Tulare County Court School Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2025- 2026 - Joe Andrade**

**Minutes**

Joe Andrade requested approval of the Tulare County Court School Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2025-2026, which includes strategies aimed at the prevention of, and education about, potential incidents involving crime and violence on the school campus. Mr. Andrade noted more frequent training for both Court School staff and JDF facility staff.

The board asked if the correctional officers are in the classroom at all times. Mr. Andrade noted that their facility is one of the few that do not have correctional officers in the classroom at all times.

**Vote Results**

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Not Cast:** 0

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

**7. Consideration and Approval, Tulare County Community School Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2025-2026 - Joe Andrade**

**Minutes**

Mr. Joe Andrade requested the Tulare County Community School Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2025-2026.

Mr. Andrade noted that all staff are equipped with communication radios to ensure consistent communication, and that additional cameras have been installed. He also shared that the school participates in the ActVnet program.

**Vote Results**

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Not Cast:** 0

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

**8. Consideration and Approval, Special Education Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2025-2026 - Sarah Hamilton**

**Minutes**

Sarah Hamilton requested approval of the Tulare County Special Education Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2026-2026. She explained that creating a single plan is challenging due to the different sites, as district classrooms must follow district plans. Therefore, the plan will primarily focus on stand-alone facilities, with additional components such as ensuring staff are properly trained for the students they serve and coordinating with site maintenance to keep classrooms in good condition.

**Vote Results**

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Not Cast:** 0

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

**9. Consideration and Approval, La Sierra Military Academy Comprehensive School Safety Plan 2025- 2026 - Dr. Jose Bedolla**

**Minutes**

Dr. Jose Bedolla requested approval of the La Sierra Military Academy School Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2025-2026. He noted that the ActVnet school safety program is used to plan safety drills and ensure all staff remain on the same communication system.

**Vote Results**

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Not Cast:** 0

**Motion:** Chris Reed **Second:** Ruben Macareno

**10. Consideration and Approval, University Preparatory High School Comprehensive Safety Plan 2025-2026 - Dr. Helen Feller**

**Minutes**

Dr. Feller requested approval of the University Preparatory High School Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2025-2026. She noted that the plan has been updated to align with California state requirements and that staff will be attending Run, Hide, Fight training.

**Vote Results**

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Not Cast:** 0

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

## 11. Consideration and Approval, 2024-2025 Audit for TCOE from Christy White Associates - Jody Arriaga and Rafael Pacheco

### Minutes

Jody Arriaga introduced Rafael Pacheco, who presented the 2024-2025 Audit for TCOE from Christy White Associates. Mr. Pacheco explained the audit process and reviewed the audit handout with the Board and noted that there were no findings. Mr. Pacheco complimented the staff on their excellent work.

Board member Mike Waters had a question regarding sick leave for employees. Mr. Pacheco explained that it is a percentage of a sample of employees and was traced back two to three years.

Board member Chris Reed asked how much time auditors spend on site. Mr. Pacheco explained that it varies by location: some sites can accommodate extended visits, while others cannot, so the time spent is determined on a site-by-site basis.

### Vote Results

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Not Cast:** 0

**Motion:** Chris Reed **Second:** Mike Waters

## 12. Subcommittee's Recommendations to Tulare County Superintendent Tim A. Hire regarding the Naming of Facilities at the Mooney Expansion - Mike Waters

### Minutes

Board member Mike Waters presented the committee's recommendations for building naming in the new administration buildings. The first recommendation is to name the Special Services and District Support Services building after Pat Hillman. The second recommendation is to name the CHOICES and Early Childhood Education building after Chris Reed. The third recommendation is to name the Special Events Center after Leonard Hansen. The fourth recommendation is to name the Central Plaza after Dr. Edward Peaterson. The fifth recommendation is to name the park in recognition of the Yokuts.

Tim Hire asked if there were any questions or comments and thanked the committee for putting forward the recommendations.

Board member Chris Reed expressed appreciation for the gesture and highlighted the many accomplishments and contributions of past board members.

## 13. Determination of an Election or Appointment of Trustee Area 1 Board Vacancy - Tony Rodriguez

### Minutes

Board President Tony Rodriguez asked the board to make a determination to appoint or run a special election to replace Celia **Maldonado-Aroyo**, Trustee Area 1

The Board recommended moving forward with the appointment process rather than holding a special election.

The Board also agreed to form a subcommittee to review applications, with Mike Waters and Chris Reed on the subcommittee.

### Vote Results

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**Yea:** 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters  
**Nay:** 0  
**Abstain:** 0  
**Not Cast:** 0

**Motion:** Judy Coble    **Second:** Ruben Macareno

## 6. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

### a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence

### b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff

#### Minutes

Superintend Hire called the boards attention to their packets that included the following: a groundbreaking invitation for February 20 at 11:00 a.m. at the Administration Building; the TCOE Foundation Donor Appreciation Dinner invitation for February 27 beginning at 5:30 p.m., also at the Administration Building; Form 700's which are due April 1; the TK College & Career Collaborative Annual Report; the WASC Accreditation Letter for La Sierra; and CSBA Delegate Assembly Election candidate information, which will appear on next month's agenda.

Mr. Hire announced upcoming events, Mock Trial Finals (UPHS vs. Redwood) on February 5 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Administration Building; Poetry Live! on February 6 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Arts Consortium in downtown Visalia; the Academic Decathlon SuperQuiz and Awards on February 7 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Administration Building; the District Leadership Institute on February 10, with hors d'oeuvres starting at 5:00 p.m.; National History Day on February 12 from 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at the Administration Building; Circle J–Norris Ranch Field Science Day on February 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Science Olympiad (grades 6–9) on February 28 from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. at Ridgeview Middle School in Visalia; the Anti-Tobacco & Marijuana Challenge Bowl on March 5 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Galaxy Theatres in Tulare; the Tulare County Spelling Championship on March 5 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Administration Building; and the Tulare County Science Fair featuring the STEAM Expo on March 7 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Administration Building.

Superintendent Hire shared that Dinuba Unified contacted our Theater Company to ask about hosting a week-long summer camp for approximately 300 students, which reflects the outstanding work and reputation of our Theater Company.

Superintendent Hire announced that he will serve as president of the California County Superintendents Organization, providing additional opportunities to advocate for the students of Tulare County.

### c. Reports from Board, Information, and Questions

#### Minutes

Board Trustee Chris Reed spoke about Celia Maldonado-Arroyo and noted that her greatest priorities were advocacy and equity in education. She strongly believed that children should be reading by the time they reach third grade. She also emphasized that while significant progress has been made in supporting young women and girls in education, it has, in some ways, left boys and young men behind. She stressed the importance of focusing on young men and helping bring them up to the level of opportunity created for girls, not by taking anything away from young women, but by addressing the gaps that remain for boys. In addition, she championed giving a voice to those who need to be heard and worked toward improving the community so that education can be stronger and more inclusive for everyone.

Celia will be fondly remembered for her dedication, compassion, and lasting impact on our community.

## 7. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

March 4, 2026 - 3:00 p.m.

## 8. Adjournment

### Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.