

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

08/05/2026 [03:00 PM]

REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of August 5, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., in the Redwood Conference Center at the Jim Vidak Education Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California.

Roll Call

Present: Judy Coble, Tim Hire, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Write-ins: Staff members present: Julie Berk, Tammy Bradford, Jaime Burnitzki, , John Davis, Jennifer Fisher, Liliana Flores, Rob Herman, Jerry Jolly, Fernie Marroquin, Chris Meyer, Christina Rodriguez, Dedi Somavia, and Sarah Smigiera. Guests Present: Madelaluz Araujo, Noemi Bedolla, Nick Garcia, Juana Leon, Mauricio Leon, Camila Lopez, Federico Lopez, Nicole Lopez, and Gail Zurick.

Absent:

1. Call to Order

Minutes

Board President, Tony Rodriguez, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Mike Waters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Welcome

2. 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.

Minutes

ADA Accommodations were met.

3. 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.

4. Action Items

a. Presentation of 2026 Tulare County Spelling Bee Champion DC Trip - Chris Meyer

Minutes

Chris Meyer introduced Nicole Lopez of Terra Bella as the 2026 County Spelling Champion, who won the county spelling competition after 20 rounds by correctly spelling “*execrable*.” Nicole thanked her family, teachers, and supporters for helping her achieve this honor and expressed pride in representing her school. Mr. Meyer also acknowledged the Terra Bella staff who supported her journey to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., where she advanced to the second round and gained valuable experiences through travel, sightseeing, and media interviews. To commemorate her achievement, she received a certificate of achievement and a special scrapbook documenting her spelling bee journey. The Board congratulated her while wishing her success as she prepares to defend her title next year.

b. Routine Matters

1. Consent Calendar

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Felipe Martinez, 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 June 3, 2026

b. Authorization of Countywide Registration of Credentials

c. Authorization of Temporary County Certificates

d. Authorization of Countywide Emergency Permit Applications

c. Old Business

1. Consideration and Approval, Second Reading of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions - Christina Rodriguez

Minutes

Christina Rodriguez asked the Board for the approval of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions. She explained the language changed from epinephrine auto-injectors to broader "epinephrine delivery systems," allowing schools to use neffy, a nasal-spray form of epinephrine, in addition to or instead of traditional auto-injectors.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 0

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

d. New Business

1. Presentation of the Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2026 from Tulare County School Districts - Dedi Somavia

Minutes

Dedi Somavia presented the Williams/Valenzuela Uniform Complaint Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2026 from Tulare County School Districts. No complaints were filed. This item was for information only.

2. First Reading of Board Policy 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education - Tammy Bradford

Minutes

Tammy presented the first reading of Board Policy 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education. She explained that, while reviewing compliance requirements, they found that the SELPA already uses comprehensive procedural safeguards that meet all required state and federal components and align directly with IDEA.

3. Consideration and Approval, Mental Health Average Daily Attendance (MHADA) Grant Award 2025-2026 (\$18,295) - Tammy Bradford

Minutes

Tammy Bradford asked for approval of the Mental Health Average Daily Attendance (MHADA) Grant Award 2025-2026 for \$18,295. This state grant is received on an annual basis which provides mental health services to students with IEPs. The funding helps offset expenses for psychologists, social workers, and other staff who deliver counseling and mental health support.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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

4. Consideration and Approval, 2024-2025 Forest Reserve Apportionment (Revised) - Sarah Smigiera

Minutes

Sarah Smigiera requested the Board's approval for the 2024-2025 Revised Forest Reserve Apportionment. She explained that the original allocation, approved in September 2025, was reduced because the Secure Rural Schools Act had expired, causing funding to revert to the older 1908 Forest Reserve formula. However, in December 2025, Congress reauthorized the Secure Rural Schools Program through federal fiscal year 2026 and approved retroactive payments, resulting in an additional \$74,920 for Tulare County related to the 2024-2025 apportionment year. The additional funds were distributed using the same allocation methodology as the original apportionment.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Chris Reed **Second:** Felipe Martinez

5. Consideration and Approval, 2025-2026 Forest Reserve Apportionment - Sarah Smigiera

Minutes

Sarah Smigiera asked for the Board to approve the 2025-2026 Forest Reserve Apportionment. She reported that, unlike some prior years, no sequestration reduction was applied, allowing districts to receive their full funding entitlement. Under federal law, 50% of the apportionment is allocated to county roads and infrastructure, while the remaining 50% is distributed to schools. The school allocation methodology remains unchanged, with 15% allocated to SCICON, 25% distributed equally among eligible districts, and 60% distributed based on qualifying student residency criteria.

Vote Results

Yea: 7 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Motion: Mike Waters **Second:** Felipe Martinez

5. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

- a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence**
- b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff**

Minutes

Mr. Hire thanked those who attended the Theatre Company's production of *Big Fish*. He reported the summer theater camps were successful, and a new partnership with Dinuba Unified brought approximately 300 elementary and middle school students to campus for a one-week performing arts camp. He thanked the board members for attending the annual Convocation, which drew 1,564 registered employees, reflecting strong staff engagement ahead of the new school year. Mr. Hire shared the construction projects at both the main campus and the future UPHS site continue to make significant progress and remain on schedule. He encouraged Board members to review the annual Student Future Ready Events booklet and noted the Educators of the Year celebration on September 17 and the Excellence in Education Breakfast on November 3.

c. Reports from Board, Information, and Questions

Minutes

Tony Rodriguez thanked the staff for their work on Convocation. Chris Reed commended Joe Andrade for wonderful the graduation ceremony held at the juvenile facility. Ruben Macareno congratulated and thanked Superintendent Hire for the Convocation. Mike Waters commented on the staff survey statistics that were share and the transparency on areas to work on. Tom Link enjoyed the service milestone recognition.

6. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

September 2, 2026 - 3:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.