

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

04/01/2026 [10:00 AM]

REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of April 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in the Blue Oak Classroom at SCICON (Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation), 41569 Bear Creek Rd., Springville, California.

Roll Call

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

Write-ins: Staff members present: Gabriela Almanza Porter, Julie Berk, Jaime Burnitzki, Jennifer Fisher, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Jeff Ramsay, Jack Schreuder, and Dianne Shew. Guest present: Gail Zurek

Absent: Ruben Macareno

1. Call to Order

Minutes

President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Judy Coble led the pledge of allegiance. Tony Rodriguez thanked Dianne Shew and SCICON for hosting the meeting.

- 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

Tony Rodriguez announced that ADA accommodation had been 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 public comments were received.

4. Action Items

a. Routine Matters

1. Consent Calendar

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 1 Ruben Macareno

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

- a. Approval of Minutes for the Special Board Meeting of March 4, 2026**
- b. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of March 4, 2026**
- c. Authorization of Countywide Registration of Credentials**
- d. Authorization of Temporary County Certificates**
- e. Authorization of Countywide Emergency Permit Applications**

b. Old Business

1. Consideration and Approval, Second Reading of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information - Julie Berk

Minutes

Julie Berk asked for the Board's approval of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information.

Vote Results

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

c. New Business

1. First Reading of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6143 - Courses of Study - Julie Berk

Minutes

Julie Berk presented the first reading of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6143, Course of Study.

2. First Reading of Board Policy 5131.8 - Mobile Communication Devices - Dr. Fernie Marroquin

Board Policy 5131.8 - Mobile Communications Devices

Minutes

Dr. Fernie Marroquin presented the first reading of Bord Policy 5131.8 for Mobile Communication Devices. He shared that La Sierra and UPHS have different use restrictions on mobile devices.

3. Consideration and Approval, Rescinding Board Policy 5131.8 - Student Expulsion County Community Schools - Dr. Fernie Marroquin

Minutes

Dr. Fernie Marroquin requested the Board approval to rescind Board Policy 5131.8 for Student Expulsion County Community Schools. He explained that the policy is obsolete because it is covered in *Education Code*.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Ruben Macareno

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

4. Consideration and Approval, Tulare County Office of Education 2026-2027 Budget - Set Public Hearing Date, Time, and Location - Dr. Fernie Marroquin

Minutes

Dr. Fernie Marroquin requested the Board's approval to set a public hearing for the 2025-2026 TCOE Budget for May 8, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the May board meeting at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Ruben Macareno

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

5. Consideration and Approval, Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) -Set Public Hearing Date, Time, and Location - Dr. Fernie Marroquin

Minutes

Dr. Fernie Marroquin requested the Board's approval to set a public hearing for the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for May 8, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the May board meeting at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia.

Vote Results

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

6. Consideration and Approval, Resolution 25/26-38 Certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Performing Arts Theater, AcCEL Center, and Library Project - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay asked the Board approve Resolution 25/26-38 Certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Performing Arts Theater, AcCEL Center, and Liberty Project. He reported that we received standard comments from regulatory agencies. The monitoring report is attached and there are minimal impacts to the environment.

Vote Results

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

7. Consideration and Approval, Resolution 25/26-39 Regarding School Site Approval for the Addition to the Existing Liberty School Campus - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay asked for approval of Resolution 25/26-39 Regarding School Site Approval for the Addition to the Existing Liberty School Campus. He explained that after approval of the resolution the project packet can be submitted to CDE for final approval.

Vote Results

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

8. Consideration and Approval, Resolution 25/26-40 Declaring Property as Exempt Surplus Land - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay requested approval of Resolution 25/26-40 Declaring Property as Exempt Surplus Land. He explained the surplus land is the 24 acres involved the swap with the church. TCOE and the church will share the storm water basin. TCOE will allow the church to use our access from 264 to their property.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Ruben Macareno

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

9. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution 25/26-41, Calling on the State of California to Develop a Coherent, State-focused Plan for Supporting Local Schools in Closing Achievement Gaps - Tony Rodriguez

Minutes

Tony Rodriguez requested the Board adopt Resolution 25/26-41, Calling on the State of California to Develop a Coherent, State-focused Plan for Supporting Local Schools in Closing Achievement Gaps.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Judy Coble, Tom Link, Felipe Martinez, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Ruben Macareno

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

10. Discussion, Board Member Compensation - Tim A. Hire

Minutes

Tim Hire presented that the state legislature passed a law signed by the governor that changed the limits on board member compensation in January. He shared board member compensation and benefits for other Class II counties. The Board discussed their current compensation in comparison to the other counties. The Board agreed that they are not looking to make changes to their compensation packet at this time. The Board thanked Superintendent Hire for sharing the information with them.

5. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence

b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff

Minutes

Tim Hire pointed out the invitation is the Board packets for the Step Up Youth Challenge on April 8, the 17th Annual Legislative Event on April 14, the SCICON BBQ on April 19, and the Support Staff Conference on April 28 and 29. He shared the list of graduations list with the Board. He asked Julie Berk to speak about the La Sierra and UPHS graduation date. She explained that in the past, both school have wanted Thursday as their graduation date. This year, both school have schedule for Thursday night. UPHS will be at the Fox Theatre. The Board will have reserved seating and they have allowed enough time for the Board to travel to La Sierra, where they will have reserved parking for their graduation.

Superintendent Hire shared that the Anti-Tobacco & Marijuana Challenge Bowl was won by Palo Verde Union in both the 6th and 7th grade categories. The Tulare County Spelling Championship winner was Nicole Lopez from Terra Bella. The Tulare County Science Fair, featuring the STEAM Expo had 45 projects, with the top 6 projects going on to state competition. The Huddle Jr.: Middle School Student-Athlete Conference was attended by 120 student

athletes from 22 middle schools. The Tulare-Kings College & Career EXPO had 700 high school students representing 22 Kings and Tulare county schools competing 24 categories at COS Visalia and Tulare campuses. The North County Area Special Olympics had 250 students and adults athletes in attendance.

Mr. Hire also share upcoming events including Math Super Bowl on April 14 at the Visalia Convention Center. Poetry & Prose will be April 14 through April 17 and April 21 through April 23. The School Safety Symposium is scheduled for April 16 and 17 at the Visalia Convention Center. Porterville Special Olympics will be April 10 at Jamison Stadium in Porterville. The Young People’s Concerts are scheduled for April 20 at Fox Theatre in Visalia. Tulare Area Special Olympics will be April 24 at Bob Mathias Stadium in Tulare. The Science Olympiad – Division A is on April 25 at Ridgeview Middle School in Visalia. Middle School Reading Revolution will be on April 30 in the Administration Building. Make a Difference – TEACH Conference in partnership with Fresno State is scheduled for May 1 in the Administration Building. The CHOICES Lip Sync Battle will be on May 1 at the Fox Theatre. Elementary School Reading Revolution is on May 7 in the Administration Building. The Slick Rock Student Film Festival will be held May 8 at the Fox Theatre.

1. SCICON Report - Dianne Shew

Minutes

Dianne Shew reported that CAL FIRE is currently conducting fire clearance. There are students on the other side SCICON for spring break. Work on the Rainbow Bridge is underway and is expected to be finished by the end of April. The Raptor Center now includes a flight cage. The handicap-accessible trail is being redone and renamed Oak Alley. Friends of SCICON and TCOE are collaborating on the construction of new restrooms, funded in part by the Donna Hardy donation. She shared notes from teachers and students with the Board. She also shared the new internship recruitment video.

c. Reports from Board, Information, and Questions

6. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

May 6, 2026 - 3:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.