

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 12, 2025
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Niel Tam Educational Center
2060 Challenger Drive
Alameda, California 94501

UNADOPTED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at the date and location mentioned above.

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Public Comment on Closed Session Topics:
A person connected to Complaint #25-0010 made a public comment prior to Closed Session. The individual asked the Board to hear their complaint appeal.
2. Adjourn to Closed Session:
Adjourn to Closed Session - 5:30 PM - Board Members met privately in the Ballena Conference Room of the Niel Tam Educational Center (2060 Challenger Drive) to discuss the following matters:

Conference with Labor Negotiators - Pursuant to Subdivision 54957.6:
Agency designated representative: Timothy Erwin, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources:

Employee organizations: Alameda Education Association (AEA), California School Employees Association Chapter 27 (CSEA 27), California School Employees Association Chapter 860 (CSEA 860) and Executive Cabinet/Administrative and Supervisory/Confidential/Licensed/Unrepresented.

Request to Hear Appeal of Uniform Complaint (Govt. Code, §54957, subd. (b) (1)): (1 Appeal Request):

1) Complaint #25-0010
3. Reconvene to Public Session – 6:30pm
The Board reconvened to Public Session in the Marina Conference Room.
4. Call to Order
Board Member Jennifer Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
5. Pledge of Allegiance
Board Member Jennifer Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.
6. Introduction of Board Members and Staff:
Board of Education Members present: Board President Gary K. Lym, Board Vice President Ryan LaLonde, Board Clerk Heather Little, and Board Trustee Jennifer Williams.

Board Member Meleah Hall was absent.

Student Board members were not present at this meeting.

AUSD staff members present: Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Timothy Erwin; Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Shariq Khan; Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Kirsten Zazo; Senior Manager of Community Affairs, Susan Davis and Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Kerri Lonergan.

7. Closed Session Action Report:

In Closed Session the Board voted 4-0 to decline to hear Complaint #25-0010. The Board also directed staff to continue to investigate the matter.

B. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA:

There were no modifications to the agenda.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting were considered for approval.

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Member LaLonde

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Lym, Williams, LaLonde, and Little

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Hall

MOTION APPROVED

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

There were no public comments during this agenda item.

2. Written Correspondence:

The Board did not receive any communications related to the agenda.

3. Report from Employee Organizations:

Amy Keegan, President CSEA 27: Ms. Keegan congratulated new AEA President, Judy Ganley. Ms. Keegan reported that this year's holiday party will take place at an exciting new venue. Over the summer, she and Karen Keegan attended the annual California conference in Reno as regional representatives, where Cindy Zecher was elected as the new District Director for the Retirement Unit. The conference emphasized continued efforts to resist attempts to dismantle the Department of Education and featured inspiring

keynote speeches from California Federation of Labor President Lorena Gonzalez and Tennessee State Representative Justine Jones, who reminded attendees that advocacy is essential. CalPERS CEO Marcie Frost also provided important updates on the state's retirement system.

Judy Ganley, President AEA: Ms. Ganley thanked the Board and staff for welcoming her. She is new to her role as union president and was previously a teacher at Wood Middle School for over 13 years. Ms. Ganley expressed her sadness over hearing about the loss of two AUSD paraprofessionals over the summer – Tina Mertz and Laura West. Ms. Ganley stated she attended the President's Conference held in Burlingame from July 31 to August 3, where presidents from across California, including those from rural districts, shared valuable experiences. She highlighted the work of the bargaining team, which met on July 31 to address the impact of the inclusion program and the team is preparing for additional sessions in early August and September. Ms. Ganley expressed satisfaction with the team's progress, encouraged continued communication and regular meetings, and extended appreciation for everyone's dedication and hard work.

4. Report from PTA Council:

Katie Honegger, PTA Council President: Ms. Honegger welcomed everyone back for the first meeting of the 2025-2026 school year. The PTAC is made up of 16 PTA Presidents from across the district. The PTAC supports PTA presidents in advocacy, and in fund raising. Ms. Honegger encouraged people listening to join their local PTAs.

5. Board Members' Report:

Board President Gary K. Lym: Board President Lym thanked staff for having schools ready in time for the first day. Board President Lym expressed his sadness over hearing that Laura West had passed. He said he will miss her dearly and he will miss her presence on campuses across AUSD.

Board Vice President Ryan LaLonde: Board Vice President LaLonde stated he was very grateful for being included in the back to school trainings and meetings. He also mentioned it is his child's senior year, so he was really looking forward to an exciting year. Vice President LaLonde stated he joins several PTA groups every year, and there is a lot going on with construction and other projects this year. Vice President LaLonde stated he will save additional comments until we are back in City Hall.

Board Clerk Heather Little: Board Clerk Little stated she also enjoyed being a part of the back to school meetings and seeing staff come back to start the new school year. Board Clerk Little stated our singular goal is to make sure we "stay the course" with our policies and budget decisions. Board Clerk Little was very emotional upon hearing of the loss of paraprofessional Laura West. Board Clerk Little stated she met Ms. West when her daughter, Olive, was in Kindergarten and now Olive is in college. Board Clerk Little shared some of her favorite memories of knowing Ms. West, and she stated she will miss her presence around the AUSD and larger Alameda community.

6. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi thanked staff for a successful opening and he stated he knows what a group effort it is to get schools ready for teachers and students to come back to, Superintendent Scuderi also shared information about the School Safety conference he attended in St. Louis this summer. Superintendent Scuderi heard the latest opinions on school security, building and campus upgrades that highlight safety, and working relationships with local law enforcement. Superintendent Scuderi closed his remarks by offering his condolences to the families and friends of Tamara Centeno, Laura West, and Tina Mertz.

E. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1) Certificated Personnel Actions
- 2) Classified Personnel Actions
- 3) Approval and Acceptance of Donations
- 4) Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers
- 5) Approval of CSBA Recommended Updates to Board Policies
- 6) Approval of Facilities Bond Measure I and Measure B Contracts (Standing Item)
- 7) Approval of Individual Service Agreements (ISAs) with Non-Public Schools and Non-Public Agencies
- 8) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Colleges and Universities for Student Teacher, School Psychologist, Counselor, and Administrative Interns
- 9) Approval of Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints: April - June 2025
- 10) Ratification of Contracts Executed Pursuant to Board Policy 3300
- 11) Resolution No. 2025-2026.01 Appointing Co-Chairs and Members of the Pupil Disciplinary Hearing Panel(s) for the 2025-26 School Year
- 12) Resolution No. 2025-2026.02 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: Member LaLonde

SECONDED: Member Little

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Lym, Williams, LaLonde, and Little

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Hall

MOTION APPROVED

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. 45-Day Budget Revision and Update on the Enacted State Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Shariq Khan, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, gave the Board information on the the Adopted Budget for the 2025-2026 year. The adopted budget is based on the Governor's revised budget proposal (the May Revise).

The Governor signed the FY 2025-2026 State Budget Act on June 27, 2025. The budget includes policy changes affecting unrestricted revenue and includes various new categorical programs. Some key points on the budget:

- State budget deficit through 2028-29
- Increasing costs and smaller COLAs
- \$1.3 billion cash deferral from 2025-26 to 2026-27
- Federal funding changes
- Cost shifts from DC to Sacramento will put pressure on the state budget
- Changes to Medicaid and SNAP eligibility can impact other programs

Mr. Khan outlined new revenue under the following categories:

- 1) *Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant*: which is one-time, restricted fund money to the tune of approximately \$2,7 million for AUSD.
 - 2) *Learning Recovery Block Grant*: which is one time – restricted general fund money to the tune of approximately \$280K for AUSD which we will have to spend by June 30, 2028.
 - 3) *Universal TK Funding*: which is ongoing unrestricted general fund money. It will reduce staff to student ratio from 12:1 to 10:1 and it will bring approximately \$580K annually for AUSD
2. Heat Mitigation in Classrooms: Implementation Update
Tonight's presentation, given by Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi and Assistant Superintendent Shariq Khan is titled Heat in Classrooms: Implementation Update. This is the fourth in a series of discussions aimed at identifying, analyzing, and implementing a sustainable solution for addressing classroom temperatures across the district. Previous presentations focused on assessing the need for improved climate control, exploring potential strategies, and developing a rubric to create a multi-year implementation plan.
- On April 12, 2025, staff presented a 4-year implementation plan. The Board directed staff to revise and shorten the implementation timeline.
- Superintendent Scuderi and Assistant Superintendent Khan updated the Board on progress so far and a revised timeline for the classrooms without ceiling fans.
- Staff was looking for the Board's direction on the proposed implementation strategy, balancing the district's financial constraints with the need to improve learning and working conditions in impacted classrooms.
3. Federal Policy and Direction in Education: Current Considerations for AUSD
Superintendent Scuderi updated the Board on three areas of federal policy or direction and their current projected impact on AUSD. The areas include:

- Immigration,
- Federal Funding, and
- The recent Supreme Court decision in the case of Mahmoud vs. Taylor.

For Immigration enforcement and inquiries at schools, Superintendent Scuderi shared the following:

1. Only permitted with valid judicial warrant (no outside agency can gain access without one)
2. No knowledge of a valid judicial warrant for a school-based action or inquiry statewide
3. AUSD has a protocol and a process (school staff immediately hands off to exec team and legal counsel)

For Federal Funding, Superintendent Scuderi shared the following key dates:
June 25, 2025: White House releases "frozen" federal funds; about \$400k to AUSD

- July 31, 2025: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee rejects administration's proposed cuts. Chose to maintain and even increase some program funding levels.

For the recent Supreme Court decision in the case of Mahmoud vs. Taylor, Superintendent Scuderi shared the following information:

- Ruling states the districts must provide optouts for families who believe that specific curriculum places a "substantial burden" on their parental religious rights
- In this case the content was LGBTQ+ storybooks

Superintendent Scuderi also shared what this case does NOT do:

- Does NOT require districts to remove inclusive materials (including LGBTQ+ content) from our curriculum and libraries
- Does NOT require districts to provide an optout process for all content parents/people may find objectionable

Items that remain unresolved or under review include:

- What specific materials or formats trigger optouts?
- What does "substantial burden" mean?
- How much advance notice? How is it provided?
- How will schools manage frequent or varied requests for opt outs?
- How do we manage this process and not stigmatize or marginalize students?

And finally, Superintendent Scuderi outlined what this means for AUSD:

- We will continue to offer LGBTQ+-themed books in our libraries and curriculum
- We will continue to include the contributions, history, stories, and accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ community in our broader instructional approach
- Legal guidance and policy review will shape our approach and obligations in the coming months

- Remain committed to full inclusion, understanding, and empathy for all of our stakeholders, including our LGBTQ+ students and families

G. ADJOURNMENT – Board Member Jennifer Williams adjourned the meeting in honor of the three AUSD employees who passed away over the summer:

Tamara Centeno was a longtime fixture at Wood Middle School, where she served as a Parent Liaison and a facilitator for the California PTA's School Smarts program. Tamara was passionate about Parent Education, with particular dedication to the Latino community. Her commitment extended well beyond the school walls—her volunteer work earned official recognition from the San Francisco Foundation. She was a co-founder of ALCANCE, AUSD's Latino Achievement Round Table, and the host of the education segment "El Poder de Saber" (The Power of Knowing) for Telemundo 48. Tamara will be greatly missed not only in Alameda, but throughout the broader Bay Area Latino community.

Paraprofessional Laura West was a proud mother, devoted educator, and selfless woman who consistently put the needs of others before her own. She began her AUSD career in 2010, working at Lum, Encinal, Franklin, and most recently Edison Elementary. In her role supporting the district's most vulnerable students, Laura brought patience, compassion, and dedication every day. She also volunteered at countless school events, contributing her time and energy to ensure students and families felt welcomed and supported—all while raising her beloved son, Nick.

Paraprofessional Tina Mertz joined AUSD in 1999 and, over more than two decades, worked with students at Lum, Wood, Otis, and Franklin Elementary Schools. She was a caring and dependable presence on every campus she served, always bringing warmth, humor, and a steady commitment to her students. Outside of work, Tina was a devoted mother of two, cherished her favorite color—purple—and enjoyed connecting with pen pals from across the country, cultivating friendships that spanned years and miles.

Please join me in honoring Tamara, Laura, and Tina with a moment of silence.

Respectively Submitted,

Kerri Lonergan
Senior Executive Assistant
Alameda Unified School District

