

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 10, 2026
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Alameda City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, California 94501

ADOPTED 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:
There were no public comments on Closed Session topics

2. Adjourn to Closed Session – 6:00pm:
Board Members met privately in Conference Room 361 in City Hall for Closed Session. Agenda items discussed in Closed Session included:

Conference with Labor Negotiators – (Govt. Code, §54957.6, subd. (a))

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.

3. Reconvene to Public Session – 6:30pm
The Board reconvened to Public Session in Council Chambers at 6:30pm

4. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance
Board President Ryan LaLonde called the meeting to order. ASTI students Karuna and Lozina Neupane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Introduction of Board Members and Staff:
Board of Education Members present: Board President Ryan LaLonde, Board Vice President Heather Little, Board Clerk Jennifer Williams, and Board Trustee Carrie Hahnel. Board Trustee Gary K. Lym was present for Closed Session and absent for Open Session.

Student Board Members Ruth Woldesemayat (Alameda High), Roan Byrne Sarno (ASTI), and Donovan Smith (Encinal Jr. & Sr. High) were present.

AUSD staff members present: Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi, 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.

6. Closed Session Action Report:
The Board did not take action in Closed Session.

B. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA:
There were no modifications to the agenda.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The minutes from the January 27, 2026 Board of Education meeting were considered for approval.

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2026 Board of Education meeting.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Member Williams

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Byrne-Sarno, Smith, and Woldeamayat

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Williams, and Hahnel

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Lym

MOTION APPROVED

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Celebrating Black History Month During the Season for Non-Violence
ASTI students Karuna and Lozina Neupane, nominated by their teacher Lynn Lebo-Planas, read the proclamation declaring February to be Black History Month in AUSD. The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.

That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and

communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing "Negro History Week." By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

Motion to approve the Proclamation Declaring February Black History Month in Alameda Unified School District.

MOTION: Member Hahnel

SECONDED: Student Member Byrne-Sarno

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Byrne-Sarno, Smith, and Woldesemayat

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Williams, and Hahnel

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Lym

MOTION APPROVED

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Ariel Cohen (Teacher and Parent, Love Elementary): Ms. Cohen shared that she is both a teacher and a parent in Alameda Unified and expressed her love for her school and the district. She emphasized pride in the district’s quality and urged the Alameda Education Association and the Board to work collaboratively to ensure educators can continue teaching in Alameda.

Cory Spells (SPED Teacher, Maya Lin School): Ms. Spells stated she was speaking in honor of Black History Month on behalf of Black AUSD educators, she urged the district to reprioritize the budget to better support students, families, and staff. She stated that equity requires action and that the district’s budget should reflect its stated commitment to equity.

Assia Day (Teacher, Maya Lin School): Ms. Day stated she is also speaking on behalf of Black AUSD educators for Black History Month, she called on the district to realign the budget to prioritize students, families, and staff. She emphasized that Black History Month is a time for accountability and that equity must be reflected in financial decisions.

David Reed (Parent, Paden Elementary): Mr. Reed shared that he is the parent of a trans, non-binary fifth grader and expressed solidarity with Alameda educators. He advocated for fair wages, affordable healthcare, and respectful treatment for teachers, stating that while state funding issues are real, the Board has responsibility locally. He voiced support for broader school funding reform and affirmed that he stands with teachers.

Jordana Elderts (Teacher, Otis Elementary): Ms. Elderts stated she is a longtime Alameda community member and educator, she described her deep involvement in the district and her commitment to the community. She shared that rising healthcare costs and salary considerations may force her to seek employment elsewhere to protect her retirement income. She urged the Board to prioritize competitive salaries and benefits to retain experienced teachers.

Gabrielle LoParo (Teacher, Otis Elementary): Ms. LoParo addressed a recent opinion piece by the Board President, stating she felt it inaccurately characterized teacher healthcare coverage and cost-of-living adjustments. She clarified that teachers pay out-of-pocket healthcare costs and that the district's COLA offer was below the state rate. She called for accuracy, transparency, and a contract that reflects rising living costs in the Bay Area.

Lindsay Schlax (Teacher, Lincoln Middle School): Ms. Schlax acknowledged that funding challenges are largely rooted at the state level but said the burden is falling on teachers. She shared personal financial details, including high monthly healthcare costs, to humanize the impact of current compensation. She urged the Board to reprioritize the budget and partner with educators to advocate for improved state funding while addressing local compensation concerns.

Erin Head (Teacher Librarian, Paden Elementary): Ms. Head expressed gratitude to the bargaining team and union members for their work and engagement. She voiced hope that collaborative efforts would result in a fair agreement and thanked the Board for listening and working toward a solution that prioritizes teachers and students.

Hailey Leta-Pombo Duarte (Teacher, Lincoln Middle School): Ms. Leta-Pombo Duarte shared that she commutes long distances to work in Alameda because she values the school environment and community. She described AUSD's dress code as overly permissive and stated AUSD cares more about feelings than about education. She described significant financial strain due to healthcare costs and personal family medical expenses, stating that her salary is insufficient to meet basic needs.

Ayanna Beck (Teacher, Maya Lin School): Ms. Beck stated she is a proud Alameda graduate and current teacher, she stated she can no longer afford to

live in the community she serves. Speaking on behalf of Black AUSD educators during Black History Month, she called on the district to reprioritize the budget to reflect a true commitment to equity for students, families, and teachers.

3. Written Correspondence:

The Board received four (4) emails related to the Closed Session agenda, which is focused on contract negotiations with AUSD bargaining groups.

4. Report from Employee Organizations:

Alameda Education Association (AEA): Judy Ganley, President: Ms. Ganley Noted the upcoming mediation session and expressed hope for continued progress, though six contract articles remain unresolved. She framed calls to reprioritize the budget as a matter of economic justice, thanked educators and community members for their advocacy, and expressed confidence that an agreement will be reached before ceding the remainder of her time to Lindsay Schlax.

Lindsay Schlax (Teacher, Lincoln Middle School): Ms. Schlax shared that over 1,100 community members signed a letter urging the Board to retain teachers and avoid a strike. She emphasized that high healthcare deductions significantly reduce take-home pay and called on the Board to use current budget flexibility to reach a fair agreement so teachers can remain in their classrooms.

5. Report from PTA Council:

PTA Council (PTAC): Katie Honneger, President: Katie Honneger ceded her agenda time to Bay Farm School PTSA President, Maria Piper.

Maria Piper (President, Bay Farm School PTSA): Ms. Piper stated Bay Farm PTSA is being forced to fund and staff core district responsibilities, calling it unsustainable and inequitable. She cited tens of thousands spent on intervention services and added health aide hours—services she said the district should fully provide.

She criticized the district for failing to address ongoing safety issues on Aughinbaugh Way, forcing parents to lead bike lane advocacy efforts with the City. She expressed concern that a Board member opposed those safety improvements in another official role he holds, undermining community efforts.

Overall, she faulted the district for poor coordination, lack of proactive leadership on safety and ADA concerns, and overreliance on volunteers to compensate for systemic failures.

6. Board Members' Report:

Board Vice President Heather Little: Vice President Little thanked and appreciated the people in the audience who came to the meeting, and she shared she was pleased with the direction that mediation sessions are going in.

7. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi: Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi briefly echoed confidence in ongoing labor negotiations, expressing hope that the parties will remain focused and reach a mutually satisfactory agreement.

He then shifted to a personal reflection in honor of Black History Month, paying tribute to his former mentor, Dr. Robert McKnight, who recently passed away. Dr. McKnight taught at Berkeley High School for more than four decades and served as only the second chair of the nation's first high school-based African American Studies department. He also taught Black Studies, literature, and history in the Peralta system and was known for his unwavering commitment to student achievement.

Superintendent Scuderi described Dr. McKnight as an educational legend in the East Bay—a pastor, teacher, advisor, and mentor who profoundly influenced both students and adults, including himself—and offered condolences to his family, honoring his lasting legacy in the very history he dedicated his life to teaching.

8. Student Board Member Reports:

Donovan Smith (Encinal Jr. & Sr. High): Student Board Member Smith reported that spring sports have begun, with volleyball and softball tryouts underway. The NCL leadership team is preparing for its annual Unity Day and planning a mini-Unity Day field trip to Wood Middle School on March 20. He also announced a February 27 Black History Month Assembly featuring Shamar Edwards, founder of the school's Black Student Union, highlighting Black history, excellence, and pride through a guest speaker and Poetry Slam..

Ruth Woldesemayat (Alameda High): Student Board Member Ruth Woldesemayat Shared that Alameda High recently hosted a Lunar New Year Fair and is preparing for a senior auction fundraiser on February 28 and upcoming student leadership elections. She highlighted a Social Justice Assembly focused on civic engagement, a partnership with the Beats, Rhymes, and Life mobile studio program, and Black History Month events organized by the Black Student Union. She also noted activities for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, including a Healthy Relationships Fair and student wellness presentation.

Roan Byrne Sarno (ASTI): Student Board Member Byrne Sarno reported on a recent movie night fundraiser and a beach cleanup at Crab Cove organized by activism and leadership students. They announced a dine-and-donate fundraiser at Jollibee, a Black History Month potluck after break, and an upcoming student walkout with other island high schools protesting ICE activity. Roan also shared that the College of Alameda has opened a prayer space available to ASTI students.

E. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1) Certificated Personnel Actions
- 2) Classified Personnel Actions
- 3) Approval of Facilities Bond Measure I and Measure B Contracts
- 4) Approval of Individual Service Agreements (ISAs) with Non-Public Schools and Public Agencies
- 5) Resolution No. 2025-2026.34 Criteria to Determine the Order of Layoff Among Certificated Employees with the Same First Date of Paid Service

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Member Williams

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Byrne-Sarno, Smith, and Woldesemayat

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Williams, and Hahnel

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Lym

MOTION APPROVED

At 7:11pm, Student Board Member Donovan Smith left the meeting to study for upcoming tests at school.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. 2025-2026 Mid-Year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Report
Kirsten Zazo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Eric Leung, Coordinator of Compliance, shared the Mid-Year LCAP Report with the Board.

The district presented its mid-year update on the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which is the district's main plan for improving student outcomes and deciding how state funds are spent. This update is required under a new state law (AB 114) and is part of an annual cycle where goals, actions, and budgets are reviewed and adjusted throughout the year.

The presentation explained how progress is measured:

- The California Dashboard shows district performance on state measures like academics, attendance, and graduation rates. However, this data reflects past performance and is not real-time.
- To make quicker adjustments, the district also uses local data and internal progress checks.

- For each LCAP action, staff review what was implemented, how money was spent, whether it worked, and what changes are needed moving forward.

A key focus area this year is support for homeless students, as the district was placed in “differentiated assistance” due to low performance in English, math, and chronic absenteeism for that group. This means the county is providing extra support and oversight. The district is also working with neighboring districts to better coordinate services for homeless students who move between school systems.

The update also included:

- A review of mid-year spending compared to approved budgets.
- Ongoing community input through advisory meetings and student participation.
- A noted improvement in graduation rates for Black/African American and Filipino students, including significant growth for African American students compared to prior years.

Overall, the report emphasized continuous monitoring, adjusting strategies based on data, and focusing resources on student groups with the greatest needs.

2. Presentation of Alameda Community Learning Center's (ACLC) Materials Revision Request and AUSD's Review Process and Criteria

There were two presentations given on this agenda item. The first, shared by Kirsten Zazo, AUSD’s Assistant Superintendent Educational Services, shared information on AUSD's Review Process and Criteria when a material revision request is submitted by a local Charter Organization.

The second presentation, explaining what the ACLC material revision request contained, was given by Annalisa Moore, Executive Director of CLCS Schools, Inc.

Ms. Zazo first explained AUSD’s legal process for reviewing a charter school material revision request. Under state Education Code, the district must hold a public hearing, review required documentation and evaluate whether the proposed change is likely to be successful. In this case, ACLC’s request is considered an operational change. After staff complete their analysis and issue findings, the Board will vote in March on whether to approve or deny the request.

ACLC’s Executive Director then presented the substance of the request, which is to change ACLC from a 6–12 school to a 9–12 high school beginning next school year. The rationale is primarily financial and structural: after successfully merging the two high school programs (NEA and ACLC), CLCS leadership determined that operating two small middle schools on one campus is not financially sustainable. The proposal would unify the middle school programs and allow ACLC to focus solely on its high school program.

The charter revisions include updated enrollment projections, admissions preferences for NEA 8th graders entering ACLC high school, revised legal language, and new three-year budget projections. Leadership stated the change would have minimal impact on daily operations, academics, or staffing, and reported support from staff and the teachers' union. If approved, next steps would include schedule adjustments, communications with families, and transition planning to fully implement the restructure.

G. ADJOURNMENT - Board President Ryan LaLonde adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Kerri Lonergan
Senior Executive Assistant
Alameda Unified School District