

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 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:

Student Discipline Matters (Student Suspension, Expulsion, or Readmittance) – Education Code § 48918; Government Code § 35146. One (1) Case:
 1) Student ID #103606

Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - (Govt. Code, §54957):
 1) Non-Reelection of Certain Certificated Probationary Employee(s)

3. Reconvene to Public Session – 6:34pm
The Board reconvened to Public Session in Council Chambers at 6:34pm

4. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance
Board President Ryan LaLonde called the meeting to order and 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, Board Trustee Carrie Hahnel and Board Trustee Gary K. Lym.

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, 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.

6. Closed Session Action Report:
In Closed Session the Board voted unanimously to approve the conditional readmission of student ID #103606.

Board President LaLonde reminded the audience that Student Board Members do not vote on Closed Session agenda items.

Motion to approve the conditional readmission of student ID #103606. under a stipulated suspended expulsion order and on the condition that the terms of the rehabilitation agreement remain in full force and effect, effective March 11, 2026.

MOTION: Member Williams

SECONDED: Member Little

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Williams, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

B. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA:

There were no modifications to the agenda.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the February 24, 2026 Board of Education meeting were considered for approval.

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2026 Board of Education meeting.

MOTION: Member Williams

SECONDED: Member Hahnel

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Byrne-Sarno, Smith, and Woldeamayyat

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Williams, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

L. Xin (AUSD student): Student LX spoke in support of the Climate Superfund Act, describing the local impacts of climate change including wildfires, school disruptions, and lost instructional time. Cited statewide data on lost learning time and urged the Board to adopt a resolution supporting the “Make Polluters Pay” initiative to demonstrate leadership and commitment to student futures.

L. Primus (AUSD student): Student LP requested Board support for the Climate Superfund Act, noting that proposed funding could provide significant resources to counties for climate-related school initiatives. Highlighted recent student activism and emphasized that Board action would signal responsiveness to student voices and environmental concerns.

Megan Murphy (AUSD parent, LGBTQ+ Roundtable): Ms. Murphy spoke about recent legal developments affecting transgender students and expressed concern about potential impacts on student safety and well-being. Cited national data regarding mental health risks for LGBTQ+ youth and urged the District to clearly communicate how it will ensure safe, supportive environments and protect vulnerable students.

2. Written Correspondence:

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

3. Report from Employee Organizations:

Alameda Education Association (AEA): Veronika Huntsberry, representing AEA: Ms. Huntsberry reported that AEA members ratified a new contract with approximately 96.9% approval. Highlighted key provisions including reduced class overcrowding, additional prep time for adult school and child development educators, improved evaluation systems, and salary and benefits enhancements. Also emphasized ongoing priorities such as reducing class sizes, limiting reliance on contracted services, and strengthening support for special education staff.

4. Report from PTA Council:

PTA Council (PTAC): PTA Council did not submit a report.

5. Board Members' Report:

Board Trustee Carrie Hahnel: Board Trustee Carrie Hahnel reported on participation in a California Suburban School Districts Association meeting, summarizing legislative priorities including increasing LCFF base funding, preserving COLA, ensuring flexibility of one-time funds, addressing special education cost pressures, and reducing administrative burdens. Board Trustee Hahnel also shared observations regarding potential increases to Proposition 98 funding and noted participation in local school community events.

Board President Ryan LaLonde: Board President Ryan LaLonde responded to student speakers by expressing interest in further engagement on climate-related initiatives and potential recognition aligned with Earth Day. Board President LaLonde also provided an update on legal guidance received regarding recent court actions affecting transgender student protections, emphasizing that District policies continue to prioritize safety and inclusion while remaining compliant with evolving legal requirements.

6. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi: Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi reported that the District is actively monitoring recent legal developments related to student protections and will continue aligning District policies accordingly. He also previewed upcoming presentations on early literacy tools and

emphasized the importance of ongoing fiscal analysis, noting both potential increases in school funding and the need to carefully monitor long-term financial impacts.

7. Student Board Member Reports:

Donovan Smith (Encinal Jr. & Sr. High): Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School Student Board member Donovan Smith highlighted recent and upcoming school activities including a Black History Month assembly featuring guest speakers and performances, a successful athletics fundraiser, and upcoming spirit week and performing arts events designed to increase student engagement.

Ruth Woldesemayat (Alameda High): Alameda High School student Board member Ruth Woldesemayat reported on student government elections, Women's History Month programming, upcoming senior activities, and campus-wide events aimed at increasing student participation and school community engagement.

Roan Byrne Sarno (ASTI): ASTI student Board member Roan Byrne Sarno reported on student-led civic engagement efforts including a multi-school walkout advocating for community protections, along with upcoming student activities and events. Student Board member Byrne Sarno reiterated student support for environmental initiatives and encouraged Board action on the Climate Superfund proposal.

E. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1) Certificated Personnel Actions
- 2) Classified Personnel Actions
- 3) Approval and Acceptance of Donations
- 4) Approval and Ratification of Contracts Executed Pursuant to Board Policy 3300
- 5) Approval and Ratification of Facilities Bond Measure I and Measure B Contracts (Standing Item)
- 6) Approval and Ratification of Individual Service Agreements (ISAs) with Non-Public Schools and Non-Public Agencies
- 7) Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers
- 8) Approval of Calendars: AUSD 2028-2029 School Year and Alameda Adult School 2026- 2027 School Year
- 9) Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request: Students from EJSHS's Marketing CTE Pathway to DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia
- 10) Resolution No. 2025-2026.39 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases 11. Resolution No. 2025-2026.40 Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Property

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Member Lym

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Byrne-Sarno, Smith, and Woldesemayat

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Williams, Hahnel and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Update on Early Reading Difficulty Screener (Amira)

Staff presented an update on the implementation of the Early Reading Difficulty Screener, including participation rates approaching full implementation and early indicators of student growth between fall and winter assessments. The presentation emphasized the importance of early identification of reading challenges, the use of data to inform targeted interventions, and ongoing refinement of supports to ensure student success

At the June 10, 2025 Board of Education Meeting, the Board approved the Early Reading Difficulties Screener Committee's recommendation to adopt and implement Amira as the Early Reading Difficulties Screener for AUDS.

On October 14, 2025 staff brought an initial update to the Board on the implementation of Amira.

- Provide an update on the implementation of the Early Reading Difficulties Screener, Amira
- Present the initial growth results from beginning and middle of the year administration
- Demonstrate how the collected data informs instructional implications and recommended next steps
- Identify areas of opportunity to guide future improvement

2. Approval of Second Interim Financial Report

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Shariq Khan presented the Second Interim Budget Report, outlining updated budget assumptions, current-year revisions, and multi-year projections. He explained that the report reflects financial activity through January 31 and incorporates the estimated fiscal impact of recently negotiated tentative agreements, which are scheduled for Board action later in March. In accordance with state requirements, the District must certify its ability to meet financial obligations over the next three years, and staff recommended a positive certification based on current assumptions.

Assistant Superintendent Khan reviewed key budget drivers, including softened Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) projections in the out years, flat near-term enrollment followed by projected declines, and the financial impact

of negotiated compensation increases. He detailed the structure of the tentative agreements, including ongoing salary increases, enhanced health benefit contributions, and one-time payments, emphasizing the District's continued commitment to employee compensation. He also explained that these commitments are supported in part by one-time funding sources, which are being strategically managed to maintain fiscal stability in the near term.

The presentation highlighted a growing structural imbalance between revenues and expenditures over the multi-year projection period, with expenditures projected to outpace revenues annually. While one-time funds are expected to bridge this gap in the short to medium term, Assistant Superintendent Khan noted that long-term sustainability will require ongoing monitoring and potential adjustments. He outlined possible strategies used by other districts to address similar challenges, including aligning staffing with enrollment trends, limiting ongoing expenditures, and evaluating programmatic priorities. He emphasized that the District will continue to refine projections as new information becomes available and will bring forward updated scenarios to support informed decision-making.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Board members discussed the Second Interim Budget Report, emphasizing the importance of continued transparency and long-term financial planning given the dynamic and uncertain nature of school district funding. It was noted that the projections reflect responsible planning rather than attempts to overstate risk, and that the Board has a fiduciary responsibility to anticipate potential challenges rather than react to them after the fact. Concern was expressed regarding limited public engagement on such a significant fiscal topic, particularly given the level of community interest during recent negotiations.

Board members highlighted several key areas of concern and focus:

- The anticipated expiration of Measure E, which represents a significant portion of District revenue and is not fully reflected in current projections, creating a substantial future fiscal “cliff.”
- Enrollment trends and volatility, with comparisons to other districts experiencing significant declines, underscoring the importance of conservative forecasting.
- The broader economic context, including reliance on high-income taxpayers for state revenues and potential risks associated with economic downturns or shifts in key industries.
- The need for ongoing community awareness and engagement, particularly as future funding measures or renewals may be necessary to sustain current programs and compensation levels.

Board members also discussed the importance of aligning financial decisions with long-term sustainability, noting that while recent agreements reflect strong support for employees, they also require careful monitoring of future impacts. Clarifying questions were asked regarding reserve usage and budget assumptions, including confirmation that no immediate policy changes were

required for approval of the Second Interim report. Additional clarifications were made to ensure accuracy in the presentation materials and to better understand the proportional impact of parcel tax revenues on overall District finances.

Overall, the discussion reinforced the need for continued vigilance, proactive planning, and clear communication with the community regarding both current fiscal conditions and future risks.

Motion to approve the Second Interim Financial Report.

MOTION: Member Lym

SECONDED: Member Williams

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Byrne-Sarno, Smith, and Woldesemayat

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Williams, Hahnel and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

3. AUSD's Findings and Recommendations: Alameda Community Learning Center's (ACLC) Materials Revision Request

Kirsten Zazo, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services, gave the Board information on ACLC Material Revision Request.

On January 27, 2026, Alameda Community Learning Center submitted a Request for Material Revision to the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD).

Community Learning Center Schools (CLCS) currently operates two charter schools; Alameda Community Learning Center (ACLC) and New Community Learning Center (Nea). CLCS intends to change the grade span at ACLC from 6-12 to 9-12 commencing with the 2026-27 school year.

On February 10, 2026, Alameda Community Learning Center staff made a presentation to the Board of Education in support of their Material Revision Request. The Board was also informed of AUSD's material revision review process and criteria.

Tonight, Assistant Superintendent Zazo provided the Board of Education with their findings and recommendations from the conducted review. Staff will present a resolution on March 24, 2026 for Board approval/denial of the Material Revision Request made by ACLC.

4. Update on School Safety

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Kirsten Zazo provided an update on school safety, outlining districtwide practices, recent updates, and next steps. She explained that each school site is required to develop a

Comprehensive School Safety Plan in accordance with Education Code, and that these plans include standardized procedures across all sites for responding to emergencies such as earthquakes, lockdowns, evacuations, and reunification. She noted that the plans are reviewed annually and will return to the Board for approval later in March.

Assistant Superintendent Zazo highlighted recent updates to safety planning, including the addition of protocols for notifying families, staff, and students in the event that immigration enforcement (ICE) activity occurs near or on campus. She also described the use of site-based incident command systems to clearly define staff roles during emergencies, as well as the district's implementation of the ALICE framework to support proactive decision-making during active threat situations. Regular drills exceeding state minimum requirements are conducted to ensure preparedness across all campuses.

The presentation also emphasized ongoing collaboration with local emergency partners, including the Alameda Police and Fire Departments. Recent efforts have included joint tabletop exercises and on-site drills to strengthen coordination and response. Looking ahead, the district plans to expand these collaborative exercises and refine communication systems, including the transition to a new notification platform, to ensure timely and effective communication during emergencies.

G. ADJOURNMENT - Board President Ryan LaLonde adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Kerri Lonergan
Senior Executive Assistant
Alameda Unified School District