

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Apr 28, 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 – 5:30pm:
Board Members met privately in Conference Room 361 in City Hall for Closed Session. Agenda items discussed in Closed Session included:

Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - Pursuant to Govt. Code, § 44954 subdivision (b): 1) Release of Temporary Certificated Employee(s)

Conference with Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Regarding Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to Govt. Code § 54956.9, subdivision (b) (1 case):
1) One case Alameda Unified School District as potential defendant

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

4. Call to Order - Public Session – 6:30pm
Board President Ryan LaLonde called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:30pm.

5. Pledge of Allegiance
Board President Ryan LaLonde led the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. 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.

7. Closed Session Action Report:

In Closed Session the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources to issue Notices of Release to temporary certificated employees, effective June 5, 2026.

B. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA:

Board President Ryan LaLonde asked the Board to move current General Business item E4: Strategic Plan Update: Special Education Inclusion Featuring Paden Elementary and Lincoln Middle School to the first item on General Business because students were involved in the presentation, and the Board tries very hard to prioritize student voice at Board meetings.

Motion to move item E4: Strategic Plan Update: Special Education Inclusion Featuring Paden Elementary and Lincoln Middle School to the second item on General Business.

MOTION: Member LaLonde

SECONDED: Member Williams

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

C. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Resolution 2025-2026.48 Supporting the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act and Affirming the Need for Climate Resilience Investment in Schools and Communities Education

The Board of Education is asked to recognize April as Earth Month and affirm its commitment to environmental sustainability and climate resilience. Climate change poses significant and growing risks to Alameda's students, particularly given the city's vulnerability to sea level rise, extreme heat, and poor air quality, with disproportionate impacts on historically underserved communities.

This resolution supports the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act as a means to secure funding for climate mitigation and adaptation, including investments in climate-resilient school infrastructure such as improved air quality, cooling systems, and greener school environments.

Approval of this item affirms the District's commitment to student health and environmental justice and advocates for state action to ensure sustainable, equitable funding to address climate impacts on schools and communities.

Public Comments:

Lani Primus – Student, ASTI; and member of Youth Power Climate Action:

Thanked the Board, student Board members, and Bay Farm PTSA for supporting the resolution. Explained that Youth Power Climate Action has been working to build support for the statewide Make Polluters Pay campaign in advance of anticipated state consideration of the legislation.

Jason Wu – Student, Alameda High School: Spoke in support of the Climate Superfund Act, arguing that fossil fuel companies should be held accountable for the impacts of their actions on communities and the environment. Stated that the legislation would help address climate change and restore balance by requiring polluters to contribute to climate-related costs.

Amelia Lam – Student, Alameda High School: Expressed support for the resolution, emphasizing that climate change affects both current and future generations. Urged consideration of long-term environmental impacts beyond corporate profits.

Nikita Balusu – Alameda High School Alumna; Student, University of California, Riverside: Thanked the Board for considering the resolution and voiced support for its adoption.

Longson (last name not provided) – Student, Encinal High School: Expressed support for the Make Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act and thanked Board members for their consideration of the resolution.

Harper Nelson – Student, Encinal High School: Spoke in support of the legislation, stating that worsening climate conditions will create significant challenges for younger generations. Urged the Board to take action in support of climate solutions before opportunities for meaningful action diminish.

Maximo T. – Student, Encinal High School: Appeared alongside Harper Nelson in support of the resolution. No separate comments were recorded.

Sodi Finlan – Student, Alameda High School: Thanked the Board for providing students an opportunity to speak on the issue. Noted that young people have experienced the effects of climate change throughout their lives and expressed hope that the resolution would help advance meaningful action.

Maurice Oliver – Student, Lincoln Middle School: Suggested addressing air pollution through expanded planting efforts and the conversion of abandoned buildings into greenhouses. Recommended plants such as azolla and snake plants for their environmental benefits and highlighted opportunities for community involvement.

Emma (last name not provided), Student, AUSD: Supported passage of the resolution, citing concerns about environmental pollution and its impact on wildlife and natural habitats.

Ann Walker – Retired Teacher (formerly at Love Elementary and Otis Elementary): Attended the meeting to support the students advocating for the resolution. Expressed strong support for the legislation and thanked the Board for listening to student voices.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-2026.48 Supporting the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act and Affirming the Need for Climate Resilience Investment in Schools and Communities Education.

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, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Lila, Jadon Pham, Max, Sean, Aiden Mercado, and Bodie – 8th Grade Students, Lincoln Middle School (Project RATES – Religious Advocacy Through Education): The students requested that existing school holidays be moved to coincide with Yom Kippur and Eid, arguing that students should not have to choose between religious observance and attending school. They stated that recognizing these holidays would promote inclusion and better reflect the diversity of the Alameda community.

Samantha Warren – Student, Lincoln Middle School; Alameda Attack Lacrosse: Samantha described positive experiences playing lacrosse and expressed a desire to continue participating in the sport at Alameda High School. She encouraged the district to establish a high school lacrosse program so students can continue playing after middle school.

Anna Bizarco –Student, Lincoln Middle School; Alameda Attack Lacrosse: Anna shared how lacrosse helped her build friendships, develop confidence, and maintain an active lifestyle after moving to Alameda. She urged the district to create a high school lacrosse program so current youth players can continue participating in the sport.

Max Kim – Student, Alameda High School: Max reported that student organizers had gathered interest from 136 current and future Alameda and

Encinal High School students who would like to play lacrosse. He presented this level of interest as evidence of strong community demand for a high school program.

Gwen Johnson –Student, Earhart Elementary School: Gwen explained that lacrosse helped her find a sport where she felt confident and challenged. She asked the district to establish high school lacrosse opportunities so students can continue playing as they get older.

Piper Tan – Student, Paden Elementary School: Piper spoke about her enjoyment of lacrosse and the opportunity it provides to play with friends. She requested consideration of lacrosse opportunities at both the middle and high school levels.

Andrew ("Andy") Kurtz –Student, Lincoln Middle School; Alameda Attack Lacrosse: Andrew emphasized the popularity of lacrosse and expressed disappointment that students currently have no pathway to continue the sport in Alameda high schools. He noted that some players are considering attending schools outside Alameda in order to participate in high school lacrosse programs.

Gabriel ("Gabe") Kurtz –Student; Alameda Attack Lacrosse: Gabriel described lacrosse as a sport with positions and opportunities for students of different abilities and interests. He argued that a high school program would allow students to continue participating in a sport they enjoy and could attract new players inspired by the sport's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics.

Benjamin ("Ben") Kurtz –Student; Alameda Attack Lacrosse: Ben shared his enthusiasm for lacrosse and highlighted the teamwork and enjoyment it provides. He asked the district to establish a high school team so students can continue playing as they grow older.

Erin Kurtz – Parent, Coach, Alameda Attack Lacrosse: Erin noted that participation in Alameda lacrosse has grown significantly and that neighboring districts already offer high school programs. She emphasized that Alameda students currently lose the opportunity to continue playing after eighth grade and urged the district to create a pathway for student-athletes to remain involved in the sport.

Erin Parker – Parent, Love Elementary School: Speaking alongside her daughters Macy, Vera, and Jules, Erin described her family's long connection to lacrosse and compared Alameda's current situation to her own experience advocating for the sport as a student. She stated that adding lacrosse would expand athletic opportunities, increase accessibility, and strengthen community connections for students.

Macy Parker –Student, Love Elementary School; Alameda Lacrosse: Macy introduced herself as a lacrosse player and participated in support of establishing future lacrosse opportunities in Alameda schools.

Vera Parker –Student, Love Elementary School; Alameda Lacrosse: Vera introduced herself as a current youth lacrosse player and joined her family in support of expanding lacrosse opportunities in the district.

Jules Parker – Student, Love Elementary School; Alameda Lacrosse: Jules introduced herself as a youth lacrosse participant and joined the family’s request for future school-based lacrosse programs.

Lisa Siskin – AUSD Parent and Pediatrician: Lisa cited research linking participation in team sports to improved mental health, school engagement, and academic performance. She argued that adding lacrosse would expand athletic opportunities for students who may not make existing teams and would help address equity and access concerns in school athletics.

Rosie Rigg –Student, Bay Farm School: Rosie expressed a desire to continue playing lacrosse through high school and voiced support for the creation of a girls’ lacrosse team at Alameda High School. She stated that without a school program, future students may lose the opportunity to continue participating in the sport.

Jesse Rigg – Assistant Coach, Alameda Lacrosse Club: Jesse highlighted the popularity and growth of lacrosse in Alameda while noting that the absence of a varsity program limits opportunities for local athletes. Drawing on his own experience as a high school player, he described the positive impact athletics can have on youth development and urged the district to establish a high school program.

Debbie Ryan – President, Alameda Lacrosse; AUSD Parent and PTA Council Member: Debbie thanked the Board for its support and outlined efforts already underway to build a sustainable high school lacrosse program, including school demonstrations, grant funding, equipment purchases, and collaboration with school leaders. She stated that the primary remaining challenges are field availability and coach funding and expressed confidence that a Spring 2027 launch is achievable with continued district partnership and support.

3. Written Correspondence:

The Board received approximately 3 emails related to the first item on the Communications agenda – Resolution 2025-2026.48 Supporting the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act and Affirming the Need for Climate Resilience Investment in Schools and Communities.

4. Report from Employee Organizations:

Alameda Education Association (AEA): Judy Ganley, President of AEA, reported that AEA representatives serving on the District calendar committee

intend to bring forward Lincoln Middle School students' request to recognize Yom Kippur and Eid as school holidays when the committee begins developing the 2029–30 school calendar. She expressed support for continuing discussions about making the school calendar more inclusive of the community's religious diversity.

Judith also provided updates on several labor-related matters, noting that negotiations over Teachers on Special Assignment (TSA) job descriptions have been completed and that hiring is underway. She urged the District to rescind layoff notices once affected employees are rehired and encouraged consideration of options to bridge health care coverage gaps for temporary employees between assignments. Additionally, she highlighted the successful statewide signature campaign to place an extension of Proposition 55 funding on the November 2026 ballot, noting the potential fiscal impact on AUSD if the measure is not renewed. She concluded by recognizing AEA Organizing Chair Lindsey Schlax for her leadership in member engagement and contributions to the recently negotiated three-year labor agreement.

5. Report from PTA Council:

PTA Council (PTAC): Katie Honegger, President of PTA Council thanked AUSD staff member Shamar Edwards for presenting to the Alameda PTA Council and sharing information about the department's work and opportunities for collaboration with PTA organizations. She highlighted the value of ongoing partnerships between PTAs and the District in supporting students and families.

Katie also announced that the Alameda PTA Council is recruiting executive board members for the upcoming year, including President, Vice President of Advocacy, Equity and Inclusion, and Parliamentarian. She emphasized the importance of filling the President position to ensure the PTA Council can continue operating and encouraged parents, educators, and community members to consider serving in leadership roles.

6. Board Members' Report:

Board Vice President Heather Little: Board Vice President Little thanked the students and families who spoke in support of adding lacrosse to Alameda high schools, emphasizing that community advocacy and public engagement are important parts of the decision-making process. She commended supporters for the progress already made in building interest and support for the program.

Board Vice President Little noted that the remaining challenges—field availability and funding—are significant and require balancing competing priorities and limited resources. While acknowledging that these obstacles are not insurmountable, she explained that many related decisions occur at the local school and community level and encouraged continued collaboration to advance the effort. She also welcomed the incoming Alameda High School principal and expressed hope that both Alameda High and Encinal High may eventually be able to offer lacrosse programs.

Board Clerk Jennifer Williams: Board Clerk Williams thanked the students and families who attended the meeting and advocated for issues important to

them. She noted that student engagement on matters affecting the health and well-being of current and future generations serves as an important reminder of the Board's responsibility to support students and the broader community.

Board Clerk Williams expressed support for expanding athletic opportunities for students and agreed that the growing influence of club sports raises equity concerns. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that all students have access to healthy extracurricular outlets and commended advocates for their efforts to create additional opportunities for Alameda students.

Board Member Carrie Hahnel: Board Member Hahnel thanked the students and families who spoke in support of lacrosse and highlighted the value of athletics in developing confidence, commitment, resilience, teamwork, and other important life skills. She noted that the strong turnout demonstrated a connected and dedicated community working together toward a common goal, which she viewed as a positive reflection of the program and its supporters.

Board Member Hahnel acknowledged the District's current budget challenges but noted that student interest and enrollment are important considerations when evaluating new opportunities. She expressed appreciation for the community's advocacy and emphasized the importance of ensuring that Encinal High School remains part of the conversation as efforts to establish high school lacrosse programs move forward.

Board Member Gary K. Lym: Board Member Lym emphasized the importance of student advocacy and noted that hearing directly from students helps the Board better understand the priorities and needs of the community. He expressed appreciation for the students and families who shared their perspectives during the meeting.

Board Member Lym reflected on the positive impact that athletics can have on young people, including fostering teamwork, lasting friendships, and supporting mental wellness. He also noted that the meeting provided the incoming school administrator with an opportunity to hear community input firsthand and better understand the interest in expanding athletic opportunities.

Board President Ryan LaLonde: Board President LaLonde highlighted the importance of student voice in Board decision-making, noting that the evening's comments on topics ranging from the school calendar and environmental issues to athletics demonstrated why student perspectives must remain central to the District's work. He thanked students, families, and community members for their advocacy and commended students for engaging thoughtfully with established processes to advance their concerns and ideas.

Board President LaLonde also shared observations from a recent district leadership meeting focused on inclusive instructional practices. He praised teachers, site administrators, intervention leaders, and Teachers on Special Assignment for their work to create more inclusive learning environments, particularly for students requiring additional support. He noted the enthusiasm and collaboration demonstrated by staff and expressed appreciation for their commitment to professional learning and implementing practices that will strengthen inclusion and student success across the District.

7. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi: Superintendent Scuderi thanked the students and families who attended the meeting and advocated on issues important to them. He highlighted several recognitions included on the consent calendar, including observances for School Principals Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, School Nurses Day, Speech Pathologist Day, Classified Employee Appreciation Week, and an upcoming proclamation recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month.

Superintendent Scuderi also previewed the evening's special education presentation, noting it would function as an interactive workshop with opportunities for dialogue between Board members and staff. He encouraged community members to remain for the District's budget presentation, which would address key fiscal topics affecting AUSD. He concluded by welcoming and introducing Alex Harp, the incoming principal of Alameda High School, who will begin serving in the role in August.

New principal of Alameda High School Alex Harp introduced himself to the audience and community.

8. Student Board Member Reports:

Donovan Smith (Encinal Jr. & Sr. High): Student Board Member Smith reported that Encinal students are preparing for upcoming AP exams and state testing, while recognizing the achievement of the school's 18-member DECA team, which qualified for international competition in Atlanta. He also highlighted recent staff appreciation efforts honoring paraprofessionals, assistant principals, Principal Snyder, and teachers during upcoming appreciation celebrations.

Student Board Member Smith shared several student activities and accomplishments, including collaboration between Encinal and Alameda High digital film programs on the annual film festival, a visit by radio students to iHeartRadio studios, and recognition of Ms. Werner as Teacher of the Year. He also highlighted the senior banquet, the middle school track meet held on Encinal's new athletic field, and the annual Ride for a Reason fundraiser supporting public education.

Ruth Woldesemayat (Alameda High): Student Board Member Woldesemayat welcomed incoming Alameda High School Principal Alex Harp and reported that student leadership is organizing study halls to support students as they prepare for upcoming AP examinations. She also highlighted the school's upcoming Senior Talent Show and a Stress Awareness Fair featuring activities designed to promote student wellness and stress relief.

Student Board Member Woldesemayat shared several recent and upcoming student activities, including the annual Club Food Fair fundraiser, the Alameda High School Pageant, and the Junior-Senior Prom at San Francisco City Hall. She noted that these events provide

opportunities for student engagement, community building, and school spirit.

Roan Byrne Sarno (ASTI): Student Board Member Byrne-Sarno reported on the successful completion of ASTI's Spirit Week, describing it as one of the most competitive in recent school history. He congratulated the senior class on securing the overall victory and thanked student organizers and participants for their enthusiasm and involvement.

Student Board Member Byrne-Sarno also shared information about upcoming student activities, including prom, a promposal contest, the annual talent show, and ASB elections. He encouraged students to meet application and registration deadlines in order to participate in these events and student leadership opportunities.

D. 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
- 6) Approval and Ratification of Individual Service Agreements (ISAs) with Non-Public Schools and Non-Public Agencies
- ~~7) Approval of 2026-2027 CIF Application for Multi-School Membership Status~~
- 8) Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers
- 9) Approval of Contract Award per Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 026-075-04 District-Wide Copiers
- 10) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Colleges and Universities for Student Teacher, School Psychologist, Counselor, and Interns
- 11) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) for Teacher Induction Program
- 12) Approval of New Job Description: District Athletic Director
- 13) Approval of New Job Description: Lead Instruction/Intervention Specialist
- 14) Approval of Purchase of Fleet Vehicles Through State of California DGS Contract
- 15) Approval of Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints
- 16) Approval of Revised Job Description: Low Voltage Technician
- 17) Proclamation: Employee Appreciation Month - May
- 18) Proclamation: Jewish American Heritage Month - May
- 19) Resolution No. 2025-2026.46 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases
- 20) Resolution No. 2025-2026.47 Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Property

- 21) Resolution 2025-2026.49 Regarding Non-Reemployment of Certificated Employees
- 22) Resolution 2025-2026.50 Notifying Certain Classified Employees of the Decision to Not
- 23) Reemploy or to Reduce Their Hours for the 2026-2027 School Year

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar with the exception of item D7: Approval of 2026-2027 CIF Application for Multi-School Membership Status due to the use of an outdated form.

MOTION: Member Hahnel

SECONDED: Member Little

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

Student Board Members Donovan Smith and Ruth Woldesemayat left the meeting at 7:44pm to study for AP Tests.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

Prior to the start of General Business item number one, Board Vice President Heather Little recused herself due to a work conflict. Vice President Little will return to the meeting after the conclusion of General Business item number one.

1. Resolution 2025-2026.51 Supporting Sustainable Funding for School-Based Health Centers in Alameda and Alameda County

The Board of Education is asked to affirm its support for school-based health centers as essential to student wellness and academic success. These centers provide comprehensive physical health, mental health, and preventive services, serving hundreds of students annually and reaching thousands more through outreach and education. Demand for services continues to grow, reflecting increasing student needs.

School-based health centers operate through critical partnerships and currently receive significant but time-limited District funding that is set to expire, while broader state funding changes under Proposition 1 may further reduce support for prevention and early-intervention services.

Approval of this resolution affirms the District’s commitment to these services, recognizes key partners, and advocates for sustainable county, state, and federal funding to ensure continued access to school-based health and mental health supports for students.

Public Comments:

Katherine Schwartz, Executive Director, Alameda Family Services: Katherine thanked the Board for bringing forward a resolution supporting the Alameda High School-Based Health Center and emphasized the critical role the center plays in providing accessible health and mental health services to students. She noted that school-based health centers reduce barriers to care, support students who lack consistent access to medical services, provide preventative and reproductive health care, address mental health needs, and contribute to improved attendance and academic outcomes.

Katherine explained that the future of the Alameda High School-Based Health Center is uncertain following the loss of its medical services partner. She reported that Alameda Family Services is seeking funding to establish a partnership with Roots Community Health Center and has been working with local and state officials to secure support. She urged continued community awareness and investment to ensure the long-term sustainability of health services for Alameda students.

Board President LaLonde thanked Board Clerk Jennifer Williams for initiating the effort to bring forward the resolution supporting the Alameda High School-Based Health Center and emphasized the importance of advocating strongly for continued funding and services. He noted that while some traditional funding sources have shifted priorities, county-level resources may still be available and urged continued collaboration among local agencies to preserve student access to health care services.

Student Board Member Roan Byrne-Sarno expressed support for the resolution, noting that many ASTI students rely on the Alameda High School-Based Health Center for services. He emphasized that access to health and wellness resources is an essential support for students and an important component of student success.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-2026.51 Supporting Sustainable Funding for School-Based Health Centers in Alameda and Alameda County.

MOTION: Member Williams

SECONDED: Student Member Byrne Sarno

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Member Byrne-Sarno

NOES:

ABSENT: Members Smith and Woldeamay

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Williams, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT: Member Little

MOTION APPROVED

Vice President Little returned to the meeting at the conclusion of this agenda item.

2. 2025-26 Three-Year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Goal 3 Featuring Paden Elementary and Lincoln Middle School

The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Board of Education with an update on inclusive special education practices featuring Paden Elementary School and Lincoln Middle School, highlighting how inclusion is being implemented as a core general education practice to support students with disabilities academically, socially, and physically. The presentation shares implementation strategies, staffing models, student outcomes, and firsthand perspectives from educators and students.

Inclusion in AUSD is grounded in the belief that inclusion is not a separate initiative, but rather high-quality general education that welcomes and supports all learners. Both schools that will be featured have focused on strengthening collaboration between general education and special education staff, intentionally aligning staffing, instructional practices, and schoolwide culture to ensure students with disabilities meaningfully participate alongside their peers whenever possible.

District staff presented an update on AUSD's inclusion efforts, emphasizing that inclusion is not a separate initiative but a core component of effective general education. Presenters included Jorge Wahner, Senior Director of Special Education; Julie Venuto, Secondary Special Education Coordinator; Julia Story, Elementary Special Education Coordinator; Tri Nguyen, Principal of Paden Elementary School; and Allison Leschefsky, Adaptive Physical Education Teacher. The presentation focused on expanding opportunities for students with disabilities to participate meaningfully in academic, social, and physical activities alongside their peers.

Paden Elementary School Inclusion Model

Tri Nguyen and Julia Story highlighted Paden Elementary's efforts to strengthen inclusive practices through increased staffing, collaboration among general and special education staff, and targeted academic supports. They reported that additional specialist staffing has increased students' access to general education settings and supported measurable growth in mathematics achievement for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Presenters emphasized a shared responsibility model in which all educators support all students and described inclusion as a schoolwide culture rather than a separate program.

Lincoln Middle School Inclusive Physical Education Program

Students Barnaby, Erin, and Rory shared personal experiences participating in Lincoln Middle School's Inclusive Physical Education program. The students described developing friendships with peers with disabilities, learning patience, empathy, communication skills, and disability awareness, and observing increased interactions between general education and special education students beyond the classroom. They emphasized that the program has helped create a greater sense of belonging and understanding among students throughout the school community.

Adaptive PE and Expansion of Inclusive Opportunities

Allison Leschefskey, Adaptive Physical Education Teacher, described how the Inclusive PE program combines physical activity with disability awareness, leadership development, and relationship building through the Changing Perspectives curriculum. She reported that the program promotes confidence, acceptance, teamwork, and meaningful participation for students of all abilities. District staff noted that the program's success has led to plans to expand Inclusive PE at Lincoln and Wood Middle Schools and to explore additional inclusive opportunities at Alameda High School, including adaptive weightlifting and expanded elective offerings.

Board Discussion and Future Direction

Board members praised the progress of the District's inclusion efforts and discussed the importance of reducing stigma, increasing time spent in general education classrooms, supporting staff collaboration, and maintaining continuity in special education staffing. Staff outlined ongoing efforts to expand co-teaching, inclusive instructional practices, diploma pathways, and access to extracurricular and elective opportunities for students with moderate to extensive support needs. The presentation concluded with a shared commitment to fostering belonging, accessibility, and academic success for all students across AUSD schools.

Public Comments:

Judith Ganley – President, Alameda Education Association (AEA): Judith praised the inclusion efforts highlighted at Paden Elementary, Lincoln Middle School, Maya Lin School, and Ruby Bridges Elementary School, while noting that implementation has produced both successes and challenges. She emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between AEA and AUSD to address issues such as staffing stability, workload, collaboration, and instructional support, and expressed the union's commitment to helping strengthen inclusive practices across all schools.

Carolyn Broussard – Co-Founder, Alameda Mosaic Educational Advisory Committee; Chair, North Region SELPA Community Advisory Committee: Carolyn spoke in support of Lincoln Middle School's Inclusive PE program, sharing that the program significantly increased her son Cameron's confidence, sense of belonging, and friendships with peers. She credited the program's success to the intentional efforts of staff and student peer buddies and encouraged the District to expand similar opportunities while preserving the voluntary nature of student participation.

Halley Duarte – Special Education Teacher, Lincoln Middle School: Hallie expressed pride in helping develop the Inclusive PE program and praised its positive impact on students. She also raised concerns regarding school-site leadership practices, student safety procedures, communication, staff support, and workload expectations, urging the District to strengthen systems and ensure that leadership practices align with professional standards and District expectations.

3. Presentation from Alameda Education Foundation and Approval of "Alameda Education Foundation Appreciation Day" Proclamation

The Board of Education is honored to recognize the Alameda Education Foundation (AEF) for its vital partnership and contributions to Alameda Unified School District. In 2024–2025, AEF provided over \$117,000 in direct support, including teacher mini-grants, student supplies, technology access, and mental health resources, and distributed approximately 1,000 backpacks to students in need.

AEF also invested over \$667,000 in enrichment programming, serving thousands of students through after-school classes, summer camps, middle school sports, and arts initiatives that promote student engagement and well-being.

Approval of this item will recognize AEF’s impact and proclaim the fourth Tuesday of April as “Alameda Education Foundation Appreciation Day.”

Danielle London, Board President of AEF, Julia Owens, Executive Director, and Lilly Gates, Manager of AEF Sports Program presented to the Board.

Motion to approve Alameda Education Foundation Appreciation Day Proclamation.

MOTION: Member Lym

SECONDED: Member Little

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Member Byrne-Sarno

NOES:

ABSENT: Members Smith and Woldesemayat

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

4. 2026-2027 Budget Adoption Process - Budget Assumptions, Staffing, and Site Discretionary Funds

Shariq Khan, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services shared the Staffing and Site Discretionary Funds budget with the Board. Tonight’s presentation is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of key components in the proposed 2026–2027 budget, including:

- Budget assumptions used to estimate revenue
- School Site Staffing, and
- Discretionary funding for school sites

Budget assumptions help the district estimate how much funding will be available for the next school year. Some of these assumptions are based on projections from the State, such as the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and pension contribution rates. Others, like enrollment and average daily attendance, are forecasted by the district based on local data.

The presentation will also explain how staffing is allocated to each school site and how discretionary funds, which schools can use to support site-specific priorities, are distributed. This ensures that all schools are resourced based on consistent, districtwide standards.

A public hearing on the full 2026–2027 budget will take place at the Board of Education meeting on June 9, 2026, and the Board presented the budget for adoption at its June 23, 2026 meeting.

Board members reviewed the District’s preliminary 2026–27 budget assumptions, staffing projections, site allocations, and long-term financial outlook. Staff outlined assumptions of relatively stable enrollment in the coming year followed by gradual declines, modest state cost-of-living increases, stable retirement contribution rates, and increased District contributions toward employee health benefits. Board members discussed how these assumptions affect revenue projections, staffing decisions, and the District’s ability to maintain current programs and services.

Board members examined staffing allocations across schools, including enrollment-based staffing ratios, site administration, and discretionary funding. Discussion included how additional resources are directed to schools with higher concentrations of students qualifying for supplemental services, as well as the District’s efforts to maintain equitable funding and support across campuses. Questions were also raised about future enrollment trends, transitional kindergarten planning, attendance rates, and how those factors influence both staffing and revenue.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on priorities that are not currently funded in the budget. Staff identified several needs that remain unfunded, including behavioral support services, literacy and reading intervention positions, instructional leadership supports, school library services, wellness staffing, and other student support programs. Board members discussed the challenge of balancing these needs against limited resources and the absence of identified ongoing funding sources.

Board members also reviewed the expiration of one-time funding sources that have supported programs and positions created during and after the pandemic. Discussion centered on how the District will address the loss of temporary funding, the need to evaluate program effectiveness and priorities, and the possibility that future reductions or program changes may be necessary if additional state funding does not materialize. Members emphasized the importance of understanding not only which programs are funded by one-time dollars, but also which programs best align with the District’s priorities and student needs.

Throughout the discussion, board members emphasized the importance of transparency, long-range planning, and beginning conversations early about potential budget adjustments rather than waiting until reductions become unavoidable. Members expressed support for continuing detailed public budget

presentations, engaging stakeholders in future discussions, and carefully evaluating options to ensure resources remain focused on supporting students and classrooms while maintaining the District's long-term fiscal stability.

F. ADJOURNMENT - Board President Ryan LaLonde adjourned the meeting at 10:08pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Kerri Lonergan
Senior Executive Assistant
Alameda Unified School District