

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

September 8, 2026

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. Call to Order - Closed Session – 6:00pm:
Board President Ryan LaLonde called the meeting to order in Council Chambers in Alameda City Hall.
2. Public Comment on Closed Session Topics:
There were no public comments on Closed Session topics.
3. Recess to Closed Session – 6:00pm:
Board Members met privately in Conference Room 391 in City Hall for Closed Session. Agenda items discussed in Closed Session included:

Student Discipline Matters (Student Suspension, Expulsion, or Readmittance) – Education Code § 48918, 35146. (1 case): 1. Case #26-02
4. Reconvene to Public Session – 6:30pm:
The Board reconvened to Public Session in Council Chambers at 6:30pm.
5. Call to Order - Public Session – 6:30pm:
Board President Ryan LaLonde reconvened the meeting in Council Chambers at 6:30pm.
6. Pledge of Allegiance
Student Board Members Ethan Li, Penny Locke, and Maya Schrager led the Pledge of Allegiance.
7. Roll Call/Introduction of Board Members and Staff:
Board of Education Members present: Board President Ryan LaLonde, Board Vice President Heather Little, Board Member Carrie Hahnel, and Board Member Gary Lym. Student Board Members Ethan Li, Penny Locke, and Maya Schrager were present.
8. Closed Session Action Report:
In Closed Session, the Board was presented with information to consider a petition for readmission from expulsion for Student Case #26-02, effective September 9, 2026. The

Board reviewed the recommendation and supporting documentation pursuant to Education Code § 35146 and District policy. Student Board members do not participate in Closed Session matters.

Motion to approve the petition for readmission for Student Case 26-02 effective September 9, 2026, pursuant to Education Code § 35146.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Member Hahnel

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

B. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA

No modifications to the agenda were made.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from the August 25, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting:
The Board considered the minutes from the August 25, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion to approve the Minutes from August 25, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: Student Member Li

SECONDED: Member Hahnel

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Li, Locke, and Schrager

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:
Maya Schrager, AUSD student: spoke in her personal capacity as a Jewish student in AUSD and not in her elected capacity as the Student Board Member representing Alameda High School. She spoke regarding the scheduling of Island Bowl on Friday, September 11, which coincides with Rosh Hashanah. She asked the Board and Superintendent to consider

religious holidays when scheduling future events and requested a commitment to avoid conflicts that place students in the position of choosing between participating in extracurricular activities and observing their faith.

2. Written Correspondence:

The Board did not receive any written correspondence related to the September 8, 2026 agenda.

3. Report from Employee Organizations:

Alameda Education Association (AEA): Judy Ganley, President of AEA, reported that three employees at Mylan Elementary who recently returned from pregnancy leave and were taking lactation breaks were having portions of their pay docked when their breaks could not be coordinated exactly with supervisory responsibilities. Ms. Ganley referenced Board policy revised in October 2025 and expressed her intent to work toward a resolution for the affected employees.

No reports were provided by CSEA Chapter 27 or CSEA Chapter 860.

4. PTA Council Report:

No report was provided by the PTA Council.

5. Board Members' Report:

Board Vice President Heather Little acknowledged the concerns raised regarding religious-calendar conflicts and lactation accommodations and said the Board should take responsibility for reviewing calendars and addressing these issues. She also shared her personal experience returning to work while breastfeeding and emphasized the importance of dignity and privacy for employees.

Board Member Carrie Hahnel thanked Ms. Schrager and Ms. Ganley for their comments, expressed support for inclusive practices and follow-up regarding the concerns raised, and suggested that the new athletic director could review calendars for future sports scheduling.

Board Member Gary Lym thanked Ms. Schrager and Ms. Ganley and highlighted Resolution No. 2026-2027.11 regarding Proposition 3 on the Consent Calendar. He also encouraged student advocacy regarding recognition of religious holidays and noted that the District has the ability to recognize holidays beyond those identified in the Education Code.

Board President Ryan LaLonde acknowledged the concerns raised regarding lactation accommodations and religious-calendar scheduling and expressed support for follow-up.

6. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi stated that the District would look into the concern regarding lactation accommodations and emphasized that the District does not intend to deny accommodations required under state and federal law. He also discussed the factors involved in interscholastic athletic scheduling and said the District would examine calendar conflicts more closely. Superintendent Scuderi reported that AUSD sold \$162 million in

Measure B bonds during the summer, with investor orders totaling approximately \$742 million, allowing the District to refinance the bonds at an interest rate of 4.1% and save taxpayers approximately \$12.1 million over the life of the bonds.

7. Student Board Members' Report:

Student Board Member Ethan Li reported on ASTI's food bank donation drive, the continuation of the RISE culture and climate program, an integrity focus for the month, club applications and interviews, and upcoming School Site Council and PTSA meetings.

Student Board Member Penny Locke reported on Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School's AP sign-ups, the work of Assistant Principal Kitchens, Club Week and approximately 50 clubs, fall sports and the upcoming Island Bowl, homecoming preparations, and positive feedback regarding the early dismissal process for Junior Jets.

Student Board Member Maya Schrage reported on Alameda High School's recent Club Fair, upcoming Spirit Week and homecoming rally, senior superlative voting, Suicide Awareness Spirit Day, and float building for the homecoming game.

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
6. Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers
7. Approval of Individual Service Agreements (ISAs) with Non-Public Schools and Non-Public Agencies
8. Proclamation: Hispanic Heritage Month - September 15 - October 15, 2026
9. Resolution No. 2026-2027.09 Annual Signature Authorization for Continued Funding Application for California Department of Education Contracts for FY 2027-2028
10. Resolution No. 2026-2027.10 Annual Signature Authorization for Continued and Expansion Funding Application for California Department of Social Services Child Care and Development Services Contracts for FY 2027-2028
11. Resolution No. 2026-2027.10 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases
12. Resolution No. 2026-2027.11 In Support of Proposition 3, the California Children's Education and Healthcare Protection Act of 2026

Public Comments:

No public comments were received on Consent Calendar items.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Member Hahnel

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Li, Locke, and Schrager

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Artificial Intelligence in AUSD: Considering Frameworks for Responsible Use in Our Schools:

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Kirsten Zazo, Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi, and Director of Secondary Education Dr. Vernon Walton presented an update on AUSD's approach to artificial intelligence. Staff described the rapid development of AI products, the limited and early research base, and the need to consider child safety, data privacy, bias, responsible design, pedagogical effectiveness, and vendor sustainability. Staff reported that an AI committee has been meeting since January to develop guidance and guardrails for students and staff, gather baseline information through student and staff surveys, engage families, and develop a framework for policy and instructional guidance. The student survey received more than 594 responses, primarily from secondary students; 56% reported never using AI, while 39% reported occasional use, 3% weekly use, and 2% daily use. Staff also described professional learning through the Krause Center for Innovation, including an AI capstone completed by 10 AUSD staff members and training provided to 29 teachers. The District plans to continue piloting and vetting tools, building staff capacity, refining the AI policy and instructional guidance, and developing a sustainable process for reviewing AI tools.

Public Comments:

Elizabeth Fodica, AUSD parent: Ms. Fodica thanked the District for bringing the discussion to the community and requested parent participation, including consideration of a parent advisory group. She also asked for transparency about AI tools used by age group and whether the District had considered a moratorium on student-facing generative AI for younger students.

Katherine Howell, AUSD parent: Ms. Howell expressed concern about introducing insufficiently studied technology before students develop foundational skills in reading, handwriting, problem solving, conversation, and interaction with teachers and peers. She urged the District to be cautious about using AI in ways that could replace rather than support learning.

Alex Barrett, AUSD parent: Mr. Barrett described an experience in which a fourth-grade student encountered an AI-generated summary during a Google search and questioned

how the District could prevent students from encountering AI through commonly used technology. He expressed support for the District's work on the issue.

Adrian Tillman, AUSD parent: Mr. Tillman described an experience involving his third-grade student's use of an AI-generated summary while researching the Arctic wolf. He expressed concern about students using online summaries before learning how to evaluate sources and emphasized the importance of developing focus and learning from text.

Judy Ganley, President of AEA: Ms. Ganley referenced Article 29.10.02 and the Technology Oversight Committee and expressed concern that the AI committee could take on a larger technology-oversight role without the same bargaining-unit representation. She asked how employee contractual rights would be addressed and requested a seat at the table.

Mike McMahon, Former Board Member, Community Member: Mr. McMahon raised questions about data security, parental and community engagement, and the design of the student survey. He encouraged the District to focus on learning outcomes and to involve parents earlier in the process.

Lyndsey Schlax, Lincoln Middle School teacher: Ms. Schlax discussed teacher and parent concerns regarding AI being incorporated into Google products and classrooms. She emphasized the need for guardrails, data and privacy protections, and a focus on student thinking and learning rather than simply completing assignments.

Susan Marks, AUSD parent and teacher: Ms. Marks thanked the District for its thoughtful and cautious approach and requested that elementary families be included in future surveys. She distinguished teaching AI literacy from requiring students to use generative AI for learning and expressed concern about cognitive offloading and the use of Gemini in schoolwork.

2. Strategic Planning: Needs, Opportunities, and Trade-offs Focusing on Island High School:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi presented an initial strategic planning discussion regarding the continuation program at Island High School. He emphasized that the discussion was intended to examine program data, dilemmas, and opportunities rather than assign blame to current staff or administrators. Enrollment at Island has declined to approximately 45 students, while attendance has also remained low. Staff noted that current staffing and schedules were designed for a larger student population and that the program's per-pupil cost is higher than at other District schools.

The Board and staff discussed the need to balance fiscal considerations with the level of support appropriate for students served by a continuation program. Staff described possible areas for further examination, including schedules, staffing, student support services, internships and work experience, and potential co-location of some District services at Island. Staff also discussed the reasons students attend Island, including credit

deficiency and the opportunity for accelerated credit recovery, and noted that many students are now able to remain at comprehensive high schools and graduate on time.

Public Comments:

Judy Ganley, President of AEA: Ms. Ganley referenced Article 24 regarding restructuring and asked for clarification about whether proposed schedule changes discussed for November applied to the 2026-27 or 2027-28 school year. Staff clarified that the reference was to the 2027-28 school year.

Board members discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with the continuation program, the role of individualized student support, the potential co-location of District services, and the possibility of co-locating the program with a comprehensive high school. Superintendent Scuderi stated that co-location models have been used in other districts but that additional research would be needed. Board members emphasized the importance of improving student outcomes while recognizing the needs of students and staff at Island. Staff outlined goals for the coming months, including reconnecting with Island staff and administrators, reviewing attendance trends, developing draft schedules and staffing models, and returning to the Board with potential modifications later in the year.

3. Presentation and Approval of 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report:

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Shariq Khan presented the 2025-2026 unaudited actuals financial report. The report summarized actual financial activity for the 2025-2026 school year, including unrestricted and restricted general fund revenues and expenditures. Unrestricted revenue increased by approximately \$4.7 million and restricted revenue increased by approximately \$3.4 million. Overall expenditures and contributions increased by approximately \$10 million, with approximately 86% spent on salaries and benefits. Special education expenditures increased by approximately \$10 million over four years, including a 25% increase from 2024-25 to 2025-26. The District began the year with approximately \$33.3 million in general fund balance and ended with approximately \$26.8 million, or \$23.6 million after assignments. Mr. Khan also previewed the first interim budget, including additional ongoing revenue associated with a 1.44% COLA and other anticipated changes.

No public comments were received. Board members discussed special education funding advocacy, local revenue from parcel taxes, enrollment trends, one-time funds, and the District's approach to budget transparency.

Motion to approve the Unaudited Actuals Report.

MOTION: Member Lym

SECONDED: Member Hahnel

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Li, Locke, and Schrager

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

4. Approval of Resolution No. 2026-2027.11 Adoption of the 2025-2026 Gann Limit:
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Shariq Khan presented the annual Gann Limit information. He explained that the limit is based on Proposition 4 and establishes a maximum appropriations limit for state and local government jurisdictions, with the annual calculation adjusted for growth and inflation. No public comments were received.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-2027.11 Adoption of the 2025-2026 Gann Limit.

MOTION: Member Hahnel

SECONDED: Member Little

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Li, Locke, and Schrager

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

5. Consideration and Approval of Amendment to the Superintendent's Employment Agreement:

Board President Ryan LaLonde summarized the proposed amendment to Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi's employment agreement. Following the Superintendent's satisfactory evaluation for the 2025-2026 school year, the amendment extends the term of the existing employment agreement for an additional 12 months through June 30, 2030; all other provisions remain unchanged. No public comments were received. Board members discussed the Superintendent's annual contract, the distinction between an appointed Superintendent and an elected County Superintendent, leadership stability, and the District's work and future financial planning.

MOTION: Member Lym

SECONDED: Member Hahnel

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Li, Locke, and Schrager

NOES:

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

G. ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:41pm. Board President Ryan LaLonde thanked everyone who participated and announced that the next regular Board meeting would be held at City Hall on September 22, 2026. A Board Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held at the District Office on September 16, 2026, and additional information is available on the AUSD website.