

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

September 22, 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 - Public Session – 6:30pm:
Board President Ryan LaLonde called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:30pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
Student Board members led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. 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. Board Member Hahnel participated remotely. Student Board Members Ethan Li (ASTI), Penny Locke (Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School), and Maya Schragar (Alameda High School) were present.

Board President LaLonde explained that any action taken by the Board would need to be done via roll call vote due to a Board member participating remotely.

B. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA

No modifications to the agenda were made.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from the September 8, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting:
The Board approved the September 8, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes with corrections to names as noted by Board Member Carrie Hahnel.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the September 8, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting with corrections to the spelling of names.

MOTION: Member Lym

SECONDED: Member Little

ROLL CALL VOTE

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:

Caroline Broussard, co-founder and current lead of the Alameda Mosaic Educational Advisory Committee: Ms. Broussard announced the committee's first gathering on September 24, 2026, which will include a family check-in and discussion of family and caregiver engagement in student education. Ms. Broussard noted that representatives from the District's Office of Equity would participate.

2. Proclamation: National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - October

The Board recognized National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and viewed a video created by students participating in the Alameda Youth Advisory Council.

Motion to approve the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Student Member Schrager

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

3. Written Correspondence:

The Board received 12 emails regarding General Business Item #3, Candidate Interviews and Selection for Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacant Board Seat.

4. Report from Employee Organizations:

CSEA Chapter 860 representative Lee Odom was not present. CSEA Chapter 27 President Amy Keegan reported that the chapter had ratified an MOU regarding Keenan training stipends, announced upcoming chapter executive board elections, and shared information regarding the chapter's December 9 holiday party and upcoming training activities. Ms.

Keegan stated that CSEA would remain neutral in the selection of a replacement for former Board Clerk Jennifer Williams. AEA President Judy Ganley reported on AEA advocacy efforts, including support for Proposition 3 and candidates in the upcoming election, and stated that AEA was remaining neutral in the Board vacancy selection process.

5. PTA Council Report:

PTA Council President Tim McQuillan was not present and no PTA Council report was provided.

6. Board Members' Report:

Board Vice President Heather Little had no report. Board Member Carrie Hahnel reported from an education equity conference in San Diego focused on Proposition 28 and arts funding. Board Member Gary Lym had no report. Board President Ryan LaLonde had no report.

7. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi reported on his appointment to the Statewide Superintendent's Council for the Association of California School Administrators, representing Region 6 (Contra Costa and Alameda Counties). He identified statewide advocacy priorities including resources for student behavior challenges, declining enrollment and associated funding, increasing special education costs and paraprofessional needs, and balancing public transparency with the increasing volume of Public Records Act requests.

8. Student Board Members' Report:

Alameda High School Student Board Member Maya Schrager reported on Alameda High School's homecoming spirit week and assembly, an upcoming voter registration drive, a planned Challenge Day, Senior Banquet, and a request from the Make It Accessible Club to restore feminine hygiene products in school bathrooms.

Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School Student Board Member Penny Locke reported on preparations for homecoming, Island Bowl, a mayoral candidate forum, and upcoming school activities.

ASTI Student Board Member Ethan Li reported on ASTI's Picture Day, a safety assembly, Club Day, voter pre-registration, Mix It Up Lunch, and upcoming Bonding Day and student elections.

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 of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers

7. Approval of Individual Service Agreements (ISAs) with Non-Public Schools and Non-Public Agencies
8. Approval of Revised California Interscholastic Federation Representatives to League for 2026-27 School Year for Alameda High School and Encinal Jr./Sr. High School
9. Proclamation: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning History Month - October
10. Proclamation: World Teachers' Day - October 5, 2026
11. Resolution No. 2026-2027.12 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases
12. Resolution No. 2026-2027.13 Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Property

Public Comments:

Sarah Putnam, parent of AUSD student: Ms. Putnam asked questions regarding public records and the authority associated with budget transfers, increases, and decreases.

Caroline Brossard, co-founder and current lead of the Alameda Mosaic Educational Advisory Committee: Ms. Brossard asked why an amount was not listed for the USDA Foods Agreement and requested that contracts, where possible, include more specific descriptions of what they pertain to.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Student Member Locke

ROLL CALL VOTE

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN: Members Li, Locke, and Schrager

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, and Lym

NOES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Enrollment Report: 20th Day of School:

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Kirsten Zazo presented the 20th-day enrollment report, comparing enrollment with the same point in the prior school year. District enrollment was up 85 students. Increases were noted at Bay Farm, Lincoln, Wood, Alameda High School, and Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School, while Otis Elementary and Island High School showed decreases. The decreased enrollment at Otis was explained as intentional, as Transitional Kindergarten classes were moved to other elementary schools when Otis moved onto its temporary campus due to construction at the original campus. Decreased enrollment at Island High School will be addressed in future Board

presentations. Staff reviewed redirects and wait lists. The Board discussed enrollment trends and related planning.

Public Comments:

Caroline Brossard, co-founder and current lead of the Alameda Mosaic Educational Advisory Committee: Ms. Brossard asked about outreach to the Charter Schools in Alameda as a way of trying to project enrollment trends.

2. Resolution No. 2026-2027.xx Certification of Requirement of Education Code Section 60119 for Pupil Textbooks and Instructional Materials for Grades K-12 for the 26-27 SY:
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Kirsten Zazo presented the annual certification requirement under Education Code Section 60119. The Board opened a public hearing to receive information regarding the sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials. Staff explained that the hearing would remain open until the item returns to the Board in October for approval of the resolution. No public comments were received.
3. Candidate Interviews and Selection for Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacant Board Seat:
Board President Ryan LaLonde reviewed the vacancy created by the August 12, 2026 resignation of former Board Clerk Jennifer Williams. The Board had previously selected the appointment process to fill the vacancy. Thirteen applications were received, and the Board independently reviewed and ranked the applications, selecting Eric Bell, Doug Biggs, and Joyce Boyd for interviews. Each candidate provided an opening statement and responded to questions from Board Members regarding disagreement and support of Board decisions, district and state policy, use of artificial intelligence, student voice, community engagement, equity, and other topics.

Public Comments:

Caroline Brossard, co-founder and current lead of the Alameda Mosaic Educational Advisory Committee: Ms. Brossard asked about the criteria and process used to narrow the 13 applicants to the three finalists and asked how candidates would address equity and opportunity gaps, student safety, and belonging.

Jason West, Alameda community member: Mr. West questioned the transparency of the selection and ranking process and discussed relationships among candidates and Board Members.

Ghisla Richard, Alameda community member: Ms. Richard spoke in support of Joyce Boyd, citing her service to AUSD and community.

Judy Ganley, president, Alameda Education Association (AEA): Ms. Ganley commended all three finalists and stated that AEA remained neutral in the selection process.

Specific questions asked of candidates included:

Did you use AI to help write your application? If so, how did you use it? And what do you think is an appropriate role for AI when it comes to original work and ideas?

Recently, the Board has heard from community members asking the Board to get involved in hiring and firing decisions at individual school sites. The Board sets policy and holds the superintendent accountable, while the superintendent is responsible for running the district. Where do you think the line should be? Should the Board ever step in and overturn a school site personnel decision? If so, when?

California continues to pass laws that require school districts to change programs, policies or services. Sometimes those laws do not come with enough funding to pay for the changes. Can you name one recent state law that has required AUSD to make a significant change? Do you support or oppose that law, and why?

What do you think your responsibility is when you hear from people who feel very strongly about an issue, but you are not convinced that what they are asking for is the right decision for the district? How would you handle that?

In your value system that you have not heard in the last five months that should be addressed for a future presentation. So one is, what impact of a previous board meeting, presentation, or topic in the last five months that you felt was impactful and why? The second would be, what would you offer as a potential future value presentation that would speak to something that you think would be beneficial for students, kids, or faculty

In addition to asking questions, Board Members discussed the qualifications and experience of the three candidates for the Board vacancy. Board Members expressed appreciation to all applicants for their willingness to serve and noted the strength of the applications and community recommendations received.

Board Members identified several factors considered in evaluating the candidates, including familiarity with the District and its operations; experience working with schools, students, and the community; commitment to educational opportunities and equity; demonstrated leadership and community involvement; the ability to collaborate with other Board Members; and the potential to contribute to the Board's continued progress and momentum.

Discussion also focused on the importance of trust, collaboration, Board cohesion, and the ability to work effectively as a team while maintaining diversity of thought and perspective. Some Board Members emphasized the value of selecting a candidate with established relationships and demonstrated community involvement, while others noted the value of bringing a fresh perspective and different lived experiences to the Board.

Board Members discussed the strengths of each candidate. One candidate was recognized for extensive community involvement and prior work with the District and local organizations. Another was recognized for service through the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee and demonstrated commitment to District issues. Another was recognized for experience working with students at Island High School, connections to elementary school families, and the potential to bring additional diversity of experience and perspective to the Board.

Board Members also discussed the significant responsibilities associated with filling an elected position by appointment and the importance of ensuring that the appointed individual is prepared to assume the responsibilities of Board service for the remainder of the term. The importance of allowing the community to ultimately determine the successor through the electoral process was also discussed.

Student Board Members were invited to share their perspectives before the Board finalized its decision. Student Board Members expressed appreciation for all three candidates and noted the strength of their applications and responses. Student Board Members emphasized the importance of new leadership, diverse perspectives, and diversity of thought on the Board. They expressed support for bringing a fresh perspective to the Board and noted the value of having a Board Member with direct connections to students and families within the District.

Student Board Members further discussed the importance of being able to disagree respectfully, engage in difficult conversations, and ultimately work toward decisions based on what is best for students and schools. All Student Board Members expressed support for appointing the candidate who had been identified as bringing a new perspective and broader diversity of experience to the Board.

Following discussion, a motion was made:

Motion to appoint Doug Biggs to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education.

MOTION: Member Little

SECONDED: Member Hahnel

ROLL CALL VOTE

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES:

NOES: Members Li, Locke, and Schrager

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members Little and Hahnel

NOES: Members LaLonde and Lym

ABSENT:

MOTION NOT APPROVED

The Board continued its discussion regarding the candidates, including the importance of trust, collaboration, diverse viewpoints, community experience, and the responsibilities associated with serving on the Board. Board Members acknowledged that their perspectives had evolved during the discussion and emphasized the importance of maintaining a cohesive Board while welcoming differing viewpoints.

Motion to appoint Erick O. Bell to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education.

MOTION: Student Member Schrager SECONDED: Member Lym

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The Board approved the appointment of Erick O. Bell to fill the vacant Board seat. Student Board Member votes were advisory/preferential and did not count toward the appointment. The appointed Board Member will be sworn in at the regular Board meeting on October 13, 2026.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Ryan LaLonde adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30pm.