BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 27, 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 - Open Session – 6:30pm
   Board President Ryan LaLonde called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at Alameda City Hall at 6:30pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
   Board President LaLonde led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call/Introduction of Board Members
   Board of Education Members present: Board President Ryan LaLonde, Board Vice President Heather Little, Board Members Carrie Hahnel, Gary K. Lim, and Erick O. Bell. Student Board Members Ethan Li and Penny Locke were present. Student Board Member Maya Schrager was absent.

B. MODIFICATION(S) OF THE AGENDA

There were no modifications to the agenda.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from the October 13, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting
   The Board considered the minutes from the October 13, 2026 Regular Board of Education meeting.

   Motion to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2026 Regular Board of Education meeting.

   MOTION: Member Little **SECONDED: Member Hahnel**

   STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES
   AYES: Members Li and Locke
   NOES:
   ABSENT: Member Schrager

   BOARD MEMBER VOTES

AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, Lym, and Bell
NOES:
ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
   Scott Vrabel, parent of an Earhart Elementary student: Mr. Vrabel raised concerns about the district's special education program, citing unclear program definitions, excessive class sizes, staffing turnover, and inadequate support for students with complex needs. He also expressed concern about the lack of communication following his son's teacher's resignation and urged the district to address the program's staffing and resource needs.

2. Written Correspondence
   The Board did not receive written correspondence related to the agenda.

3. Report from Employee Organizations
   Alameda Education Association (AEA): Judy Ganley, AEA president, acknowledged concerns raised about special education and reported that she had met with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Kirsten Zazo to discuss the issues. She expressed confidence that progress was being made and committed to continuing to advocate for students and staff. Ms. Ganley also provided an update on AEA's election-related canvassing efforts.

4. PTA Council Report
   No PTA Council representative was present to provide a report.

5. Board Members' Report
   Board Member Erick O. Bell: Board Member Bell shared that he had met with community members and planned to visit ACLC and NEA and attend BIPOC Family Night at Love Elementary. He spoke about the importance of leading with empathy and recognized Island High School student "MW's" birthday. Board Member Bell also highlighted the value of the school's Accounting Career Awareness Program.

   Board President Ryan LaLonde: Board President LaLonde encouraged community members to contact Board Members by email with concerns so the Board can better understand issues, consider potential agenda items, and arrange workshops rather than first hearing concerns during Board of Education meetings. He shared his participation in Walk and Roll to School Day and his role on the California Interscholastic Federation's (CIF) Northern California Section Board of Managers, where he works on athletic policies and scheduling. He also raised concerns about discriminatory policies affecting transgender athletes and noted that the district did not receive a sportsmanship award, encouraging student-athletes to follow the code of sportsmanship to protect the district's athletic opportunities and privileges.

6. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi congratulated Alameda High School student-athletes on their recent postseason accomplishments in water polo, flag football, volleyball, and golf. He also thanked teachers and staff who participated in the October 23 professional learning day and acknowledged the work of the organizers and facilitators.

7. Student Board Members' Report:
   Student Board Member Ethan Li (ASTI): Student Board Member Li reported on the installation of additional bike racks at ASTI, thanked Maintenance and Operations and parent donors, and shared updates on Model United Nations, club mini-grants, Spirit Week, and upcoming school events. He also announced ASTI's dual-enrollment registration and outreach activities for prospective students.

   Student Board Member Penny Locke (Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School): Student Board Member Locke reported on Encinal's fall sports results and upcoming postseason competitions. She also highlighted the radio class's second-place finish in the National Student Production Awards, the Island Model UN conference, upcoming concurrent enrollment information, a Halloween event, holiday drives, and student government and election activities.

E. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Certificated Personnel Actions
2. Classified Personnel Actions
3. Approval and Ratification of Contracts Executed Pursuant to Board Policy 3300
4. Approval and Ratification of Facilities Bond Measure I and Measure B Contracts
5. Approval of Bill Warrants and Payroll Registers
6. Approval of Individual Service Agreements (ISAs) with Non-Public Schools and Non-Public Agencies
7. Approval of Physical Education (PE) Exemptions for Eligible Island High School Students
8. Approval of Proposed Paid Adult Meal Price Adjustment
9. Approval of School Site Family Involvement Policies for 2026-27 School Year
10. Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation to Appoint Members to the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee
11. Proclamation: California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month - November
12. Proclamation: National Native American Heritage Month - November
13. Resolution No. 2026-2027.17 Approval of Budget Transfers, Increases, Decreases
14. Resolution No. 2026-2027.18 Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Property
15. Resolution No. 2026-2027.19 Approval of Notice of Completion: Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School Stadium and Field Renovation
16. Resolution No. 2026-2027.20 Approval of Notice of Completion: Island High School & Alameda Child Development Center at Longfellow Campus – HVAC Modernization Project

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar

MOTION: Member Hahnel **SECONDED: Member Little**

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES
AYES: Members Li and Locke
NOES:
ABSENT: Member Schrager

BOARD MEMBER VOTES
AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, Lym, and Bell
NOES:
ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Approval of Measure B Lincoln Middle School Modernization Project Schematic Design

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Shariq Khan, Director of Construction Ruth Boyd, and Principal Architect Joel Williams of QKA presented the proposed schematic design for the Lincoln Middle School modernization project. The presentation reviewed the facilities master plan, school-site input, project priorities, design elements, budget constraints, and anticipated timeline.

The project's Measure B allocation is approximately $52.1 million. Updated estimates for the full master plan scope reached approximately $72.5 million, requiring the district to prioritize work. The design includes a new gymnasium with two flexible classrooms and inclusive restrooms, conversion of existing locker rooms into special education classrooms and support spaces, creation of a multimedia art classroom and science lab from the wood shop, modernization of classroom pods and student restrooms, and improvements to outdoor learning areas. Required soil stabilization, accessibility, waterfront, and safety work will also be addressed. Current estimates indicate that the project can complete required work and school priorities through the 900 Building refresh; additional science and art classroom work, furniture, and technology upgrades may require future funding.

Board members asked about gender-inclusive restrooms, Bay Conservation and Development Commission requirements and potential costs, temporary student accommodations during construction, campus capacity and enrollment projections, the project budget and items removed from the original scope, locker room use, student safety during construction, and the possibility of installing an artificial turf field. Staff explained that construction phasing is being developed to minimize the need for portable classrooms and maintain student safety. The project is expected to proceed through detailed design and agency review, with construction anticipated to begin in 2028 and occupancy targeted for fall 2030.

Public Hearing Opened: 7:19pm

No Public Comments
Public Hearing Closed: 7:20pm

Motion to approve the Measure B Lincoln Middle School Modernization Project Schematic Design

MOTION: Member Lym **SECONDED: Member Bell**

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTES
AYES: Members Li and Locke
NOES:
ABSENT: Member Schrager

BOARD MEMBER VOTES
AYES: Members LaLonde, Little, Hahnel, Lym, and Bell
NOES:
ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED

2. Alameda Community Learning Center (ACLC) Charter Renewal Petition: Findings and Recommendations

Assistant Superintendent Kirsten Zazo presented the District's findings and recommendations following its review of ACLC's charter renewal petition. The review considered academic performance, leadership and governance, continuous improvement, fiscal accountability, compliance with the charter, enrollment, classroom observations, interviews, and school records. Staff identified strengths in student voice, inclusion, belonging, hands-on instruction, and a clearly shared school mission. Areas for improvement included standards-based instructional rigor, particularly in mathematics, and continued monitoring of enrollment and intervention effectiveness.

Public Comments:
Heather Dutton, ACLC facilitator and chair of the NEA/ACLC union: Ms. Dutton read a statement on behalf of the union supporting the renewal of both NEA and ACLC. She highlighted the schools' close-knit learning communities, family involvement, collaborative labor-management relationship, and innovative project-based learning environments.

Board members asked how staff evaluated instructional rigor and determined the recommended renewal term, including the use of academic performance and comparisons with district schools. Discussion also addressed the percentage of students residing within AUSD and the statutory requirement to compare charter schools located in Alameda with schools in the district.

Staff recommended a five-year renewal term for consideration when the item comes back to the Board for action on November 10, 2026.

3. NEA Community Learning Center (NEA) Charter Renewal Petition: Findings and Recommendations

Assistant Superintendent Kirsten Zazo presented the District's findings and recommendations for NEA's charter renewal petition. The review identified strengths in standards-based curriculum, hands-on and project-based learning, student engagement, learner-centered culture, and the school's use of data to adjust programs. Areas for continued improvement included instructional interventions and progress monitoring, professional development and alignment, and recruitment and retention of middle school students.

Public Comments:

Pam McElroy, NEA educator and former AUSD educator: Ms. McElroy described NEA's practices for communicating academic concerns to families, including assessment results, conferences, after-school support, weekly progress updates, and classroom newsletters. She emphasized that staff work with families to address academic needs and provide additional resources.

Evan Phillipe, former NEA PTSA president and parent: Mr. Philippi spoke in support of NEA and ACLC, describing his children's successful transitions from NEA to Encinal High School. He highlighted the schools' small class sizes, collaborative learning, diverse student population, and ability to adapt to changing educational needs.

Teresa Barnes, NEA parent and former AUSD student: Ms. Barnes described how NEA provided a welcoming and supportive environment for her son after a difficult experience at another school. She praised the school's academic, social-emotional, and project-based learning environment, which helped her son develop an interest in architecture and engineering.

Marissa Nowlan, NEA parent, PTA executive board member, and educator: Ms. Nolan described NEA as a safe and supportive community for her children, including her child with significant needs. She praised the school's communication with families, individualized supports, small class sizes, and commitment to helping students succeed.

Anne Gobell, NEA facilitator and parent: Ms. Gobell described the supportive school community and the individualized attention students receive. She shared that after her son struggled at another school, returning to NEA helped him thrive academically and socially, including advancing to ninth-grade mathematics while in eighth grade.

Philip Millstone, NEA parent: Mr. Millstone spoke about the sense of student ownership fostered at NEA and how his children made educational choices as they moved between schools. He praised the school's close-knit community and asked the Board to renew its charter.

Fay Gordon, NEA parent: Ms. Gordon highlighted NEA's project-based learning, improving academic performance, and strong social-emotional focus. She described the

support her family received during difficult circumstances and emphasized the importance of a stable, caring school community.

Board members thanked the speakers and discussed the value of educational options for Alameda families, student choice, and the collaborative relationship between the district and its charter schools. Board members also acknowledged NEA's improvement in state test scores, particularly in English language arts, while noting the continued need for progress in mathematics.

Staff recommended a five-to-seven-year renewal term for consideration when the item comes back to the Board for action on November 10, 2026.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Ryan LaLonde thanked members of the virtual and in person audience for attending the meeting, and he announced that the next regular Board meeting would be held on November 10, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.