



MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA

5:00 p.m. - Closed Session

6:00 p.m. - Call to Order/Regular Meeting
(Meetings are recorded for use in official minutes)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Members of the audience may address the Board of Education on agenda items during consideration of that item and items not on the agenda that are within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Speaking time is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes per topic. Persons wishing to address the Board should complete and submit a Presentation Card, available on the table near the hallway door. The Presentation Card must be completed and given to the Secretary prior to the meeting. Matters not on the agenda may neither be acted upon nor discussed by the Board, but will be researched and responded to in any one of the following ways: 1) by telephone after research; 2) by mail after research; or 3) at a subsequent Board meeting as an agenda item.

MEETING CONDUCT:

Board Policy 1313: Civility

The Governing Board recognizes the impact that civility has on the effective operation of the district, including its role in creating a safe and positive school climate and enabling a focus on student well-being, learning, and achievement. The Board believes that each person should be treated with dignity and respect in their interactions within the school community.

The Board understands that the First Amendment provides strong protection for speech. However, the Board expects that all speech and expression will comport with norms of civil behavior on district grounds, in district facilities, during district activities or events, and in the use of district electronic/digital systems and platforms.

Civil behavior is polite, courteous, and reasonable behavior which is respectful to others and includes integrity, honesty, acceptance, timeliness, dependability, observance of laws and rules, and effective communication.

The Board and district staff shall model civil behavior as an example of behavior that is expected throughout the district. Practices that promote civil behavior include actively listening, giving full attention to the speaker, and refraining from interruptions; welcoming and encouraging participation, input, and feedback through stakeholder engagement; promptly responding to concerns; and embracing varying and diverse viewpoints. Such practices may be incorporated into governance standards adopted by the Board or Superintendent and/or professional standards or codes of conduct for employees as specified in district policies and regulations.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members should be educated in the recognition, development, and demonstration of civil behavior. The Superintendent or designee may incorporate related concepts in the curriculum, provide staff development activities, and/or communicate this policy to the school community.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members shall not communicate or behave in a manner that causes disruption; hinders the orderly conduct of district operations, the educational program, or any other district program or activity; or creates an unsafe learning or working environment. The Superintendent or designee may respond to disruptive, violent, or threatening behavior in accordance with law and as specified in BP/AR 3515.2 - Disruptions. Behavior by students or staff that is discriminatory, harassing, or intimidating, including sexual harassment, bullying, and/or hate violence, or behavior that is in any other way unlawful, is prohibited and is subject to discipline in accordance with law and as specified in district policy and regulations.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a Board meeting may request assistance by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 562-690-2300 or accommodations@lahabraschools.org at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

TOBACCO-FREE:

The La Habra City School District is a tobacco-free district. Tobacco use is prohibited on district property at all times.

Attendance

Voting Members

Justin Rodgers, Board President
Ofelia Hanson, Board Vice President
Emily Pruitt, Board Member
Minerva Siguenza Gomez, Board Member
Adam Rogers, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent
Dr. Sheryl Tecker, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources
Dr. Patricia Sandoval, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
Renee Arkus, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

1. Formal Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Rodgers at 5:00 p.m.

2. Adjourn to Closed Session

Closed Session was called to order by President Rodgers at 5:00 p.m.

3. Closed Session

a. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Personnel Matters [Government Code Sections 54954.5 (d), 54957]

b. Conference Labor Negotiators District Representatives: Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent,

4. Second Call to Order

President Rodgers reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:07 p.m.

a. Welcome

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Bella Chavez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Report from Closed Session

No report from Closed Session.

6. Action Item: Adoption of Agenda

Approved the agenda for the August 13, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

7. Action Item: Approve the Minutes of June 25, 2026

Approved the minutes for the June 25, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Motion made by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

8. Action Item: Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 23, 2026

Approved the minutes for the July 23, 2026, Special Meeting.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

9. Public Interest

a. New Hires

Dr. Sheryl Tecker, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, introduced several of the District's new teachers for the 2026–2027 school year. She shared that La Habra City School District welcomed 25 new teachers this year and expressed appreciation for the experience and enthusiasm they bring to the District. New staff members in attendance were recognized by school site, including teachers from Arbolita, El Cerrito, Imperial Middle School, Washington Middle School, Las Positas, and Las Lomas. The Board and audience welcomed the new employees.

b. BRIDGE/ESY

Dr. Patricia Sandoval, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, introduced a presentation highlighting the District's Summer BRIDGE and Extended School Year (ESY) programs. Staff shared that 639 students in kindergarten through eighth grade participated in Summer BRIDGE across four sites. The program provided academic instruction in reading, mathematics, science, and GATE programming, along with ESY services for students with special needs.

Staff highlighted the program's emphasis on hands-on, engaging learning experiences, including engineering and STEM activities, project-based learning, assemblies, student recognition, PBIS activities, and social-emotional learning. Afternoon enrichment was provided in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club and Breakthrough Sports and included sports, arts, technology, cultural activities, and other enrichment opportunities.

The presentation concluded with appreciation for the teachers, administrators, staff, and community partners who supported the summer programs. Board members thanked the team for their dedication and expressed appreciation for the opportunities provided to District students and families.

10. Public Comment

Kandace Gutierrez expressed concerns regarding potential changes to special education class and school placements for the 2027–2028 school year, emphasizing the importance of maintaining individualized, student-centered services and equitable access to specialized programs. She requested transparency regarding proposed changes and meaningful parent involvement before decisions are made.

Susannah Sinjem, a Ladera Palma TK parent, expressed concerns regarding the transition to a full-day TK program, including student readiness and morning supervision. She asked the District to consider offering a part-day TK option for families who prefer it while maintaining full-day options for families who need them.

Rosa Castillo expressed concerns regarding large kindergarten class sizes and their impact on instruction, student safety, and teacher workload. She requested additional classroom support and urged the District to hire another kindergarten teacher to reduce class sizes.

Nicole Sutherland, a Ladera Palma parent, expressed concerns regarding the size and capacity of kindergarten classrooms, citing limited space for desks, student movement, and emergency procedures. She urged the District to consider classroom capacity and the potential impact of overcrowding on student safety and learning.

Renee Joshi, a Ladera Palma Dual Immersion kindergarten parent, expressed concerns regarding class sizes of 28–30 students and limited aide support in the 90/10 dual immersion program. She requested that the District review class sizes, staffing, and student-to-adult ratios and provide additional support to ensure the program's goals and student needs are adequately addressed.

Claudia Soto shared class-size and staffing comparisons from several neighboring and regional school districts, noting that many maintain lower student-to-teacher ratios or provide additional classroom support. She encouraged the District to consider reducing class sizes and strengthening staffing and supports for its dual immersion program.

Manuel Romero, a Ladera Palma parent, expressed concerns regarding the reduction from three kindergarten classes to two and the resulting class sizes within the 90/10 Dual Immersion program. He emphasized the potential impact on student learning, retention, and District funding and urged the District to reconsider kindergarten staffing levels.

Jonathan Chavez, a Ladera Palma parent, expressed concerns regarding the 30-to-1 kindergarten student-to-teacher ratio, particularly as it relates to student safety, emergency preparedness, and teacher workload. He urged the District to reconsider class sizes to better support the safety and educational needs of students.

Valerie Cervantes, a Ladera Palma parent, expressed strong support for the school's Dual Immersion program and its benefits to students and families. She raised concerns regarding kindergarten class sizes and urged the District to consider additional staffing support, including restoring a third kindergarten class or providing full-time aide support.

Bobby Robertson, a Ladera Palma parent, expressed concerns regarding the reduction from three kindergarten classes to two, resulting in increased class sizes. He urged the District to reconsider the staffing decision, citing concerns about individual student support, classroom management, and safety within the Dual Immersion program.

11. Action Items: CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the Consent Calendar.

Motion made by: Ofelia Hanson

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results:

Vote Not Recorded: Justin Rodgers

Vote Not Recorded: Ofelia Hanson

Vote Not Recorded: Emily Pruitt

Vote Not Recorded: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Vote Not Recorded: Adam Rogers

Motion passed 5-0.

a. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Contract Reports - Educational Services and Special Education Services Contracts
2. Staff Development

b. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Contract Report
2. Field Contracts
3. Expenditures Report
4. Memberships
5. Donations

c. PERSONNEL SERVICES

1. Separations
2. New Hires
3. Change of Status
4. Leave of Absence

12. GENERAL MATTERS

a. Action Item: Proclaim September 2026 as Attendance Awareness Month

Adopted Resolution #12-2026 proclaiming September 2026 as Attendance Awareness Month to promote the importance of regular school attendance and encourage students, families, staff, and the community to support positive attendance habits that contribute to student success.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Justin Rodgers

Yes: Ofelia Hanson
Yes: Emily Pruitt
Yes: Minerva Siguenza Gomez
Yes: Adam Rogers

Motion passed 5-0.

b. Action Item: Proclaim September 2026 as Suicide Awareness Month

Adopted Resolution #13-2026 proclaiming September 2026 as Suicide Awareness Month in recognition of the importance of raising awareness, promoting prevention efforts, and supporting the mental health and well-being of students, staff, and the community.

Motion made by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Justin Rodgers
Yes: Ofelia Hanson
Yes: Emily Pruitt
Yes: Minerva Siguenza Gomez
Yes: Adam Rogers

Motion passed 5-0.

c. Information Item: First Reading of Select Board Policies

Reviewed the following new Board Policies for a first reading:

- Administrative Regulation 3311.1: Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures
- Board Policy 3311.1: Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures

Motion passed 5-0.

13. INSTRUCTION AND PERSONNEL

a. Action Item: Authorize Middle School Teaching Assignments

Authorized, pursuant to Education Code Section 44258.7(c), the teaching assignments recommended by the Committee on Assignment that are outside the areas authorized by the employees' credentials for the 2026–2027 school year.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

b. Action Item: Ratify the Employment Contract for Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Ratified the employment contract for the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

Motion made by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

14. BUSINESS MATTERS

a. Action Item: Approve Resolution #11-2026: 2026 School Fees Justification Study and New Statutory Developer Fees

Approved and adopt Resolution #11-2026: 2026 School Fee Justification Study and New Statutory Developer Fees.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Justin Rodgers

Yes: Ofelia Hanson

Yes: Emily Pruitt

Yes: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Yes: Adam Rogers

Motion passed 5-0.

b. Action Item: Approve and Ratify Change Order No. 1 for Additional Related Services at Imperial Middle School

Approved and ratified Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$3,484.50 to provide labor and materials for additional related services required at Imperial Middle School.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

c. Action Item: Approve and Ratify Change Orders No. 1 and No. 2 for Additional Related Services at El Cerrito School

Approved and ratified Change Orders No. 1 and No. 2 in the total amount of \$41,648.12 to provide labor and materials for additional related services required at El Cerrito School.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

d. Action Item: Approve TBS Business Solutions USA Inc. CMAS Contract No. 4-26-04-1097 for the Purchase and Warranty of Power Distribution Equipment

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be brought back for consideration at a future Board meeting.

e. Action Item: Approve the 45-Day Budget Update/Revision for 2026–2027 and Statement of Reasons

Approved the 45-Day Budget Update/Revision for the 2026–2027 fiscal year and the accompanying Statement of Reasons, as required by the California Education Code.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

f. Action Item: Resolution #10-2026: Authorization of District Signatures and Electronic Approvals

Adopt Resolution #10-2026, Authorization of District Signatures and Electronic Approvals, approving the updated list of individuals authorized to sign and/or electronically approve District documents related to Payroll, Accounts Payable Batches, Purchase Orders, Contracts, and Travel Reimbursement Requisitions, as indicated, and rescinding all previous authorizations of signatures.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Justin Rodgers

Yes: Ofelia Hanson

Yes: Emily Pruitt

Yes: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Yes: Adam Rogers

Motion passed 5-0.

g. Action Item: Approve Resolution #14-2026: Authorization of Signatures

Approved Resolution #14-2026: Authorization of Signatures, designating Mario Carlos, Superintendent, and Renee Arkus, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, as authorized signers.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Justin Rodgers

Yes: Ofelia Hanson

Yes: Emily Pruitt

Yes: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Yes: Adam Rogers

Motion passed 5-0.

15. Board/Superintendent Comments

Board Member comments:

- Welcomed students, families, and staff to the new school year and expressed appreciation for a successful start.
- Thanked District staff for their work throughout the summer, including Summer Bridge and preparing campuses for the new school year.
- Welcomed new teachers and classified staff and recognized employees who have taken on additional responsibilities during the opening of school.
- Encouraged families to attend upcoming Back-to-School Night events.

Superintendent comments:

- Thanked parents and community members for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns.

16. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

17. NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for September 10, 2026 at

6:00 p.m., at the District Education Board Room, 500 N. Walnut Street, La Habra, California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria A. Caldeira". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" being the most prominent.

Secretary