



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 - **Absent**

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

Board President Rodgers reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:09 p.m.

a. Welcome

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Manuel Siggson and Michael Martinez 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 September 10, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Motion made by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

7. Action Item: Approve the Minutes of August 13, 2026

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

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

8. Public Interest

a. CAASPP Recognition

b. Arbolita Elementary School Student Presentation

Arbolita Elementary School students shared their experiences participating in Disney Musicals in schools, highlighting how the program strengthened their teamwork, problem-solving skills, and self-confidence. Students performed a selection from *Winnie the Pooh Kids* and invited attendees to their upcoming production of *The Little Mermaid Kids*. They also presented a video highlighting the school's annual Arts Festival.

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Principal Jennifer McCulley Rodriguez thanked students, families, staff, and the District for their support of arts education and recognized the teachers for their contributions.

9. Information Item: Public Request Regarding Ladera Palma Elementary School

Public Comments:

Desiree Ortiz

Ms. Ortiz read a statement on behalf of a kindergarten parent expressing concerns about student safety and emotional well-being. The parent requested smaller class sizes or full-time instructional aides to improve supervision and support.

Valerie Cervantes

Ms. Cervantes expressed concerns about kindergarten class sizes and the redistribution of intervention resources from other grade levels. Citing English learner enrollment and progress data, she requested additional investment in staffing and instructional support at Ladera Palma.

Claudia Soto

Ms. Soto questioned whether current classroom staffing aligned with the District's LCAP commitments to smaller adult-to-student ratios and additional early learning support. She requested that funds identified under Action 1.12 be used to provide additional staffing for Ladera Palma's kindergarten classrooms.

Lety Rodarte-Cruz

Ms. Rodarte-Cruz acknowledged the additional support provided but expressed concerns about rotating support personnel and the resulting lack of consistency for students and teachers. She requested increased, consistent classroom assistance to address supervision, instructional needs, and teacher workload.

Nicole Sutherland

Ms. Sutherland questioned the District's definition of small class sizes and its use of a negotiated 28:1 ratio for class size funding. She also raised concerns about classroom space and requested an evaluation of furniture placement and capacity to ensure adequate room for learning and movement.

Renee Joshi

Ms. Joshi requested immediate, consistent additional support during core instructional time for kindergarten classrooms with 28 and 29 students. She expressed concerns about rotating aides, intervention schedules overlapping with physical education and dismissal, and the need for individualized instruction.

Presentation:

Dr. Tecker, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, presented an update on Ladera Palma Elementary School's kindergarten class sizes and classroom supports in response to concerns raised by families. She reviewed state class size guidelines and the District's collectively bargained K-3 staffing ratio of 28:1. Ladera Palma's K-3 average was 27:1. She also

highlighted the school's 90/10 Spanish-English dual language immersion model and full-day kindergarten program, which provides four additional hours of instruction per week.

Dr. Tecker outlined classroom supports, including three hours of daily instructional aide assistance and one hour of afternoon intervention provided by retired teacher Ms. Miller four days per week. Updated furniture had been ordered for Room 301 to improve space utilization and address concerns regarding shared desks. In response to Board questions, she described how teachers use whole-group, small-group, and independent activities throughout the instructional day.

The Board discussed declining enrollment, class sizes at other District schools, and measures used to assess student progress. Dr. Tecker explained that Ladera Palma's kindergarten enrollment of 57 students was below the approximately 75 students needed to support a third classroom and that similar class sizes existed at other campuses. She reported that staff considered the current supports sufficient and would continue monitoring students' academic progress and social-emotional well-being.

10. Public Comment

Brittany Lemanski

Ms. Lemanski expressed concerns regarding her son's medication administration, bus delays, and access to support in before- and after-school programs.

Kandace Gutierrez

Ms. Gutierrez expressed concerns regarding proposed special education school pairings, transfer requirements, placement stability, and equitable program access. She requested written clarification and family input before finalization.

Sarah Gilbo

Ms. Gilboe thanked the District for allowing her children to remain enrolled following a military-related move and commended staff and Board members for supporting students and families during the Washington Middle School evacuation.

11. Action Items: CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the Consent Calendar.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

a. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Contract Reports - Educational Services and Special Education Services Contracts

2. Staff Development

3. University Agreement

b. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Contract Report

2. Field Contracts

3. Expenditures Report

4. Memberships

5. Surplus

c. PERSONNEL SERVICES

1. Separations

2. New Hires

3. Change of Status

12. GENERAL MATTERS

a. Action Item: Second Reading of Select Board Policies

Approved the proposed revisions to the select Board Policies presented for second reading:

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

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

b. Information Item: First Reading of Select Board Policies

Reviewed the following Board Policies for a first read:

NEW

Board Policy 3510: Green School Operations
Board Policy 3511.1: Integrated Waste Management
Administrative Regulation 3511.1: Integrated Waste Management
Board Policy 6142.5: Environmental Education
Board Policy 7110: Facilities Master Plan

UPDATES

Board Policy 3511: Energy and Water Management
Administrative Regulation 3511: Energy and Water Management
Board Policy 3514: Environmental Safety
Administrative Regulation 3514: Environmental Safety
Policy 6142.7: Physical Education and Activity
Regulation 6142.7: Physical Education and Activity
Board Policy 6158: Independent Study
Administrative Regulation 6158: Independent Study

c. Public Hearing: La Habra Education Association (LHEA) Initial Successor Contract Sunshine Proposal

President Rodgers opened the Public Hearing at 7:29 p.m.

There were no speakers; therefore, the Public Hearing concluded at 7:29 p.m.

d. Action Item: Approval of District's Initial Successor Contract Proposal to La Habra Education Association (LHEA)

Approved the District's Initial Successor Contract Proposal to the La Habra Education Association (LHEA).

Motion made by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

13. INSTRUCTION AND PERSONNEL

a. Public Hearing: Textbooks/Instructional Materials

President Rodgers opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

There were no speakers; therefore, the Public Hearing concluded at 7:30 p.m.

b. Action Item: Approve Resolution #16-2026: Textbooks and Instructional Materials for 2026-2027

Approved Resolution #16-2026, Textbooks and Instructional Materials for 2026-2027, as presented.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Justin Rodgers

Yes: Emily Pruitt

Yes: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Yes: Adam Rogers

Motion passed 4-0.

c. Information Item: Williams Legislation Uniform Complaints – 4th Quarter Report

Two teacher misassignments from the 2024–2025 school year were reported and have been corrected. No Board action is required.

14. BUSINESS MATTERS

a. Action Item: Approve Resolution #14-2026: GANN Limit

Due to a clerical error, the GANN Limit Resolution was assigned Resolution No. 14-2026, which duplicated a previously assigned resolution number. The correct designation is Resolution No. 15-2026. This correction pertains solely to the resolution number; the content and the Board's adoption of the resolution remain unchanged.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Justin Rodgers

Yes: Emily Pruitt

Yes: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Yes: Adam Rogers

Motion passed 4-0.

b. Action Item: Approve the 2025-2026 Unaudited Actuals

Renee Arkus presented the District's 2025–26 Unaudited Actuals, reporting General Fund revenues of approximately \$86.1 million and expenditures of approximately \$89.8 million. The resulting deficit of approximately \$3.7 million was consistent with June projections and reduced the General Fund balance from \$27.1 million to \$23.4 million.

Ms. Arkus reviewed the ending fund balance, including restricted funds, the required reserve for economic uncertainties, the Board's standard reserve, and amounts designated for declining enrollment and future operational needs. She noted that nearly 90% of General

Fund revenues came from the state, with approximately 70% dependent on student enrollment and attendance. Salaries and benefits represented the largest expenditure category, totaling approximately \$75.6 million.

Ms. Arkus identified attendance trends, the depletion of one-time funding, rising operating costs, and changes in state funding as factors requiring continued monitoring. Updated financial projections would be presented with the First Interim Report in December and the Second Interim Report in March. The 2025–26 audit report was anticipated by January 2027.

Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 Unaudited Financial Report.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

c. Action Item: Final Acceptance of M & O Metal Roof Coating Installation Project #IFB01-2026 - ADCO Roofing Inc.

Approved the final acceptance of the M&O Metal Roof Coating Installation Project #IFB01-2026, completed by ADCO Roofing, Inc., as presented.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

d. Action Item: Final Acceptance of Arbolita & Ladera Palma Schools Painting Project #IFB02-2026 – Color New Corp

Approved the final acceptance of the Arbolita & Ladera Palma Schools Painting Project #IFB02-2026, completed by Color New Corp, as presented.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

e. Action Item: Approve and Ratify Change Orders #1 and #2 – Various School Site Asphalt Paving Project #B03-2026

Approved and ratified Change Orders #1 and #2 for the Various School Site Asphalt Paving

Project #B03-2026, in the total amount of \$30,990.00, for additional related services at Washington and Imperial Middle Schools, as presented.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

f. Action Item: Final Acceptance Various School Site Asphalt Paving Project #B03-2026 - Century Paving Inc.

Approved the final acceptance of the Various School Site Asphalt Paving Project #B03-2026, completed by Century Paving, Inc., as presented.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt

Motion seconded by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

g. Action Item: Final Acceptance of Las Positas & El Cerrito Schools Painting Project #IFB03-2026 – NEP Painting Contractors Inc.

Approved the final acceptance of the Las Positas & El Cerrito Schools Painting Project #IFB03-2026, completed by NEP Painting Contractors Inc., as presented.

Motion made by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

h. Action Item: Approve Thompson Systems, LLC CMAS Contract #3-21-08-1009, Supplement #3

Approved the use of California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) Contract #3-21-08-1009, Supplement #3, awarded to Thompson Systems, LLC, for the as-needed purchase and warranty of hardware and software through May 9, 2031, inclusive of future contract renewals, as presented.

Motion made by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

15. Board/Superintendent Comments

Board Member comments:

- Commended staff for their response to the Washington Middle School evacuation and thanked families for their patience. He emphasized improving emergency procedures and maintaining alternatives to technology.
- Recognized student achievements, community participation, and parent advocacy. Thanked staff, students, families, and fellow Board members for their commitment to the District.
- Thanked staff and the community for their evacuation response and emphasized reviewing procedures to identify improvements.
- Commended the coordinated evacuation response by District staff, emergency services, the Boys and Girls Club, and City resources. The member also highlighted visits to Washington Middle School and Ladera Palma and plans to visit all school sites.

Superintendent comments:

- Thanked staff, families, and students for a positive start to the school year.

16. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Motion made by: Minerva Siguenza Gomez

Motion seconded by: Emily Pruitt

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 4-0.

17. NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for October 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the District Education Board Room, located at 500 N. Walnut Street, La Habra, California.



Secretary