BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
1208 Magnolia Avenue, Gardena, CA 90247
9945 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331
10:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 26, 2025

The Los Angeles Board of Education acting as the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District met in regular session on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at the Administrative Offices, Board Room, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Michael A. McLean, Executive Officer of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

The following Board Members were present: Ms. Sherlett H. Newbill, Mr. Nick Melvoin, Ms. Karla Griego, Ms. Kelly Gonez, and Board President Scott Schmerelson.

Ms. Tanya Ortiz Franklin participated remotely due to childcare responsibilities pursuant to the "just cause" provisions of the Brown Act.

Dr. Rocío Rivas arrived at approximately 10:04 a.m.

Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho was also present.

Students from 135th Street Elementary School (Board District 7), led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The LAUSD Land Acknowledgement was read.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

Superintendent Carvalho administered the oath of office to Jerry Yang. Following the oath, Mr. Yang delivered remarks expressing his gratitude to those who have supported him on his journey. He affirmed his commitment to representing students fairly, and to the fullest extent of his responsibilities.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Board President Schmerelson welcomed everyone and made remarks about the new school year. Despite challenges, that range from social to fiscal, Mr. Schmerelson asserted that student safety is a top priority and thanked parents for trusting in the District with their children. He reaffirmed that staff is committed to student wellbeing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Superintendent Carvalho welcomed Jerry Yang to his role as Student Board Member and echoed Board President Schmerelson's sentiments regarding the new school year. He highlighted recent District accomplishments and reaffirmed commitment to student safety, improved attendance, and continued academic progress.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORTS (continued)

LABOR PARTNERS

Cecily Myartz-Cruz, President of United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), expressed concerns regarding budget cuts to community schools despite a recent board resolution reaffirming its commitment to them. She also emphasized the reduction in health and human services staff, which affects the support available for students' trauma and social-emotional wellbeing. Lastly, Ms. Myartz-Cruz urged the District and its leaders to take stronger actions in supporting and protecting students affected by the immigration raids.

Gil Gamez, President of the Los Angeles School Police Association, requested that School Police Officers not be overlooked during budget discussions. He also emphasized the need to expand the mental health crisis team and increase the number of clinicians within the School Police Department to better serve the District. Additionally, Mr. Gamez commended the Superintendent and the Board for the Career Technical Education (CTE) program and applauded its success.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS (continued)

The Superintendent gave brief remarks, restating the District's commitment to job protection, student safety, and protecting the rights of students and employees.

CELEBRITY CHEF CULINARY SHOWDOWN

The Superintendent then made remarks about the Student and Celebrity Chef Culinary Showdown, a competition that paired five student culinary teams with celebrity chefs to develop dishes, with the goal of creating a winning dish for the school menu. The following high schools participated: Phineas Banning, Huntington Park, John H. Francis Polytechnic, Sonia Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet and San Fernando.

Manish Singh, Food Services Director, spoke briefly about the event and introduced the LAUSD team that helped make this competition possible, Jamie Ginsburg, Culinary Supervisor, Florence Simpson, Deputy Director of Food Services, Javier Gutierrez, Regional Food Services Manager, and Esther Dabagyan, CTE-Linked Learning Administrator

Celebrity Chefs, Jet Tila, Michael Reed, Nyesha Arrington, Monica Garcia, and Jesse Sanchez also expressed remarks.

A proclamation was presented to the winning school, John H. Francis Polytechnic High School.

RECOGNITION OF MANUEL COVARRUBIAS

The Superintendent recognized Manuel "Manny" Covarrubias for 34 years of dedicated service to District. He shared Manny's journey, beginning as a bus driver and rising through the ranks to become Sergeant at Arms in the Office of the Superintendent. He expressed deep appreciation for Manny's commitment, contributions and friendship.

Manny thanked the Superintendent and offered remarks reflecting on his time with the District.

CONSENT ITEM

Items for action below to be adopted by a single vote:

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION

Tab 6: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 012-25/26
Define and Approve Two Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein

Tab 7: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 014-25/26
Define and Approve 27 Board District Priority and Region Priority Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein

Tab 10: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 015-25/26
Authorization to execute an agreement with Palmer Third Street Properties LP for use of a portion of the Visconti Parking Garage located at 1221 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Tab 11: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 017-25/26
Authorization to execute a 39-month lease extension with B9 VN Roscoe Owner, LLC ("Landlord") for Use of the Van Nuys Bus Yard Located at 16200 Roscoe Boulevard, Van Nuys, CA, 91406 ("Van Nuys Bus Yard")

Tab 12: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 020-25/26
Consideration of a Business Improvement District Petition for Chinatown BID

Tab 13: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 021-25/26
Consideration of Street Lighting Maintenance Assessment for the Gratts Early Education Center Lighting District

Tab 14: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 022-25/26
Consideration of Street Lighting Maintenance Assessment for the 10th Street Elementary School Lighting District

Tab 16: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 008-25/26
Report of Cash Disbursements, Request to Reissue Expired Warrants, and Report of Corporate Credit Card Charges

Tab 17: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 001-25/26
Approval of Routine Personnel Actions

Tab 18: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 002-25/26
Provisional Internship Permits

RESOLUTIONS REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Tab 24: Reappointment of Member to the School Construction Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee (Aleigh Lewis) (Sup Res-001-25/26)

CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

Tab 25: Report of Correspondence (ROC-001-25/26)

Speakers addressed the Board on the following items on the consent calendar:

Tab 17: Board of Education Report No. 001-25/26, Approval of Routine Personnel Actions

- Belinda Ma, Parent
- Bridget Stewart, Parent

Tab 6: Board Of Education Report No. 012-25/26, Define and Approve Two Early Education Center Outdoor Classroom Projects and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein

- David Tokofsky, Community member

Tab 25: Report of Correspondence, ROC-001- 25/26

- Anne Hutton, Parent

Ms. Gonez moved that the consent items be adopted. Dr. Rivas seconded the motion.

On roll call vote, the consent items were adopted. The vote was 6 ayes and 1 absent (Ms. Ortiz Franklin).

Student Board Member Jerry Yang recorded an advisory vote of aye.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Ortiz Franklin recorded a vote of aye.

The final vote was 7 ayes.

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION

TAB 1: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 010-25/26
Ratification of California Department of Health Care Access and Information's (HCAI) Certified Wellness Coach Grant

Ms. Griego and Ms. Newbill raised questions, which were addressed by Joel Ciscneros, Executive Director of Student Mental Health and Wellness Services and Pedro Salcido, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services and Operations.

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Schmerelson seconded the motion.

On roll call vote, the report was adopted. The vote was 6 ayes and 1 absent (Ms. Ortiz Franklin).

Student Board Member Yang recorded an advisory vote of aye.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Ortiz Franklin recorded a vote of aye.

The final vote was 7 ayes.

TAB 2: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 003-25/26
Ratification of Incentive Grant Awards to Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)

Ms. Griego and Ms. Gonez raised questions and concerns, which were addressed by Jacob Guthrie, Director of Recruitment, Selection, & Retention, Dr. Kristen Murphy, Associate Superintendent, Talent & Labor Relations, and Superintendent Carvalho.

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Dr. Rivas seconded the motion.

On roll call vote, the report was adopted. The vote was 7 ayes.

Student Board Member Yang recorded an advisory vote of aye.

TAB 3: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 024-25/26
Authorization to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Los Angeles for the Community School Parks Program

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Mireya Valencia, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Francesca de la Rosa, Trust for Public Land/ Los Angeles Living Schoolyards Coalition
- James Lopez, Play Equity Fund
- Luciano Mondolo, Playworks
- Danny Salas, Woodcraft Rangers
- Jacqueline Hamilton, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
- Juan Soto, City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks
- Natalie Gutierrez, Center for Healing and Justice through Sport (CHJS)

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Dr. Rivas seconded the motion.

Board Members expressed their appreciation to the City of Los Angeles and District staff for their collaborative efforts in opening schools to the community during the weekends. They also voiced interest in expanding the initiative to include additional schools in the future.

Board Members also raised questions and concerns, which were addressed by Krisztina Tokes, Chief Facilities Executive

The Student Board Member and the Superintendent also made remarks.

On roll call vote, the report was adopted. The vote was 7 ayes.

Student Board Member Yang recorded an advisory vote of aye.

TAB 4: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 009-25/26
Donations of Money to the District

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Schmerelson seconded the motion.
Ms. Newbill raised questions about the Kaiser Permanente donation, which Mr. Pedro Salcido, Deputy

Superintendent, Business Services and Operations addressed.

On roll call vote, the report was adopted. The vote was 5 ayes and 2 absent (Ms. Griego and Ms. Ortiz Franklin).

Student Board Member Yang recorded an advisory vote if aye.

Later in the meeting Ms. Ortiz Franklin and Ms. Griego recorded votes of aye.

The final vote was 7 ayes.

TAB 5: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 011-25/26
Define and Approve Seven Projects to Provide Critical Replacements and Upgrades of School Building/Site Systems and Components and Amend the Facilities Services Division Strategic Execution Plan to Incorporate Therein

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Schmerelson seconded the motion.

Board Members raised questions and concerns regarding the use of synthetic turf, specifically related to injuries, heat exposure, cost, and environmental impact.

Krisztina Tokes, Chief Facilities Executive, responded to the Board's questions and addressed the concerns.

Ms. Griego emphasized the importance of community engagement on facilities projects and requested that opportunities for community input be incorporated.

Student Board Member Yang requested that alternative options to synthetic turf be explored, with a focus to minimize any negative impact on student wellbeing.

On roll call vote, the report was adopted. The vote was 6 ayes and 1 absent (Ms. Newbill).

- Ms. Gonez abstained from projects 5 and 6.

Student Board Member Yang recorded an advisory vote of aye but abstained from projects 6 and 7.

Later in the meeting Ms. Newbill recorded a vote of aye.

The final vote was 7 ayes.

TAB 8: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 005-25/26
Approval of Facilities Contracts Actions

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Schmerelson seconded the motion.

Ms. Griego posed questions which were addressed by Mr. Matthew Friedman, Chief Procurement Officer.

On roll call vote, the report was adopted. The vote was 7 ayes.

Student Board Member Yang recorded an advisory vote of aye.

TAB 9: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 007-25/26
Approval of Procurement Actions

Mr. McLean announced that Attachment A, Item A, UCLA Center X contract, had been withdrawn.

Dr. Rivas recused herself from voting on Attachment A, Item D, the California School Board Association (CSBA) Contract.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Dahlia Taha, Community member
- Rebecca Husaini, Muslim Public Affairs Council
- Estee Chandler, Jewish Voice for Peace Action
- Hadir Azab, Council on American Islamic Relations

Mr. McLean read the following statement:

> In accordance with section 18707 of the California Code of Regulations, Board Member Rivas is and has publicly recused herself from discussing or taking action on Item D within Tab 9 due to a travel payment received from the California School Board Association.

Board Members raised questions and concerns regarding the following contracts:

- Attachment A, Item B - Avasant, LLC, and Item F - Professional Services Goods and General Services Totals for the Month of May
- Attachment B, Item M – Cumming Management Group, Inc.

Soheil Katal, Chief Information Officer, Deneen Cox, Deputy General Counsel, Matthew Friedman, Chief Procurement Officer, Christos Chrysiliou, Eco-Sustainability Officer, Daniel Kang, Director of Transportation, Ana Estevez, Interim Executive Director of Beyond the Bell and the Superintendent responded to questions.

Ms. Griego requested a list of the professional services utilized by the District, along with data showing the percentage of the services used by schools versus those used by the central offices.

Attachment B, Item M – Cumming Management Group, Inc.

- Student Board Member Yang made remarks, encouraging efforts to increase student engagement in these projects.

Attachment B, Item N - Mission School Transportation

- Ms. Gonez proposed using revenue sources to provide additional hours for bus drivers or to hire more bus drivers, instead of contracting with outside entities.

Attachment B, Item I - National Education Equity Lab

- Ms. Gonez requested that an effort be made to ensure schools in Board District 6 have the opportunity to offer these courses to their students.

Mr. Schmerelson moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Gonez seconded the motion.

On roll call vote, the report was adopted. The vote was 6 ayes and 1 absent (Dr. Rivas).

- Earlier in the meeting Dr. Rivas recused herself from Attachment A, Item D, the California School Board Association (CSBA) Contract.
- Ms. Griego abstained from Attachment A, Item B, Avasant, LLC
- Ms. Gonez abstained from Attachment A, Item B, Avasant, LLC and voted no on Attachment B, Item N, Mission School Transportation

TAB 15: BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 023-25/26
Certification of Unhoused Pupils for Charter School Facilities Program Applications

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Martin Farfan, Green Dot Public Schools

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion.

Mr. Schmerelson requested clarification on the term “unhoused people.”

Krisztina Tokes, Chief Facilities Executive clarified the term.

On roll call vote, the report was adopted. The vote was 6 ayes and 1 absent (Dr. Rivas).

Later in the meeting, Dr. Rivas recorded a vote of aye.

The final vote was 7 ayes.

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Mr. McLean recessed the meeting at 1:53 p.m.
The Board will reconvene at 3:30 p.m. to hear general public comment.

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The Board reconvened the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

The following Board Members were present: Ms. Newbill, Ms. Griego, and Board President Schmerelson.

Ms. Gonez joined the meeting remotely.

Dr. Rivas and Mr. Melvoin were absent.

Ms. Ortiz Franklin joined the meeting remotely at approximately 3:32 p.m.

Dr. Rivas arrived at approximately 3:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridie Lee, Parent (Schools Beyond Screens)	LAUSD's education technology (Ed Tech) policy
Eugene Lobachev, Parent	Transparency on split classes in schools
John A. Wooden, Parent (Schools Beyond Screens)	Request to purge ed tech
Layla King, Student (Student's Deserve)	Support for black and undocumented students and community schools
Gilbert Lopez, Student (Student's Deserve)	Support for undocumented students
Guadalupe Garcia, Student	Support for Communities in Schools Los Angeles
Layla, Student (Student's Deserve)	Support for psychiatric social workers (PSW) at school
Anya Meksin, Schools Beyond Screens	Responsible use of ed tech in LAUSD
Camie Lauria, PSW	Impact of hiring freeze on school mental health positions
Karina Lopez, Parent	Support for parent committees & school safety
Aaron Craig, Parent (Schools Beyond Screen)	Request for data on ed tech in schools
Margaret Fuentes, Former Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) Chair	Supporting and addressing BOC matters
Maria Daisy Ortiz, Community Member	Support for parent involvement
Pricila, Student (Students Deserve)	Support for undocumented students
Marcela Garcia, Parent	Support for parent involvement

ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD: JUNE 12, 2026

MR. SCOTT SCHMERELSON PRESIDENT	MR. MICHAEL MCLEAN EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD

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