

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

10/01/2025 [03:00 PM]

REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of October 1, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., in the Elderwood Room at the Doe Avenue Complex, 7000 Doe Avenue, Visalia, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Welcome

Minutes

Board President Chris Reed welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Mrs. Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked that the record show that two members, Judy Coble and Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, are absent. Celia Maldonado-Arroyo arrived at 3:24 p.m.

2. Board Members and Staff

Minutes

Board members present: President Chris Reed, Vice President Tony Rodriguez, Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo (3:24 p.m.), Mike Waters, and Ex-Officio Secretary Tim A. Hire. Board member absent: Judy Coble. Staff members present: Jody Arriaga, Julie Berk, Zoty Briceño, Jaime Burnitzki, John Davis, Jennifer Fisher, Liliana Flores, Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Joe Martinez, Chris Meyer, Anthony Paz, Jeff Ramsay, Dedi Somavia, Kate Stover, and Samantha Tate. Guests present: Robert Arroyo, Amy King, Amie Rangel, Desiree Serrano, and Travis Walters.

3. ADA ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENT

Persons who are in need of a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the board meeting must make a request in writing to the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools, 6200 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California, P.O. Box 5091, 559/733-6301. A request for accommodation should specify the nature of the modification or accommodation requested, including any necessary auxiliary aids or services required and the name and telephone number of the person making the request. The written request should be made as soon as possible and no later than 2 days before the meeting. The agenda, agenda packet and any written documents distributed to the board during a public meeting will be made available in appropriate alternative formats upon request by a person with a disability as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Written documents concerning agenda items are available for public inspection during normal business hours within 72 hours of a regular board meeting at the Tulare County Office of Education, 6200 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the board on any agenda item, or other item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board during the public comment period. Agenda items may also be addressed by the public at the time they are taken up by the board. The board is not able to discuss or take action on any item not appearing on the agenda. A five-minute time limit can be imposed on public input for individuals/issues as deemed necessary.

Minutes

No public comments were received.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Routine Matters

1. Consent Calendar

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Tony Rodriguez

a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of September 3, 2025

b. Authorization of Countywide Registration of Credentials

c. Authorization of Temporary County Certificates

d. Authorization of Countywide Emergency Permit Applications

b. New Business

1. First Reading of Board/Superintendent Policy and Administrative Regulation 6173 - Education for Homeless Children - Joe Martinez

Minutes

Joe Martinez presented the first reading of Board/Superintendent Policy and Administrative Regulation 6173 - Education of Homeless Children. The major change to the language is moving from identifying homeless student to identifying students who are experiencing homelessness. For the 2024-2025 school year, there were 4,746 students identified as experiencing homelessness which is a 14% increase from the previous year. In TCOE run schools, there were 45 youth who identified as experiencing homelessness which is about double the previous year. This is an informational item only.

2. Consideration and Approval, Tulare County Creative Blueprint for Arts Education - Kate Stover

Minutes

Kate Stover announced that October is Arts Education Month. She presented the Tulare County Creative Blueprint for Arts Education. She shared that planning for the arts master plan began in 2017. The Board approved it in March

of 2019. The CreateTC coalition was formed. In September 2021, TCOE received a \$1.7 million grant for The QUAIL (Quality Arts Instruction and Learning) Project. This year is the fifth year of the grant, and it is fully funded. With this funding, 48 districts, including charters, 143 school sites and over 1,000 educators have been supported. In 2023, Ms. Stover presented the work being done in Tulare County to U.S. Department of Education. She shared information about the Young People’s Concerts and the purchase of over 1,600 new print digital media books, puppets, and kits in English and Spanish. Currently, she is working regionally to implement the first Strategic Arts plan in the state. Planning for the Creative Blueprint for Arts Education began last year with the goal of making sure all students have access to the arts by adding innovative initiatives. She introduced members of the planning team who were in attendance, Amy King, Amie Rangel, and Travis Walters.

The Board thanked Ms. Stover for her presentation and the work being done.

Vote Results

Yea: 5 Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 2 Judy Coble, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Ruben Macareno

3. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 25/26-15, TCOE Red Ribbon Week, October 27 through October 31, 2025 - Jaime Burnitzki

Minutes

Jaime asked for the Board to adopt Resolution No. 25/26-15 proclaiming October 27 through 31, 2025 as TCOE Red Ribbon Week. He shared that the Red Ribbon Week committee had chosen Foodlink for Tulare County as the recipient of the proceeds from the week.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Judy Coble

Motion: Tony Rodriguez **Second:** Mike Waters

4. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 25/06-05, Proclaiming October 2025 as Character Education Month - Zoty Briceño

Minutes

Zoty Briceño asked for the adoption of Resolution No. 25/26-05, proclaiming October 2025 as Character Education Month. For more than 30 years, CHARACTER COUNTS! has been at the heart of Tulare County's efforts to promote ethical values, sportsmanship, and positive school climate. The CHARACTER COUNTS! staff has visited over 100 schools already this year. In addition, our Office of Education hosts a table under the pillar square in the lobby of the Administration building filled with resources for the entire month of October.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Judy Coble

Motion: Tony Rodriguez **Second:** Tom Link

5. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 25/26-06, Proclaiming October 20-25, 2025, as National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week - Zoty Briceño

Minutes

Zoty Briceño reported the annual Kids of Character Awards received over 5,200 nominations with 170 schools participating. The Provident-Salerno Family Foundation gave a larger donation this year to honor more students. The top six honorees and 36 finalists will be awarded scholarships on November 4. She noted the invitation in the Board's packet. She also shared a story about a student from Washington Elementary in Lindsay with a caring heart.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 1 Judy Coble
Motion: Ruben Macareno **Second:** Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

6. Consideration and Adoption, Resolution No. 25/26-12 for Establishing Appropriations (GANN) Limits - Jody Arriaga

Minutes

Jody Arriaga asked the Board to consider and adopt Resolution No. 25/26-12 for Establishing Appropriations (GANN) Limits for this year.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 1 Judy Coble
Motion: Mike Waters **Second:** Tom Link

7. Consideration and Approval, Resolution No. 25/26-14 Rendering the County Zoning Ordinance Inapplicable - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay asked the Board to adopt Resolution No. 25/26-14 Rendering the County Zoning Ordinance Inapplicable.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 1 Judy Coble
Motion: Tony Rodriguez **Second:** Tom Link

8. Consideration and Approval, Resolution No. 25/26-13 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay requested that the Board adopt Resolution No. 25/26-13 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property.

Vote Results

Yea: 6 Tom Link, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 1 Judy Coble

Motion: Celia Maldonado-Arroyo **Second:** Mike Waters

6. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence

b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff

Minutes

Mr. Hire called attention to the Stage and Space Collaborative's *War of the Worlds* presentation on October 24 and 25 at the Planetarium and Science Center. He also pointed out the flyer for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* presented November 20-22 at the Rotary Theater. The UPHS carnival will held on Saturday. He reminded the Board to RSVP for the Excellence in Education breakfast on October 22. He shared information about Trades Day at the Porterville Fairgrounds on October 23, Expanding Your Horizons at College of the Sequoias on October 25, and the Red Ribbon Celebration at the Doe Avenue Complex on October 25.

Superintendent Hire reported the CSBA County Board Governance Handbook is available.

Mr. Hire gave a brief update on the budget. He reported that small rural schools like Three Rivers could be affect by the National parks shut down. With the shutdown, there will not be anybody answering the phones or able to answer our questions or give us the support that we need at the federal level, but we will still continue to serve children.

c. Reports from Board, Information, and Questions

Minutes

Mike Waters and Ruben Macareno attended the County School Board Conference in Monterey during September. The conference was a great education for new board members. They learned that Tulare County is setting the example throughout the state.

7. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

November 5, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.