

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

01/07/2026 [03:00 PM]

REGULAR MEETING

For the Regular Board Meeting of January 7, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., in the Redwood Conference Center at the Jim Vidak Education Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes

President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Mike Waters led the pledge of allegiance.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Welcome

2. 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.

3. 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 comments were received.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Routine Matters

1. Consent Calendar

Minutes

Tony Rodriguez thanked Blanket Ladies and Friends of SCICON for their donations.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Mike Waters

a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of December 12, 2025

b. Authorization of Countywide Registration of Credentials

c. Authorization of Temporary County Certificates

d. Authorization of Countywide Emergency Permit Applications

e. Acceptance of Donation from Blanket Ladies (\$805) to AcCEL, L.B. Hill Learning Center

f. Acceptance of Donation from Friends of SCICON (\$1,693.94) to SCICON

b. Old Business

1. Consideration and Approval, Second Reading, Board Policy 5141.53 - Referral Protocols for Addressing Pupil Behavioral Health Concerns - John Vining

Minutes

John Vining requested the Board's approval of Board Policy 5141.53 - Referral Protocols for Addressing Pupil Behavioral Health Concerns.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Chris Reed **Second:** Mike Waters

c. New Business

1. First Reading of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.13 - Response to Immigration Enforcement - Tammy Bradford

Minutes

Tammy Bradford presented the first reading of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.13 - Response to Immigration Enforcement. This policy states no student shall be denied equal rights and opportunities, nor be subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying within the Tulare County Office of Education programs or activities on the basis of student or family's immigration status. She explained that immigration status information cannot be shared unless authorized or court ordered.

2. Consideration and Approval, 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC), La Sierra Military Academy - Dr. Jose Bedolla

Minutes

Dr. Jose Bedolla asked for the Board's approval of the 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for La Sierra Military Academy. Dr. Bedolla reported that La Sierra is making strong improvements, with 18 points growth in ELA and 40 points growth in Math. La Sierra has maintained for the second consecutive year 100% high school graduation. This past fall, La Sierra implemented for the first time the New Forestry Pathway for our students who are going to college, which allows students to apply for internships within the U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire agencies.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Mike Waters

3. Consideration and Approval, 2024-2025 School Accountability and Report Card (SARC), University Preparatory High School (UPHS) - Dr. Helen Feller

Minutes

Dr. Helen Feller requested the Board's approval of the 2024-2025 School Accountability and Report Card (SARC) for UPHS. UPHS has increased the number of socially economic disadvantaged students by 11%. The ratio of male and female students has evened out. There was a 2% increase in students who report to be Hispanic or Latino descent. Dr. Feller reported math was the largest area of growth at 15 points higher than a year ago. Ms. Serena Sandoval presented at the National Conference for Teachers of English Mr. Figueroa, the UPHS history teacher, was selected by the Library of Congress to attend Summer Institute for social studies teachers about civic engagement and political awareness. Mr. Moore will be finishing his master's in chemistry this spring.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Mike Waters **Second:** Chris Reed

4. Consideration and Approval, 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC), Special Education - Sarah Hamilton

Minutes

Sarah Hamilton asked approval of the 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Special Education. CASP scores increased by a couple percentages for ELA, math, and science. Ms. Hamilton reported a zero-suspension rate and high parent involvement. Chronic absenteeism due to student medical conditions is the area that staff continue to work toward improving.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Mike Waters

5. Consideration and Approval, 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC), Court School - Joe Andrade

Minutes

Joe Andrade requested the Board's approval for the 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Court School. Mr. Andrade reported zero suspensions and a 15.8% increase in the graduation rate. The site's new library will be opening soon. There was 32% increase in students attending college. Probation has contracted with Porterville College which provides support to students through the Rising Scholar Program. Parent engagement is about 75%, but they are working toward 90%. The site hosted their first Back to School night.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Mike Waters **Second:** Tom Link

6. Consideration and Approval, 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC), Community School - Joe Andrade

Minutes

Joe Andrade requested the Board's approval for the 2024-2025 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Community School. Mr. Andrade reported zero suspensions and reduced chronic absenteeism for the site. He highlighted the music appreciation and culinary programs. The site has maintained 90% parent involvement and are working toward 100% parent involvement.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Tom Link **Second:** Mike Waters

7. Consideration and Approval, Resolution #25/26-18 Declaring the Futility of Public Bidding for the Electrical Switchgear Work at the New Administration Facility Expansion Project - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay asked the Board to approve Resolution #25/26-18 Declaring the Futility of Public Bidding for the Electrical Switchgear Work at the New Administration Facility Expansion Project. He explained that this resolution will allow the equipment to be purchased directly from manufacture at a cost saving and to avoid a longer order lead time.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Chris Reed **Second:** Tom Link

8. Consideration and Approval, Resolution #25/26-19 Declaring Intention to Reimburse Expenditures Relating to Eligible Projects from the Proceeds of Tax-Exempt Indebtedness - Jeff Ramsay

Minutes

Jeff Ramsay requested the Board's approval for Resolution #25/26-19 Declaring Intention to Reimburse Expenditures Relating to Eligible Projects from the Proceeds of Tax-Exempt Indebtedness. The resolution gives the Office of Education the flexibility to reimburse the general fund with COP funds.

Vote Results

Yea: 4 Tom Link, Chris Reed, Tony Rodriguez, Mike Waters

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Cast: 3 Judy Coble, Ruben Macareno, Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Motion: Mike Waters **Second:** Chris Reed

9. Discussion, Naming of Facilities - Tim A. Hire

Minutes

Superintendent Hire presented information about board policies and the Office of Education's past precedents for naming facilities. He recommended the Board create a subcommittee to make name recommendations. Chris Reed explained that a manager has always served on the committee. The Board discussed previous long-serving Board members. Chris Reed shared historical information about Dr. Peterson and Leonard Hanson. President Rodriguez asked Mike Waters to lead a sub-committee to make recommendation for naming the new facilities. Tom Link will join the subcommittee and Mr. Hire will ask a staff member to join the committee.

5. Information (Non-Discussion Items)

a. Letters and Communication/Correspondence

b. Reports from Superintendent and Staff

Minutes

Superintendent Hire reported the SCICON Open House will be on January 25. Mock Trial rounds begin on January 20 with finals held at the Redwood Conference Center on February 5. Academic Decathlon Speech and Interview competition is on January 31 and SuperQuiz and awards will be on February 7. The student events staff are still

looking for judges for this event. District Leadership Institute is February 10. He asked the Board to mark their calendar for the Groundbreaking on February 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Hire shared the Governor's state budget announcement that is expected this week. He reported that the TCOE Foundation now has a food booth at the Internation Agri-Center and the Foundation will be asking for volunteers during the World Ag Expo.

c. Reports from Board, Information, and Questions

6. Next Scheduled Board Meeting

February 4, 2026 - 3:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.