

MEETING MINUTES

Voting Members

Lauren Brooks, Board Member
Jeff Kim, Board Clerk
Katie McEwen, Board President
Connie Stone, Board Member
Cyril Yu, Board Member

1. CALL TO ORDER

President McEwen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. CLOSED SESSION PUBLIC COMMENTS

Minutes:
None.

3. CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:01 p.m.

a. Student Discipline Issue(s) (1 case) [Education Code Sections 35146 and 48918(c)]

Minutes:
The Board discussed one student discipline matter.

b. Public Employee(s) Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Resignation [Government Code Section 54957]

Minutes:
The Board met with staff to discuss public employee discipline/dismissal/release/resignation.

c. Challenging Content of Student Records [Education Code Section 49070]

Minutes:
The Board met with a parent and staff member regarding Appeal No. 2024-25-01, challenging content for a student record, per Education Code section 49070.

d. Public Employee Performance Evaluation [Government Code Section 54957]

Minutes:
Discussion of the Superintendent's Goals and Objectives was postponed due to time constraints.

4. RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING - 6:30 PM

President McEwen reconvened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE / ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Member McEwen.

Members Present:

Lauren Brooks
Jeff Kim
Katie McEwen
Connie Stone
Cyril Yu

Student Members Present:

Ishaan Gaikwad, Irvine High School
Charlotte Pham, Woodbridge High School
Kobi Tran, Portola High School
Chloe Tsai, University High School

Staff Present:

Cassie Parham, Interim Superintendent of Schools
John Fogarty, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Eamonn O'Donovan, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Brianna Ford, Assistant Superintendent, Information Technology
Raiana Chavez, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

6. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION / ACTION

Minutes:

President McEwen reported on the discussion in Closed Session including the motion by Member Brooks and second by Member Yu, carried 5-0 with Members Brooks, Kim, McEwen, Stone and Yu voting to approve the Resignation Agreement and General Release between the District and classified employee No. 73548.

Additionally, President McEwen reported on the discussion in Closed Session, including the motion by Member Yu and second by Member Stone, carried 5-0 with Members Brooks, Kim, McEwen, Stone and Yu voting to deny Appeal No. 2024-25-01 and to maintain the challenged records as recorded.

7. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

a. Case No. 03H-2425

Approve the staff recommendation to expel Case No. 03H-2425 and to suspend and shorten the expulsion, permitting the student to remain enrolled at Creekside High School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year with a behavior contract in place.

Motion made by: Cyril Yu

Motion seconded by: Jeff Kim

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes
Jeff Kim - Yes
Katie McEwen - Yes
Connie Stone - Yes
Cyril Yu - Yes

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the following meeting(s), as presented:

November 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Motion made by: Cyril Yu

Motion seconded by: Lauren Brooks

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes

Jeff Kim - Yes

Katie McEwen - Yes

Connie Stone - Yes

Cyril Yu - Yes

9. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adopt agenda, as presented.

Motion made by: Cyril Yu

Motion seconded by: Connie Stone

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes

Jeff Kim - Yes

Katie McEwen - Yes

Connie Stone - Yes

Cyril Yu - Yes

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Minutes:

Mecca McFadden addressed the Board regarding an update from Orange County Board of Supervisor Katrina Foley's office.

11. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Minutes:

Student Board Members Ishaan Gaikwad, Charlotte Pham, Kobi Tran, and Chloe Tsai reported on school activities.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

Interim Superintendent Parham began her report by expressing deep appreciation for the Curriculum and Instruction team and their efforts on the District-wide Professional Learning Summit. Over 2,000 educators participated in 244 sessions across three locations, giving teachers tools to plan, differentiate, and connect for the benefit of our students. She also reported on her attendance at the Creative Edge Lecture at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, where Woodbridge High School students performed. She noted that the event focused on careers at the intersection of coding and engineering, providing an opportunity to highlight that over 4,500 IUSD students enrolled in CTE courses last year, and the District is on track to match that number this year. Additionally, she reported on the Black Student Union's fun and inspiring event celebrating Black History Month. She noted that IPSF awarded its Innovative Grants, including a significant grant to a Special Education Occupational Therapist for C-Pen Text-to-Speech Readers, which allow students to hear books and materials read aloud. In

closing, she attended the CALSSD meeting to hear from legislators and advocate on behalf of school districts.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Minutes:

Board members Brooks, Kim, McEwen, Stone, and Yu provided updates on their school visits, conference attendance, other responsibilities, and participation in various meetings and activities.

14. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 15.a. – 20.a.

Motion made by: Cyril Yu

Motion seconded by: Jeff Kim

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes
Jeff Kim - Yes
Katie McEwen - Yes
Connie Stone - Yes
Cyril Yu - Yes

15. CONSENT CALENDAR - Business Services

- a. Check Register Report
- b. Contract Services Action Report 2024-25/09
- c. Purchase Order Detail Report
- d. Authorize the Extension of California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) Contract No. 4-22-06-1021 for Playground and Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- e. Authorize the Utilization of California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) Contract No. 4-22-05-1027 for Carpet and Commercial Flooring
- f. Authorize the Utilization of California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) Contract No. 4-24-04-1042 for Carpet and Floor Coverings
- g. Charter Facilities Agreement by and between Irvine Unified School District and Irvine Chinese Immersion Academy
- h. Charter Facilities Agreement by and between Irvine Unified School District and Irvine International Academy
- i. Claim for Damages #01-2025

16. CONSENT CALENDAR - Education Services

- a. Field Trips and Excursions
- b. Participation in Outdoor Education Science Camps for the 2025-26 School Year
- c. Temporary Athletic Team Coach Certification 2024-25

17. CONSENT CALENDAR - Human Resources

- a. Certificated Personnel Action Report 2024-25/09
- b. Classified Personnel Action Report 2024-25/09

18. CONSENT CALENDAR - Information Technology

- a. Authorize the Utilization of the Substitution NASPO ValuePoint Contract for the Purchase of Copiers and Managed Print Services
- b. Exercise Option to Extend the Education Technology Joint Powers Authority (Ed Tech JPA) Master Contract for the Purchase of Configuration and Management Services for the District's Firewall and Related Systems

19. CONSENT CALENDAR - Special Education

- a. Special Education Settlement Agreement(s)
- b. Special Education Reimbursement(s)
- c. Special Education Master Contract(s) 2024-25

20. CONSENT CALENDAR - Superintendent's Office

- a. Conference Attendance

21. FACILITIES CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Facilities Consent Calendar Item Nos. 21.a. – 21.e.

Motion made by: Lauren Brooks

Motion seconded by: Cyril Yu

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes
Jeff Kim - Yes
Katie McEwen - Yes
Connie Stone - Yes
Cyril Yu - Yes

- a. Additional Architectural Services for Classroom Expansion at Cadence Park School
- b. Extended Construction Management Services for Creekside Education Center Nutrition Services Expansion 2023 and Multiple Construction Projects
- c. Change Order Request for the Eastwood Elementary School Villa Classroom Expansion Project 2024
- d. Change Order Requests for the Measure E Series 3 – New Performing Arts Complex at Irvine High School – Increment 2
- e. Notices of Completion for the Measure E Series 3 – New Performing Arts Complex at Irvine High School – Increment 2

22. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes:

None.

23. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

a. Public Hearing: Ethnic Studies Course

Hold a public hearing and consider all comments regarding the proposed Ethnic Studies Course.

Minutes:

Interim Superintendent Parham introduced Chris Krebs, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, who highlighted the District's proposed Ethnic Studies course. He then introduced Blair Liquigan-Pador, Coordinator of History-Social Science, Literacy, and World Languages.

Blair provided an overview of Assembly Bill 101, passed in 2021. This bill mandates that Ethnic Studies become a graduation requirement for the class of 2029-30. It also requires that the course be presented at a public meeting prior to Board approval at a subsequent meeting and be offered as at least a one-semester pilot course in the 2025-26 school year.

She then reviewed the model curriculum framework developed by the California Department of Education for course implementation. The framework features course outcomes, values, and principles, and includes lesson plans and resources. The proposed course will focus on the American experience, histories, challenges, and contributions of African American/Black, Asian American, Latino, and Native American communities. The instruction will promote collaboration and analytical thinking through reflection, awareness, and action for positive change, with a goal for all students to feel seen.

Next, she reviewed the implementation timeline, which began in 2022 by convening stakeholder groups to develop program recommendations based on common interests. During the 2024-25 school year, the pilot curriculum was developed and provided to teachers for training. The course is proposed to be piloted during the 2025-26 school year and refined based on classroom feedback, with the intent of implementing it districtwide in 2026-27 while continuing to refine the initial offering.

The Stakeholder Committee, which worked on the course structure from 2022 to 2024, consisted of parents, students, teachers, administrators, college representatives, and community members. They developed course recommendations and priorities, including the course being a semester-long, stand-alone course offered in the 11th or 12th grade.

The Curriculum Design Institute and Steering Committee reviewed resources, lesson plans, and designed the capstone project. The Steering Committee, consisting of teachers, site administrators, and district leaders, provided diverse perspectives and feedback on instructional plans. Nine instructional standards and five-unit topics were developed. Teachers selected Newsela and McGraw-Hill's Actively Learn as instructional material resources for the pilot based on their accessibility, representation, and skill development.

The community can submit feedback about the course or recommended instructional materials, which will be reviewed by the Steering Committee. Afterward, the pilot course will be presented to the Board for approval and instructional material adoption. Then, during the summer, the Curriculum Design Institute committee will further develop the curriculum for pilot implementation in the fall of the 2025-26 school year.

President McEwen opened the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.

Elene Mervich and Karen Jaffey spoke to the subject.

Board members and student board members expressed their appreciation for the thoughtful work of staff in the development of an inclusive course.

Following the public comment, President McEwen closed the public hearing at 8:02 p.m.

b. Adoption of the 2024-25 Irvine Unified School District Transportation Plan

Adopt the Irvine Unified School District 2024-25 Transportation Plan, as submitted.

Minutes:

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, John Fogarty, introduced Joe Chapin, Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation, who presented the 2024-25 IUSD Transportation Plan.

He provided an overview of recent education code regulations, which require the adoption of an initial plan by April 1, 2023, with an annual update by April 1 each year thereafter. While feedback was only required for the initial plan, the District chose to gather community feedback again this year. The plan requires school districts to describe the transportation services offered to students, prioritizing low-income students and those in Pre-Kindergarten to grade 6. School districts are prohibited from charging fees to unduplicated students (low-income, English learners, and foster youth).

Next, he provided background on transportation funding. For the first time in over a decade, the 2022-23 state budget included \$637 million in ongoing Proposition 98 funds for Home-to-School Transportation. Even with this funding, IUSD remains underfunded for both Home-to-School and Special Education transportation. The estimated transportation expenditures for 2024-25 are \$9.9 million. However, IUSD receives approximately \$1.3 million from the state through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), \$3.5 million through state augmentation, and \$533,000 in local fees (from parent contributions, the City of Irvine, and other local revenues). This leaves a transportation funding gap of approximately \$4.5 million, which is equivalent to the cost of 35 teaching positions.

Current transportation services include 11 general education routes and 77 special education routes, transporting over 1,500 students daily. The District has issued 208 free bus passes to low-income students, with an additional 701 passes funded by parents. In addition to daily routes, the department manages approximately 2,500 activity trips annually for field trips and athletic events.

Transportation for Special Education students is provided free of charge as specified in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) when they are enrolled at a school other than their school of residence or require transportation due to the severity of their disability.

The District provides 11 home-to-school routes; two of these, for University High School, are subsidized annually by the City of Irvine. Administrative Regulation 3540.1, Home-to-School Transportation Limits, establishes non-transportation zones for elementary, middle, and high schools. Service beyond these zones may be provided where there is sufficient paying ridership to operate a bus on a cost-neutral basis or where significant safety concerns exist.

An evaluation of students residing outside non-transportation zones while attending their school of residence indicated that 3% or 606 elementary/PK-8 students primarily attending Oak Creek and Alderwood elementary schools reside outside the non-transportation zone. While 11% or 534 middle school students, with most attending Jeffrey Trail and San Joaquin middle schools, reside outside the non-transportation

zone. Lastly, 3% or 414 high school students with most attending University and Woodbridge high schools reside outside the transportation zone.

Joe introduced Assistant Director, Jennifer Payton, who reviewed the Transportation Survey results. Responses increased significantly this year, with over 3,000 responses compared to approximately 1,000 last year. The bulk of responses came from parents and guardians. Much of the feedback pertained to the City of Irvine and will be shared with them.

Key survey findings include:

- Over 50% of respondents indicated their student is dropped off or picked up by a parent.
- Approximately 35% indicated their students get to and from school on their own.
- Reasons for not walking or biking include distance, safety concerns, student age, infrastructure, or convenience.
- Most respondents felt a student is safe start to walk or bike to school without an adult between grades 4 and 7.
- Most respondents were comfortable with middle and high school students waiting at a bus stop without an adult.

Common themes in the survey comments included requests for more home-to-school routes, safety concerns, traffic congestion, additional crossing guards, field trip costs, and alternative transportation options.

The District and the City of Irvine hold quarterly meetings to discuss transportation needs and explore collaborative opportunities. The District has also collaborated with the City on the Mandatory E-Vehicle Safety and Registration Program and has shared information about the Irvine Connect service with nearby schools.

Board members extended their appreciation for the presentation, the Transportation Plan, and the community survey.

Jay Bruce spoke to the topic.

Motion made by: Cyril Yu

Motion seconded by: Lauren Brooks

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes
Jeff Kim - Yes
Katie McEwen - Yes
Connie Stone - Yes
Cyril Yu - Yes

c. Second Interim Report of 2024-25 (AB1200, Chapter 1213, Statutes of 1991)

Certify the Second Interim Report of 2024-25 as “Positive” based on information presented.

Minutes:

John Fogarty, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the 2024-25 Second Interim Report, the District's second official revision to the final adopted

budget. This report includes actual financial data through January 31, 2025, and revised projections for the remainder of the fiscal year.

He began by acknowledging the state's budget outlook for education. Revenues continue to exceed projections in the current year and are forecast to be approximately \$6.4 billion higher than budgeted. The Governor's revenue projections for 2025-26 have increased by approximately \$8 billion from the estimates included in the 2024 Budget Act. Proposition 98, which dictates funding for K-12 and Community Colleges, is protected from cuts affecting the rest of the state budget. At the time the Governor's January Budget proposal was developed, state revenues were up, increasing the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee by approximately \$3.9 billion in the current year. Proposition 98 remains in a very good position relative to the overall state budget.

Next, he reviewed the state's general fund revenues. He noted that while revenue collections were down by approximately \$700 million for January, they are up by about \$2 billion overall compared to the State Adopted 2024-25 Budget. Due to fires in Los Angeles County, the IRS and the state of California extended the 2024 tax filing deadline to October 2025 for county residents. Since Los Angeles County represents 25% of the state's population, this extension creates uncertainty for the May Revise and the final budget revenue picture.

The Governor's 2024-25 January budget proposal includes funding for the statutory Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), projected at 2.43% for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and most categorical programs. This results in an ongoing year-over-year increase of approximately \$15.8 million for IUSD. After accounting for annual expenditure increases related to step-and-column salary adjustments, pensions, and special education costs, it is estimated that approximately \$5 million in ongoing funding will be available for allocation.

He then emphasized ongoing challenges for school districts, including the LCFF's disproportionate emphasis on districts with high concentrations of disadvantaged students (which IUSD is not), the large influx of one-time state funding, the volatility of state revenues, inflation, and federal policy uncertainty.

Next, he reviewed the utilization of approximately \$69.1 million in one-time funding, which will be spent through 2026-27. These funds come from the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant, the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant, and other one-time sources. Approximately \$51.3 million in one-time funding remains. The spending plan allocates \$19 million in 2024-25 and \$16 million in 2025-26. This leaves a shortfall, with only \$6.5 million of the needed \$16.3 million available for 2026-27. He stressed that school districts need an exit strategy, as one-time funds cannot be used for ongoing programs or expenditures.

In closing, he reviewed the second interim multi-year assumptions, compared the first and second interim general fund unrestricted balances, and provided a financial outlook. Projections indicate that enrollment will level off beginning in 2026-27. Based on current projections, a positive certification is recommended, indicating that the District is projected to meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and the subsequent two years.

Motion made by: Jeff Kim

Motion seconded by: Lauren Brooks

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes
Jeff Kim - Yes
Katie McEwen - Yes
Connie Stone - Yes
Cyril Yu - Yes

d. 2025 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election - Region 15

Cast votes for up to seven (7) CSBA Delegate Assembly candidates.

Minutes:

After much deliberation and consideration, the Board cast votes for CSBA Delegate Assembly candidates:

Beverly Berryman (Fullerton SD)
Bonnie Castrey (Huntington Beach Union HSD)
Jessica Guerrero (Anaheim Union HSD)
Rhodia Shead (Buena Park ESD)
Suzie Swarts (Saddleback Valley USD)
Lauren Klatzker (Fullerton Joint Union HSD) write-in candidate
Carrie Flanders (Brea Olinda USD) write-in candidate

Motion made by: Lauren Brooks

Motion seconded by: Jeff Kim

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes
Jeff Kim - Yes
Katie McEwen - Yes
Connie Stone - Yes
Cyril Yu - Yes

24. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Minutes:

Cindy Mata addressed the Board regarding congratulations to Jon Resendez on his CCSS award.

25. CLOSED SESSION (AS NECESSARY)

Minutes:

None.

26. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Motion made by: Lauren Brooks

Motion seconded by: Cyril Yu

Voting:

Lauren Brooks - Yes
Jeff Kim - Yes
Katie McEwen - Yes
Connie Stone - Yes
Cyril Yu - Yes