

MARK WEST UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, March 10, 2026

The meeting was held in the District Office Learning Center
305 Mark West Springs Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

The meeting opened to the public at 5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL: 5:00 P.M.

Board Members

Brian Burke, President
Victor McKnight, Clerk
Tracy Lavin-Kendall
Sara Azat
Aaron Smith

Staff Members

Dr. Rachel Valenzuela, Superintendent
Renee Loeza, Chief Business Official
Kate Westrich, Director of Instruction & Student Serv.
Principals: Emily Todd, Kelli Osorio, Bennet Holley,
Lisa Chapman
Mason Nakamura, Director of Maintenance & Oper.
Jose Santamaria, Information Technology Manager
Alicia Mills, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Trustee Burke was absent

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may seek clarification about any item on the Closed Session agenda for as long as the item is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Comments shall be limited to three minutes per person for a total of 20 minutes. Any person interested in the following items on the agenda will be allowed an opportunity to address the Board at this time.

2. CLOSED SESSION – 4:00pm

3. STUDY SESSION . There was no Study Session

4. OPEN SESSION: PUBLIC MEETING: 5:00 P.M.

4.1 The meeting will be called to order at 5:00 P.M.

4.2 Pledge of Allegiance

4.3 Introductions

4.4 Approval of Agenda Order

On a motion by Trustee Azat, second by Trustee Lavin–Kendall, the Agenda Order was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

4.5 Report Out of Closed Session

There was no report out of Closed Session

5. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Sixth grade students from Ms. Esposito’s class at Mark West Elementary presented their 3D cell models following a unit about the different organelles and functions of plant and animal cells

6. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE . Board Correspondence is provided for the purpose of reviewing correspondence addressed to or received by the Board.)

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS/MATTERS

(Board Communications/Matters item is provided for the purpose of sharing school-related activities, school visitations, conferences attended, meetings scheduled. Board members may share any district related issues with other members of the Board and Staff. No formal Board of Education action will be taken.)

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8.1 School Reports/Principals

Emily Todd, John B. Riebli

- Girls' basketball just played their last game of the season
- Read On Sonoma – Several students received the “one million readers” awards while two students received the “multi-million reader” awards
- Great turnout for “Pancakes and PJ’s”
- PLC work – teachers are working on standards ladders
- The annual “Big Event” netted approximately \$30,000.00

Kelli Osorio, Mark West Elementary

- Great basketball season – didn’t win a game but the team was incredibly supportive of each other, they learned a lot and they had fun!
- Teachers hosted a brunch for the classified staff in appreciation of all they do. Teachers covered the shifts for classified staff in order for all to be able to enjoy
- 81% of students reached their Read On Sonoma goals
- PTA held a Family Bingo Night which was very well attended
- The Music Concert was great!
- Teachers held co-ops during which they reviewed data for all students and not just their own grade level
- April 17th at 9:00am the first grade will host their annual musical play – all are invited
- Walk-a-Thon will also be held April 17th

Bennett Holley, San Miguel

- 88% of student reached their Read On Sonoma reading goals
- Teachers have been holding co-op meetings
- 38 students completed ELPAC testing
- Shout out to Kara Kaufman and the phenomenal job she does working students who play multiple different instruments as well as her ability to teach choral students
- Approximately 1,028 items were donated to the San Miguel Food Drive
- Shout out to Jose Santamaria for his efforts in getting the PA system operating correctly
- San Miguel is in need of a coed volleyball coach as soon as possible

Lisa Chapman, Mark West Charter School

- Teachers have been holding co-ops focusing on Tier 2 intervention
- 7th grade held a bike rodeo
- 8th grade will be traveling to the Exploratorium tomorrow
- The Teen Librarian from the Windsor Library came and showed students how to use their StudentOne cards and how to access tutoring support
- Spirit week is this coming week

8.2 Director of Instruction and Student Services/Kate Westrich

- Ms. Westrich presented an overview of the 2026 YouthTruth Survey results

8.3 Director of Maintenance and Operations/Mason Nakamura

- Mr. Nakamura presented updates on M&O projects

8.4 Information Technology Manager/Jose Santamaria

- District wide network upgrade will take place next week
- Windows 11 update has been completed
- Various additional updates provided in report

8.5 Superintendent’s Report/Dr. Rachel Valenzuela

- Special Education Coordinator, Michelle Franci, has returned to work remotely. Dr. Valenzuela and Ms. Westrich continue to provide department support when needed
- A larger number of students have been redesignated following ELPAC results; great news!
- Current TK and Kinder enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year: 93 incoming TK students and 159 kindergarten students (including those currently in TK). The numbers continue to grow daily.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may seek clarification about any item on the agenda or not on the agenda as long as the item is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Comments shall be limited to three minutes per person for a total of 20 minutes. Any person interested in the following items on the agenda will be allowed an opportunity to address the Board at the end of Board discussion on that item.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered routine and can be handled with one action since it is recommended that all items be approved unanimously. Board members may request that any item be discussed or moved to a future calendar.

10.1 PERSONNEL

10.1.1 Consideration of Approval of all items on the Personnel Report

10.2 BUSINESS

10.2.1 Consideration of Approval of the Vendor Warrant Report

10.2.2 Consideration of Approval of the 2025-2026 IT Obsolete Items List

10.2.3 Consideration of Approval of the 2025-2026 Maintenance and Operations Obsolete Items List

10.2.4 Consideration of Approval of the 2025-2026 Mark West Union School District Comprehensive Safety Plan updated with Signature Pages (including emergency personnel)

10.3 CURRICULUM

10.4 MINUTES

10.4.1 Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of the February 10, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

10.5 FACILITIES

10.6 DONATIONS

On a motion by Trustee Azat, second by Trustee Smith, the Consent Agenda was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

11. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 BUSINESS

11.1.1 Consideration of Approval of the Mark West Union School District Second Interim Report for 2025-2026

Part 1
Part 2
Part 3

Chief Business Official, Renee Loeza, reviewed some specifics including: since the First Interim, we saw an increase to Basic Aid Supplemental by about \$900,000.00; Special Education rates from one outside source we about \$500,000.00 less than expected. However, the district still contributes over \$4,000,000.00 from the General Fund; the cost of pensions have skyrocketed and the district is drawing from reserve funds to cover those increasing costs; we are currently deficit spending which we expect will continue over the next two consecutive years.

On a motion by Trustee Azat, second by Trustee Smith, the Mark West Union School District Second Interim Report was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

Roll Call: Trustee Azat, Aye; Trustee Smith, Aye; Trustee Lavin-Kendall, Aye; Trustee McKnight, Aye. Trustee Burke was absent.

11.1.2 Consideration of the 2026-2027 Mark West Union School District Transportation Plan

On a motion by Trustee Lavin-Kendall, second by Trustee Azat, the 2026-2027 Mark West Union School District Transportation Plan was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

11.2 CURRICULUM

11.3 FACILITIES

11.4 BOARD POLICIES

11.5 ADMINISTRATION

11.5.1 Consideration of Approval of **Resolution #26-11** In the Matter of the Decision Not to Reelect Probationary Certificated Employees

On a motion by Trustee Lavin-Kendall, second by Trustee Smith, **Resolution #26-11** in the Matter of the Decision Not to Reelect Probationary Certificated Employees was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1.

Roll Call: Trustee Azat, Aye; Trustee Smith, Aye; Trustee Lavin-Kendall, Aye; Trustee McKnight, Aye. Trustee Burke was absent.

11.5.2 Consideration of Approval of **Resolution #26-12** In the Matter of the Decision to Release Temporary Certificated Employees who either served at least 75% of the number of days in the 2025-2026 school year or those who served less than 75% of the number of days in the 2025-2026 school year

On a motion by Trustee Azat, second by Trustee Smith, **Resolution #26-12** In the Matter of the Decision to Release Temporary Certificated Employees who either served at least 75% of the number of days in the 2025-2026 school year or those who served less than 75% of the number of days in the 2025-2026 school year was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

Roll Call: Trustee Azat, Aye; Trustee Smith, Aye; Trustee Lavin-Kendall, Aye; Trustee McKnight, Aye. Trustee Burke was absent.

11.5.3 Consideration of Approval of **Resolution #26-13** to Establish Committed Funds Balances

On a motion by Trustee Azat, second by Trustee Lavin Kendall, **Resolution #26-13** to Establish Committed Funds Balances was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

Roll Call: Trustee Azat, Aye; Trustee Smith, Aye; Trustee Lavin-Kendall, Aye; Trustee McKnight, Aye. Trustee Burke was absent.

12. EVALUATION OF THE BOARD MEETING The Board members may comment or request items pertaining to the Board meeting

13. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

13.1 Annual Required Financial Disclosures 2025-2026: Audited Financials years ending 6/30/25. 2025-2026 Board Approved Budget, and Property Tax Information as required for Continuing Disclosures for sold G.O. Bonds on MSRB site

13.2 Mark West Union School District Sunshine Letter to CSEA 570

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

We will hold a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 5:00pm.

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 5:00p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT 6:30pm

ADA Compliance

In compliance with Government Code § 54954.2(a), the Mark West Union School District, will, on request, make this agenda available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the American with Disabilities Acts of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, should contact Alicia Mills, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, 707-524-2972.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved By:

Dr. Rachel Valenzuela, Superintendent

Victor McKnight, Board Clerk