

MARK WEST UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, April 14, 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, Bennett Holley,
Lisa Chapman
Mason Nakamura, Director of Maintenance & Oper.
Alicia Mills, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Trustee Azat 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

2.2 Public Employment (Resignations, Hirings, Leaves, Contracts, Reassignments, Layoffs) (Government Code 54957) Conference with Negotiators - District Negotiators: Rachel Valenzuela and Renee Loeza (MARFAC, CSEA 570, Confidential)

3. STUDY SESSION - There will be 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

Prior to the vote on the Agenda Order, Superintendent Valenzuela noted that due to the late arrival of paperwork for the CSBA Delegate Runoff, the formal vote will be added as Item 11.5.4 – Action Item on the Agenda. Additionally, Superintendent Valenzuela noted that she is striking Item 11.4.2 Revised Board Policy and Updated Exhibit 3550 as she realized that more research was needed.

Based on the changes noted above, on a motion by Trustee McKnight, second by Trustee Smith, the Agenda Order was approved and to include the above noted changes. 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

Eighth-grade students in Ms. Dickey’s class presented their Algebra 'Slope Quilt' project. This hands-on assignment required students to demonstrate technical proficiency in algebra while collaborating effectively to complete a large-scale, shared final product.

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

6.1 Letter from Sarah Lampenfeld, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services at the Sonoma County Office of Education stating that the 2025-2026 Second Interim Report was certified “Positive” and that “the district meets its financial obligations for the current year and subsequent two years.”

The Board thanked CBO, Renee Loeza, for her diligence in meeting these requirements and recognized the “positive” certification.

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.

Trustee Lavin-Kendall attended a SCOE workshop regarding the legal governance and Board responsibilities. She found it very helpful.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8.1 School Reports/Principals

Emily Todd – John B. Riebli

- 2nd grade is using 3D printers
- “Win” groups have been launched (What I Need groups)
- PLT’s are underway – goal is to focus on Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports
- The Girls Basketball Team was named league champions!
- PTA will be hosting multiple upcoming events including: Jam with the Fam, Bingo Night and Lunch on the Lawn

Kelli Osorio – Mark West Elementary

- Coed volleyball has started
- Teachers have met for coops
- TK/Kindergarten went to the Children’s Museum
- 3rd grade went to the Piner Planetarium
- TK-8th participated in a Lawrence Hall of Science presentation
- The Walk-a-Thon is this Friday
- The 1st grade play is this Thursday and Friday from 9:00-9:30am

Bennett Holley – San Miguel

- San Miguel volleyball is looking very strong
- End of Year plans are underway
- Earth Day campus beautification day is this Sunday
- 2nd grade has been working on field sketching
- Mr. Menth’s class launched their rockets

Lisa Chapman – Mark West Charter School

- Track and Field season has officially started! 23 students are participating. Mrs. Fluit, Mr. Garcia and Mr. Fabian graciously agreed to coach
- CASSPP Testing begins next week
- Ms. Dickey’s 8th grade math class has been working on linear equations
- 8th grade took a ferry to San Francisco and went to the Exploratorium. Great trip!

8.2 Director of Instruction and Student Services/Kate Westrich

- Ms. Westrich updated the Board on the detailed work our counselors have been doing this year, LCAP preparation, state assessments, behavioral systems, and Summer Enrichment Academy

preparation progress

8.3 Director of Maintenance & Operations//Mason Nakamura

- Mr. Nakamura updated the Board on various M&O projects that he is overseeing in the district

8.4 Superintendent's Report/Dr. Rachel Valenzuela – Dr. Valenzuela will present an Oral Report

- Superintendent Valenzuela discussed a “win” for the district in that Special Education law stated that districts of location had to test students instead of the district of residence. After going to bat for our district and working with our legal team in presenting why this was not equitable, the law was reversed again. Our legal team informed Superintendent Valenzuela that we can continue as we have been in that the district of residence is the party that is required to test, not the district of location.
- TK enrollment numbers for 2026-2027 have gradually increased though we expect enrollment will continue through the summer. At this time, we are still; holding at two TK classes per elementary school site. Kindergarten numbers are very solid. Area of concern is 6th grade. As previously mentioned, given the challenges faced by SRCS and the fact that many districts accept students on a 5 year interdistrict transfer, parents whose children would have attended SRCS have chosen to enroll them as 6th graders in Windsor or Willowside school districts which insures the completion of middle school in that district and the first couple of years in high school. Once an interdistrict student reaches their junior year of high school, they remain in that high school through their senior year.
- During last week's class walk throughs, Superintendent Valenzuela was accompanied by the principals from Mark West Elementary and John B. Riebli, our Director of Instruction and Student Services as well as representatives from the Sonoma County Office of Education. The team participated in observing teachers who had been trained in Orin Gillingham.

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.

Mary Meihaus, classified staff member, classified sub, parent, PTA member at John B. Riebli; as well as CSEA 570 unit member, discussed the CSEA Summer Assistance Program and the benefit of the program from her perspective.

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 the Personnel Report

10.2 BUSINESS

10.2.1 Consideration of Approval of the Vendor Report

10.2.2 Consideration of Approval of the Agreement between the Mark West Union School District and Adobe Acrobat Sign: April 18, 2026 - April 17, 2027

10.2.3 Consideration of Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mark West Union School District and Sonoma State University for multiple credentialing programs

10.3 CURRICULUM

10.3.1 Consideration of Approval of the Williams Settlement Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summary January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

10.4 MINUTES

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

10.4.2 Consideration of Approval of the March 12, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes

10.5 FACILITIES

10.6 DONATIONS

- 10.6.1 Consideration of Approval of a \$500.00 donation to the Mark West Elementary School Garden Project from Susan Nystrom
- 10.6.2 Consideration of Approval of a \$500.00 donation to the Mark West Elementary Garden Project from Kasey Ashley
- 10.6.3 Consideration of Approval of a \$200.00 donation to the Mark West Elementary Garden Project from Christine and Victor Cucina
- 10.6.4 Consideration of Approval of a \$100.00 donation to the Mark West Elementary Garden Project from Bryanna Vives
- 10.6.5 Consideration of Approval of a \$100.00 donation to the Mark West Elementary Garden Project from Melissa Lynn Allred and Scott Douglas Allred

Trustee Lavin-Kendall read all donations aloud and thanked all of the donors for their generosity.

On a motion by Trustee Lavin-Kendall, second by Trustee McKnight, the Consent Agenda was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

11 ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 BUSINESS

11.2 CURRICULUM

11.3 FACILITIES

11.4 BOARD POLICIES

11.4.1 Consideration of Approval of Revised Board Policy and Administrative Regulation #5117, Students – Interdistrict Attendance

On a motion by Trustee McKnight, second by Trustee Smith, revised Board Policy and Administrative Regulation #5117, Students – Interdistrict Attendance, was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

~~11.4.2 Consideration of Approval of Revised Board Policy 3350 and updated Exhibit 3350, Business and Noninstructional Operations – Travel Expenses~~

Based on Superintendent Valenzuela’s request noted in Item 4.4, Item 11.4.2 was struck from the Agenda.

11.5 ADMINISTRATION

11.5.1 Consideration of Approval of **Resolution #26-18** Designating May 4th – May 8th, 2026 as National Teacher Appreciation Week and May 5, 2026 as Teacher Appreciation Day

On a motion by Trustee Smith, second by Trustee Lavin-Kendall, Resolution #26-18 Designating May 4th – May 8th, 2026 as National Teacher Appreciation Week and May 5, 2026 as Teacher Appreciation Day was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

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

11.5.2 Consideration of Approval of **Resolution #26-19** Designating May 4th – May 8th, 2026 as Classified Appreciation Week

On a motion by Trustee Smith, second by Trustee Lavin-Kendall, Resolution #26-19 Designating May 4th – May 8th, 2026 as Classified Appreciation Week was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

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

11.5.3 Consideration of Approval of the Mark West Union School District Sunshine Letter to CSEA 570 2025-2026 Contract Negotiation

On a motion by Trustee Lavin-Kendall, second by Trustee McKnight, the Mark West Union School District's Sunshine Letter to CSEA 570 regarding 2025-2026 Contract Negotiation was approved. Aye=4, Nay=0, Abstention=0, Absent=1

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

13. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 4:00p.m. Location TBA.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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:

Rachel L. Valenzuela, Superintendent

Victor McKnight, Board Clerk

REQUIRES BOARD ACTION

This complete, **ORIGINAL RUN-OFF** Ballot must be **SIGNED** by the Superintendent or Board Clerk and returned in the enclosed envelope postmarked by the post office no later than **THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026**. Only ONE Ballot per Board. Be sure to mark your vote "X" in the box. *A PARTIAL, UNSIGNED, PHOTOCOPIED, OR LATE BALLOT WILL NOT BE VALID.*

OFFICIAL 2026 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY RUN-OFF BALLOT
SUBREGION 3-A
(Sonoma County)

Number of seats: 1 (Vote for no more than 1 candidate)

Delegates will serve two-year terms beginning April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2028

**denotes incumbent*

LaDonna Moore (Wright ESD)

Nick Caston (Santa Rosa City Schools)

Mike Cook (Rincon Valley Union ESD)

Adele Walker (Bellevue Union SD)

Signature of Superintendent or Board Clerk

Title

School District Name

Date of Board Action

See reverse side for list of all current Delegates in your Region.