BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Don Bertrand
Jim Bowles
Sue Dodgin
Amanda Frank
Steph Thisius

NORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cy Silver
Superintendent

6940 Calloway Drive Bakersfield, CA 93312 (661) 387-7000 Fax: (661) 399-9750

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Norris School District
Wednesday, October 14, 2026
5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present
Don Bertrand, Acting Board President
Steph Thisius
Sue Dodgin
Jim Bowles

Staff Members Present
Cy Silver, Superintendent
Chantel Mebane, Administrator, Curriculum & Instruction
Brandy Rosander, Administrator, Student Supports
Russellyn Sullivan, Administrator, Human Resources
Dan Weirather, Administrator, Business & Operations
Amanda Atkinson, Director of Nutritional Services
Michele Bryant, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Ryan Carr, Director of MOT
Lisa Limpias, Director of Instructional Services
Katye Cummins, Chief Business Officer
Erin Hudson, Principal
Leanne Mahan-Duey, Principal
Joni Sallee, Principal

Guests Present

Stephanie Bolin, Naomi deMontmorency, Tiffany March, Melissa Martin, Norma Nava, Rynelle New, Dan Paquette, Michelle Turner

Notice of Meeting Being Taped, Filmed, Streamed or Broadcasted

Acting Board President, Don Bertrand, announced that a recording and broadcasting of tonight's meeting is being made and may capture images and/or sounds of those attending tonight's meeting.

Flag Salute

The Flag salute was led by the newly elected Associated Student Body Officers from Olive Drive Elementary.

Approval of Agenda

Acting Board President, Don Bertrand, requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented. It was moved by Mr. Bowles, seconded by Mrs. Thisius.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

COMMUNITY COMMENT

No Community Comment received.

CORRESPONDENCE

Division of State Architects (DSA) Final Approval of Plans for Elementary #5

Trustees reviewed the written approval from DSA of the plans for Elementary #5. Mr. Weirather shared that this was quite the process getting this through DSA but that process is finally done and the District can move forward. Trustees thanked Mr. Weirather for a wonderful job of staying on top of this process.

Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) Review of Norris School District's 2026-2027 Adopted Budget

Trustees reviewed the approval letter from KCSOS after their review of the District's adopted budget for the 2026-2027 school year. It has been determined the District is able to meet its financial obligations.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Recognition of Norris School District Late Year Retiree

Olive Drive Principal, Leanne Mahan, welcomed kindergarten teacher Jill Cram to the podium and shared that Jill would be retiring in October after 20 years of teaching with the Norris School District. Mrs. Mahan went on to share comments from colleagues of Jills who shared how they have enjoyed working alongside Jill and that she is truly one of a kind. She is a unique,

dedicated and passionate kindergarten teacher who has always brought her own special touch to everything she does. She is a natural leader, someone others look to for guidance, encouragement, inspiration and has made a lasting impression on everyone and she will be deeply missed. Her previous Principals shared that Jill truly loves teaching kindergarten and has a special way of making everyone feel a part of the experience, even including them in her classroom activities.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS FROM SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

Enrollment

Superintendent Silver reviewed the District's current enrollment of 4,326, which is six additional students than reported last month.

Report from Olive Drive Principal, Leanne Mahan and Dean of Students, Michelle Turner

Mrs. Mahan and Mrs. Turner provided an overview of the District's music program and how it supports kindergarten through second grade learners through intentional music instruction. Music teacher Johnny Santiago, who staff refer to as "Mr. Rogers", provides early music education that supports developmental milestones for students. They shared that the core goal is to demonstrate how early music education supports developmental milestones for students and how Mr. Santiago has tailored his instruction to foster cognitive, motor and social-emotional growth. Music builds cognitive and language skills through rhythm, repetition and lyrics, it helps in the development of gross motor skills with instruments, movement and music exploration. It also assists with social emotional growth by providing non-verbal outlets for self-expression, taking turns, co-regulation and shared group focus through low stakes interaction. Mr. Santiago then provided a demonstration of a music lesson where these techniques are used with the help of a few of Olive Drive Elementary ESN and ASB students. In closing Mrs. Mahan and Mrs. Turner thanked the Board for all of their support of the music program and allowing on each campus to have their own music teacher. Noting they could not do this without Mr. Santiago and they are grateful the Board got to experience what they have the pleasure of observing everyday.

Special Education Final Program Bill Back for Support Costs from Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office (KCSOS)

Mr. Weirather reported on the District's final bill back from KCSOS for the 2025-2026 school year noting that it came in significantly higher, $1.2 million higher to be exact, which was not expected. He reminded everyone that the District has been working hard to bring back students who reside in the District from county programs so they can attend our schools and provide them with a better education, which makes all the hard work worth it. He reviewed the previous costs associated with the county educating our special education students and noted these costs increase tremendously each year. Mr. Weirather then explained why the bill back was higher than expected but first acknowledged Kern County Superintendent, John Mendiburu and his team for outstanding job fixing some of these issues with special education. They have worked hard to remedy the special education system but with that being said there's still a few issues that need to be worked out regarding discrepancies. For example, this bill. Norris was billed for two students that are not ours that still need to be adjusted and at $74,000 a student, that's a significant amount. They also sweep funds from accounts prior to districts even receiving the bill, which is not correct since we should be able to review the bill before funds are transferred out of our accounts. Also, the county made an error by charging us for another district's charges, which they reversed the same day that we discovered it and made them aware. He shared that he and CBO, Kayte Cummins have met with Mrs. Rosander and her team and they have decided to step up their meetings to quarterly so they can review the list and try to put a plan in place. Between taking back our kids from the county, new students being identified as needing services and those that come to us during the school year who need services, it's difficult to budget for that. In closing, Mr. Weirather said that they are monitoring this issue closely and are working on fixing things moving forward. Trustees thanked Mr. Weirather, Mrs. Cummins, Mrs. Rosander and her department for doing such an amazing job.

Parent Teacher Clubs' (PTC) 2025-2026 Budget Actuals and Projected Budgets for the 2026-2027 School Year

Mr. Weirather reviewed with Trustees the PTCs 2025-2026 budget actuals and projected budgets for the 2026-2027 school year. He thanked the parents and volunteers for all of their hard work and efforts throughout the year raising funds that support the students and the experiences they create such as Fall Festival, May Dinner. They spend a tremendous amount of time planning for these events and not to mention the time they spend volunteering in the classroom; so valuable.

District Construction Updates

Mr. Weirather reported that the land purchase is finally complete and the District has received approval for a new school from the Division of State Architect (DSA). Temporary fencing is going up and equipment is starting to arrive. We have a water truck on the property but still awaiting the water district to hook us up. He reported that there was a construction meeting this morning where they discussed a strategy regarding when the rest of the bids go out and the best timing for that. The first advertisement will go out on November 11th, job walk and second advertisement on November 18th, then actually bid date on December 3rd. Documents will be ready for the December 15th Board meeting to approve the bids.

Report from the District's New School Naming Committee

Superintendent Silver reported that the committee met last month to initiate the process of naming the new elementary school. Committee Member and Trustee Sue Dodgin shared that during their meeting they talked about keeping the name of the school regional and connecting it to historical significance and tradition. They brainstormed about the Gossamer neighborhood itself, the history of Gossamer's connection to Minner

Field, the Gossamer Condor, the farm land that Gossamer sits on and the crops and groves that were previously there. There were a few ideas but nothing concrete so they are going to open it up to the parents and community members to obtain their input. Superintendent Silver stated that they will try and get some feedback to present by the next Board meeting on November 4th.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing: Adequate Textbooks/ Instructional Materials and Approval of Resolution #26-03

At 6:43 p.m., Acting Board President Don Bertrand opened a Public Hearing to obtain public input on the District's adequate textbooks/instructional materials. Having no comments, Mr. Bertrand closed the Public Hearing at 6:43 p.m. Superintendent Silver noted that the District has all the textbooks and instructional materials consistent with state adopted frameworks. It was moved by Ms. Dodgin, seconded by Mrs. Thisius to approve Resolution #26-03, Sufficiency or Insufficiency of Instructional Materials.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 1112, Media Relations

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 1112, Media Relations that was presented at the September regular Board meeting as a First Read. It was moved by, Mrs. Thisius, seconded and Mr. Bowles to approve the proposed revisions.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 1113, District & School Web Sites

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 1113, District & School Web Sites that was presented at the September regular Board as a First Read. It was moved by Mr. Bowles, seconded by Mrs. Thisius to approve the proposed revisions.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 1312.1, Complaints Concerning District Employees and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 1312.1, Complaints Concerning District Employees and its corresponding Administrative Regulation, which was presented at the September regular Board meeting as a First Read. It was moved by Ms. Dodgin, seconded by Mr. Bowles to approve the proposed revisions.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 1312.2, Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 1312.2, Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials and its corresponding Administrative Regulation that was presented at the September regular Board meeting as a First Read. It was moved by Mr. Bowles, seconded by Ms. Dodgin to approve the proposed revisions.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve Proposed Revisions to Administrative Regulation 1312.4, Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures and Exhibits (1) & (2)

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation 1312.4, Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures and Exhibits (1) & (2) that was presented at the September regular Board meeting as a First Read. It was moved by Ms. Dodgin, seconded by Mrs. Thisius to approve the proposed revisions.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve the Proposed Adoption of Board Policy 3580, District Records and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed adoption of Board Policy 3580, District Records and its corresponding Administrative Regulation that was presented as a First Read at the September regular Board meeting. It was moved by Mr. Bowles, seconded by Mrs. Thisius to approve the proposed adoption.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11, Sexual Harassment and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11, Sexual Harassment and its corresponding Administrative Regulation that was presented as a First Read at the September regular Board meeting. It was moved by Ms. Dodgin, seconded by Mr. Bowles to approve the proposed revisions.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve Proposed Revisions to Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure, which was presented as a First Read at the September regular Board meeting. It was moved by Mrs. Thisius, seconded by Mr. Bowles to approve the proposed revisions.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

Approve Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 6164.4, Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation

Staff requested Board approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 6164.4, Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education and its corresponding Administrative Regulation that was presented as a First Read at the September regular Board meeting. It was moved by Mr. Bowles, seconded by Ms. Dodgin to approve the proposed revisions.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

First Read of the Proposed Revisions to Board Bylaw 9005, Governance Standards

Staff presented a First Read of the proposed revisions to Board Bylaw 9005, Governance Standards and will seek Board approval at the November regular Board meeting. **FIRST READ**

First Read of the Proposed Revisions to Board Bylaw 9010, Public Statements

Staff presented a First Read of the proposed revisions to Board Bylaw 9010, Public Statements and will seek Board approval at the November regular Board meeting. **FIRST READ**

First Read of the Proposed Revisions to Board Bylaw 9011, Disclosure of Confidential Information

Staff presented a First Read of the proposed revisions to Board Bylaw 9011, Disclosure of Confidential Information and will seek Board approval at the November regular Board meeting. **FIRST READ**

First Read of the Proposed Revisions to Board Bylaw 9200, Members

Staff presented a First Read of the proposed revisions to Board Bylaw 9200, Members and will seek Board approval at the November regular Board meeting. **FIRST READ**

First Read of the Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 5121, Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation

Staff presented a First Read of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 5121, Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation. Staff will seek Board approval at the November regular Board meeting. **FIRST READ**

First Read of the Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 5141.52, Suicide Prevention and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation

Staff presented a First Read of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 5141.52, Suicide Prevention and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation. Staff will seek Board approval at the November regular Board meeting. **FIRST READ**

First Read of the Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 5145.3, Nondiscrimination/ Harassment and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation

Staff presented a First Read of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 5145.3, Nondiscrimination/ Harassment and Its Corresponding Administrative Regulation. Staff will seek Board approval at the November regular Board meeting. **FIRST READ**

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Minutes from the September 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Financial/Warrants

Batch #11

Capital Project Fund~Blended	$	3,807,845.00
Total:	$	3,807,845.00

Batch #12

General Fund	$	328,705.84
Cafeteria		53,917.04
Capital Project Fund~Blended		137,892.72
Other Enterprise Funds	$	1,208.55
Total:	$	521,724.15

Batch #13

General Fund	$	666,911.23
Cafeteria		78,566.22
Capital Project Fund~Blended		776,568.25
Other Enterprise Funds	$	12,578.50
Total:	$	1,534,624.20

Batch #14

General Fund	$	13,529.32
Cafeteria	$	494.38
Total:	$	14,023.70

Batch #15

General Fund	$	741,441.33
Cafeteria		87,378.05
Capital Project Fund~Blended		538,627.67
Other Enterprise Funds	$	4,571.33
Total:	$	1,372,018.38

Total:	$	7,250,235.43

Personnel

Retirement
Jill Cram, Kindergarten Teacher, Olive Drive Elementary
Effective November 1, 2026

Resignation
Spencer Alphonso, EDC/ELOP Manager
Effective September 14, 2026

Interdistrict Transfer Requests

2026-2027 School Year Inter-district Requests:
* 11 “In” Requests
* 08 “Out” Requests
* 02 ”Denied” Requests

Coursework

Review of approved coursework requested by certificated employees.

Out of County Field Trip Requests

Fresno Chaffee Zoo ~ November 3, 2026
Veterans Elementary ~ 4th Grade

Consultant Agreement (Behavior Services ~ SELPA) with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office (KCSOS)

The District has entered into agreement with KCSOS for behavior intervention services for applicable students. This agreement is in effect beginning on July 1, 2026 and will end on June 30, 2027.

Agreement for Professional Services from Heather's Behavior Support Services

The District has entered into agreement with Heather's Behavior Support Services to provide the District with one session of PBIS training and technical support for District staff.

Obsolete District Equipment

Obsolete District equipment all of which is broken, outdated, or does not meet minimum requirements. The following equipment to be disposed/sold/auctioned off as in accordance with BP 3270(b) and removed from the District's inventory and/or fleet:

1994 GMC Box Van (License Number 1132311) ~ Quantity 1
1995 Ford F150 (License Number 27362) ~ Quantity 1

Contract Agreement with Professor Egghead Science Academy for the District's Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOP) Program

Professor Egghead Science Academy to provide STEM instruction to the students who participate in the District's ELOP program.

Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints

This is a State bureaucratic report required of all school districts in California as a result of the Williams Settlement and legislature. This report is comprised of data collected during the first quarter of the 2026-2027 school year. There were no complaints filed.

A motion was made by Ms. Dodgin, seconded by Mr. Bowles to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Reminder of the Upcoming Kern County School Boards Association (KCSBA) Trustee Dinner

Trustees were reminded of the upcoming KCSBA Trustee Dinner Workshop on Monday, October 26, 2026 at the Bell Tower Plaza, 1200 Truxtun Avenue. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. with dinner being served promptly at 6:00 p.m

New Playground Equipment at Veterans Elementary

Trustee Dodgin commented on the new playground equipment at Veterans Elementary and how the students are truly enjoying it!

Thank You to Superintendent Silver

Trustee Thisius thanked Superintendent Silver for all of the work he has put into bringing back afterschool sports, finding different ways to provide them through different community organizations, and the amount of participants we are starting to see is amazing! His participation and passion for making sure Norris kids are active is amazing and he doesn't get enough credit. Mrs. Thisius wanted to be sure that he was acknowledged for all of his efforts and she added that many families are thankful for these opportunities.

CLOSED SESSION

Appeal(s) Denied Enrollment(s)/
Conference With Labor Negotiator
Agency designated representative: Cy Silver
Employee(s) Group(s): Classified and Certificated

At 7:06 p.m. Acting Board President, Don Bertrand, requested a motion to adjourn into Closed Session to hear an appeal to a denied enrollment and to conference with labor negotiator. It was moved by Ms Dodgin, seconded by Mrs. Thisius to adjourn into Closed Session.

At 8:12 p.m., Acting Board President, Don Bertrand, requested a motion to return to Open Session. It was moved by Mr. Bowles, seconded by Mrs. Thisius to return to Open Session.

Ayes: Don Bertrand, Steph Thisius, Sue Dodgin and Jim Bowles
Nayes: None
Abstain: None

OPEN SESSION

Acting Board President, Don Bertrand, reported that in Closed Session, Trustees heard an appeal from a family whose student attends the Norris School District on a shared residence affidavit. All attempts to verify the family resides within the District's boundaries have failed and the family was issued a five-day letter of unenrollment. At the conclusion of the appeal, Trustees requested that District staff make one more attempt to verify the residency of the family and visit the home as early as 6:00 a.m.

There was nothing else to report out of Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

_____
Cy Silver
Superintendent

Approved:

_____ _____
Acting Board President

_____ _____
Clerk

_____