



## California Online Public Schools

# California Online Public Schools

## Minutes

### California Online Public Schools (CalOPS) Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday November 4, 2025 at 4:00 PM

#### Location

**CalOPS NorCal:** 580 N. Wilma Avenue, Suite G, Ripon, CA 95366

**CalOPS SoCal:** 33272 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

1201 Cara Road, Dinuba, CA 93618

32946 Calle San Marcos, San Juan Capistrano, 92675

3753 W. Norberry Street, Lancaster, CA 93536

9423 Reseda Blvd. Apt #230, Northridge, CA 91324

4108 W Avenue J6, Lancaster, CA 93536

3950 Crondall Dr, Sacramento, CA 95864

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#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://californiaops-org.zoom.us/j/92843576813>

Meeting ID: 928 4357 6813

Dial In: +1 (669) 900-9128 ext. 928-4357-6813# US

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This meeting is open to members of the public. For information about meetings or for members of the public who require special accommodations to attend, please visit our website at [www.californiaops.org/governance](http://www.californiaops.org/governance) or contact the school offices: Dana Hohn (NorCal) or Eva McGahey (SoCal) at (800) 906-5166 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. The board packet can be made available for public review by contacting the school offices prior to the Board meeting in compliance with California open meeting law.

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### **Directors Present**

A. Pulsipher (remote), E. Wickliffe (remote), J. Stockdale (remote), M. Henjum (remote), P. Pulsipher (remote), Z. Robeson (remote)

### **Directors Absent**

D. Rivas

### **Directors who left before the meeting adjourned**

E. Wickliffe

### **Guests Present**

A. Larsen (remote), Amy Hickey (remote), Amy Philips (remote), B. Jamero, Brendon Harrington (remote), Bryan Daesler (remote), D. Hertzler (remote), David Lueck (remote), E. McGahey (remote), H. Tamayo (remote), J. Colombero, J. Sitomer (remote), Jen Brunner (remote), K. Eng (remote), Keri Nuetzhorn (remote), L. Carter (remote), L. Dombek (remote), Leeann Hernandez (remote), M. Brockway (remote), M. Duran (remote), M. White (remote), Michele Rushing (remote), Michelle Won (remote), R. Dreifus (remote), R. Romero (remote), S. Ford (remote), Sangar Safi (remote), Z. Kidd (remote)

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Roll Call**

#### **CalOPS Staff**

Amy Hickey - Elementary School Teacher  
Amy Philips - High School Assistant Principal  
Ashley Larsen - Administrative Assistant  
Bernie Jamero - Assistant Director of Finance - NorCal Office  
Bryan Daesler - Interim High School Assistant Principal  
Dan Hertzler - Director of Operations  
Eva McGahey - Administrative Assistant  
Hannah Hurley - Elementary School Assistant Principal  
Heather Tamayo - Middle School Principal  
Jen Brunner - High School Assistant Principal  
Julie Colombero - Assistant Director of Operations, Family Relations - SoCal Office  
LaChelle Carter - Director of Finance  
Leeann Hernandez - High School Assistant Principal  
Leslie Dombek - Director of Educational Services  
Mackenzie Duran - Director of Student Services  
Marcus White - Elementary School Principal  
Matt Brockway - High School Principal  
Michele Rushing - High School Assistant Principal  
Richard Savage - Superintendent

Richie Romero - Deputy Superintendent  
Ryan Dreifus - Assistant Director of Human Resources  
Stephen Ford - Assistant Superintendent  
Zana Kidd - Director of Human Resources

#### **Contracted Staff**

Jason Sitomer - Charter Impact Head of Client Finance  
Kate Eng - Charter Impact Director of Client Finance  
David Lueck - Charter Impact Co-CEO  
Keri Nuetzhorn - Charter Impact Director of Payroll  
Brendon Harrington - SoftMSP  
Sangar Safi - SoftMSP  
Michelle Won - YM&C Legal Counsel

#### **4 Members of the Public**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

J. Stockdale called a meeting of the board of directors of California Online Public Schools to order on Tuesday Nov 4, 2025 at 4:07 PM.

### **C. Approval of Agenda**

M. Henjum made a motion to approve the agenda.  
E. Wickliffe seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **Roll Call**

P. Pulsipher Aye  
M. Henjum Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
Z. Robeson Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye  
D. Rivas Absent  
J. Stockdale Aye

## **II. Public Comment**

### **A. Public Comment**

The Board welcomes participation by the members of the public telephonically. To address an item on the agenda, before the scheduled start of the meeting, an individual must write their name and a short description of the agenda item on which they wish to comment on the card provided and submit this to the Chair, along with any materials they want to have distributed to the Board. Individuals who wish to address the Board telephonically must contact the School Leader by phone or by email at least twenty four (24) hours before the scheduled start of the Board meeting. If the individual wants to

provide any written materials to the Board, these should be emailed to the School Leader at least twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled start of the meeting.

The total time for any individual to present, either in person or via telephone, on an item on the agenda shall not exceed three (3) minutes, or six (6) minutes if the individual requesting to comment is a non English speaker and requires a translator, unless the Board grants additional time. However, in compliance with Board policy and the Brown Act, the Board is not permitted to discuss or take action on non-agenda items. Individuals desiring to make a formal presentation to the Board on an item not on the agenda but desiring it be placed on the agenda must provide notice and written submissions detailing the subject of the presentation to the School Leader at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Any such presentations shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes in duration, unless otherwise permitted by the Chair.

To view the Board Open Meeting Policy, visit the CalOPS Governance Page at [californiaops.org/governance](http://californiaops.org/governance).

No requests for public comment were submitted in advance. No member of the public was present in person.

### **III. Oral Reports**

#### **A. Superintendent's Report**

R. Romero presented the Superintendents report. Enrollment had outpaced previous projections and was sitting at 8,511 students. BOY festivals were a blast and very successful in all regions. CalOPS leadership was able to attend the CSDC and APLUS+ conferences. He noted that the flex based moratorium will lift on January 1, 2026.

#### **B. Principals' Report (attached)**

M. Brockway offered updates at the high school level. He attended the BOY festivals for all regions. He noted that preliminary data showed a 96% pass rate for Project Success students and 18-20 projected graduates. He offered updates on the HS APs.

H. Tamayo offered updates at the middle school level. She mentioned the strength of the administrative team and the successes felt during the beginning of this school year. She noted middle schools emphasis on data focused discussions and decisions.

M. White offered updates at the elementary school level. He noted the data from testing was being put to use. LP2 went smoothly and the attendance process had been going well. He mentioned increasing enrollment numbers and that effect on homeroom classes.

#### **C. CalOPS Consolidated Financial Report (attached)**

L. Carter presented the Consolidated Financial Report.

Highlights:

- Attendance: +22 to prior month
- Revenue: +\$535K(+.5%), driven by ADA and PY Lottery adj.
- Expenses: +\$710K(+1%), driven by SPED and IT
- Surplus: \$5.9M (5.2% of expenses)
- Ending Fund balance: \$35M
- Cash: \$18M as of 9/30 –a low point in the year, due to the funding schedule (5-5-9)

J. Sitomer jumped in to provide the board updates on the audit. Due to the government shut down, the audit will likely be delayed.

**D. Policy, Compliance, and Legislative Updates**

D. Hertzler reminded the board that there were no new audit requirements due to SB 414 being vetoed. There were no new updates for legislation, but more is expected to come by the December meeting. The percentage of attendance had increased by about 1%. There were a few policies being updated and on the agenda for board review this month.

**E. Staffing Plan Updates (attached)**

R. Dreifus presented the Staffing Plan Updates Slide Deck. In summary, some areas were overstaffed and some were understaffed. The plan moving forward was to shift current staff as certifications allow to even out any imbalances. Additionally, there would be some hiring in the student services department. There were talks of implementing a long term substitute pool to cover LOAs in the future.

**IV. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Minutes from the October 14, 2025 CalOPS Board Meeting (attached)**

**B. Approval of Minutes from the October 24, 2025 CalOPS Special Board Meeting (attached)**

**C. Approval of Check Register (attached)**

**D. Ratification of Special Education Service Contracts (attached)**

**E. Approval of Expenditures over \$20k (attached)**

**F. Approval of CalOPS Student Placement and Partial Credit Policy Policy (attached)**

M. Henjum made a motion to approve Consent Agenda, Items A-F.

Z. Robeson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

D. Rivas Absent  
M. Henjum Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
P. Pulsipher Aye  
J. Stockdale Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye  
Z. Robeson Aye

**V. Action Items**

**A. Empower Match (attached)**

S. Ford went over the differences between the annual and per pay period plans as an employer. He explained that the large true up amount was due to likely due to the raise and bonus given that school year and would not recur.

Z. Robeson made a motion to approve the 2025 true up payment for the Empower Match.

M. Henjum seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

P. Pulsipher Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
M. Henjum Aye  
J. Stockdale Aye  
D. Rivas Absent  
Z. Robeson Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye

**B. Approval of Empower Contract Update**

Z. Robeson made a motion to approve Action Item B, amending the Empower Policy beginning January 1, 2026.

A. Pulsipher seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

D. Rivas Absent  
M. Henjum Aye  
Z. Robeson Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye  
P. Pulsipher Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
J. Stockdale Aye

**C. Back to School Hyatt Invoice (attached)**

R. Romero informed the board that they had gone back to the Hyatt to negotiate the current invoice with little movement from their team. There was discussion on how to proceed with fulfilling payment to the Hyatt and what portion of the remaining invoice the board felt CalOPS was responsible to fulfill.

A. Pulsipher made a motion to pay the remaining balance on the Hyatt invoice minus the \$20,473.78 tax balance that was not properly quoted.

M. Henjum seconded the motion.

The board gave CalOPS staff direction to consult legal on options for payment method to the Hyatt. They also directed CalOPS staff to look into getting out of the contract with the Hyatt for 2026 BTS.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

P. Pulsipher Aye  
M. Henjum Aye  
J. Stockdale Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
Z. Robeson Aye  
D. Rivas Absent  
E. Wickliffe Aye

**D. Approval of CalOPS Overage Policy (attached)**

R. Dreifus introduced the new CalOPS Overage Policy, as well as definitions, expectations and how the policy would handle overages on staff.

Z. Robeson made a motion to approve Action Item D, the CalOPS Overage Policy.

A. Pulsipher seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

A. Pulsipher Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye  
D. Rivas Absent  
Z. Robeson Aye  
M. Henjum Aye  
J. Stockdale Aye  
P. Pulsipher Aye

**E. Approval of Newfront Policy Renewal (attached)**

S. Ford noted that Newfront is a vendor that handles insurance quotes for CalOPS. This renewal of the contract would be for 2025-26.

A. Pulsipher made a motion to approve Action Item E, Renewal of Newfront Policy.

E. Wickliffe seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

M. Henjum Aye

**Roll Call**

P. Pulsipher Aye  
D. Rivas Absent  
J. Stockdale Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
Z. Robeson Aye  
E. Wickliffe Aye

**F. Approval of SoftMSP Software Development Contract (attached)**

S. Ford noted that RISE is a platform currently in development to serve CalOPS families and staff by showing all pertinent data in one place. He introduced S. Safi and B. Harrington to give a demo of the platform. S. Safi gave more background on the current status of the development and integration of 13 different platforms' data into RISE. B. Harrington showed the board how the parent and teacher portals work.

Discussion occurred regarding the payment and concerns were voiced about the language in the contract. S. Safi assured that he and Steve would work together to update the contract to adjust the payment schedule and ensure requested language was included.

E. Wickliffe left at 5:45 PM.

A. Pulsipher made a motion to approve 2 outstanding payments for SoftMSP Software Development not to exceed \$160,000.

M. Henjum seconded the motion.

The board directed CalOPS staff to work with S. Safi to revise the current contract and bring that back for board approval at the December CalOPS Board Meeting.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Z. Robeson Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
E. Wickliffe Absent  
D. Rivas Absent  
P. Pulsipher Aye  
J. Stockdale Aye  
M. Henjum Aye

**G. Approval of SoftMSP IT Support Contract (attached)**

S. Ford informed the board of the IT services SoftMSP has provided to CalOPS and how that differed from the previous school year. Discussion occurred regarding the pricing, effectiveness, and certain legislation allowing student interaction with them as an IT support provider.

A. Pulsipher made a motion to approve monthly payments for SoftMSP's IT Support Contract.

Z. Robeson seconded the motion.



The board directed CalOPS staff to investigate AB 506 and whether there are any employment requirements that need to be fulfilled by SoftMSP in order for student contact to be allowable.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

P. Pulsipher Aye  
E. Wickliffe Absent  
D. Rivas Absent  
Z. Robeson Aye  
M. Henjum Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
J. Stockdale Aye

**H. Approval of Avela Apply: Application Management System (attached)**

D. Hertzler explained the need for this new system after a lack of success with School Pathways. Avela Apply is an alternative platform that would improve the application process for families. Discussion occurred regarding cost/bids, data migration, and contract timeline and overlap with RegOnline.

Z. Robeson made a motion to approve Action Item H, 3 year contract with Avela Apply: Application Management System.

A. Pulsipher seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

M. Henjum Aye  
D. Rivas Absent  
J. Stockdale Aye  
P. Pulsipher Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
Z. Robeson Aye  
E. Wickliffe Absent

**I. Approval of School Pathways Invoice (attached)**

D. Hertzler explained that the Forms and Surveys platform has not worked for CalOPS. He asked the board to move forward with paying this invoice with a 30 day notice of cancellation for the platform and a request for refund for the previous 2 years.

A. Pulsipher made a motion to approve Action Item I.

M. Henjum seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

P. Pulsipher Aye  
J. Stockdale Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye  
D. Rivas Absent

**Roll Call**

Z. Robeson Aye  
M. Henjum Aye  
E. Wickliffe Absent

**J. Approval of Textblaze Invoice (attached)**

L. Dombek introduced this program as a productivity tool for teachers and staff, requested by several teachers and counselors. She noted that Textblaze gave a 50% discount off their standard business account since CalOPS is a school. She also noted a delay in being brought to the board for approval due to miscommunications with the vendor in previous months.

Z. Robeson made a motion to approve Action Item J.

M. Henjum seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

J. Stockdale Aye  
Z. Robeson Aye  
E. Wickliffe Absent  
D. Rivas Absent  
P. Pulsipher Aye  
M. Henjum Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye

**VI. Closed Session**

**A. CLOSED SESSION - Brown Act; California Gov't Code §54956.9**

M. Henjum made a motion to move to closed session.

Z. Robeson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

J. Stockdale Aye  
Z. Robeson Aye  
D. Rivas Absent  
E. Wickliffe Absent  
M. Henjum Aye  
P. Pulsipher Aye  
A. Pulsipher Aye

**B. CLOSED SESSION**

**C. Closed Session Report Out**

There were no actions taken in closed session regarding the 1 case of anticipated litigation in closed session. The Board determined to approve the Director of Operations

recommendation to enroll the previously expelled student regarding Confidential Student Enrollment/Expulsion Matter Case No.: 2526-1.

## VII. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

Z. Robeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M. Henjum seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

E. Wickliffe Absent

A. Pulsipher Aye

P. Pulsipher Aye

Z. Robeson Aye

M. Henjum Aye

J. Stockdale Aye

D. Rivas Absent

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Stockdale