

**INLAND EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590**

**REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES**

September 10, 2026

9:00 a.m.

27740 Jefferson Ave. Temecula, CA 92595

Rancho Cucamonga Student Center

8968 Archibald Ave Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Springs Explorer Student Center

9460 Sierra Ave Fontana, CA 92335

Our mission is to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engaging their parents, and promoting optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.

Present:

Dr. Jennifer Araiza, Chair Chuck Vela, Vice Chair Marlene Darrow, Treasurer Jason Rodriguez, Secretary JP Dauber, Director Stephanie Vargas, Director	Dr. Vivian Price, Asst. Supt. of Education Dr. Virginia Smith, Asst. Supt. of HR Amy Podratz, Asst. Supt. of Admin. Operations Michelle Sheane, Asst. Supt. Student Services Natali South, Senior Director of Charter Relations Trevor Johnson, Senior Director of Business Aaron Lorenz, Senior Director of IT Courtney Cook, Senior Director of Special Education Ruth Newsome, Senior Director of HR Renee Albright, Charter Relations Coordinator
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- 1. Establish a Quorum, Call to Order, and Pledge of Allegiance.**
 - Natali South called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- 2. Action: Approval of Agenda**
 - Ms. Darrow moved to approve the Agenda.
 - Ms. Araiza seconded.
 - Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

3.	Action:Approval of Minutes - July 21, 2026 ● Mr. Vela moved to approve the Minutes from July 21, 2026. ● Ms. Darrow seconded. ● Vote: 4 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Vela; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; 2 Abstain: Rodriguez, Vargas; Motion Adopted
4.	Action: Approval of Minutes - August 4, 2026 ● Ms. Araiza moved to approve the Minutes from August 4, 2026. ● Mr. Vela seconded. ● Vote: 5 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vela; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; 1 Abstain: Vargas; Motion Adopted
5.	Action:Approval of Consent Agenda ● Ms. Darrow moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Warrants, Personnel Action Report, and Contract Ratifications as posted: LTT Partners at 3041 N. Sierra Way San Bernardino, Harbor Building Maintenance at Rancho Cucamonga Student Center, enVision Contract for ExplorerFontana, and i-Ready Contract. ● Mr. Rodriguez seconded. ● Vote:6Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela; 0 Noes;1Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted
4.	Public Comments ● None
6.	Information:Springs Nation - IGNITE! 2026 ● ReneeAlbright presented the Springs Nation - IGNITE! 2026 video.
7.	Information: Student Spotlight - 2026 8th Grade Leadership Camp Video Presentation ● Renee Albright presented the 2026 8th Grade Leadership Camp Student Spotlight video.
	Information: Student Spotlight - Rancho Cucamonga Student Center Presentation ● Principal Amanda Deniston presented Rancho Cucamonga summer happenings!
8.	Information: Superintendent's Report ● Michelle Shaene reviewed the Superintendent's Report. She reviewed highlights from each department, and reminded the Board that this year's

theme is LEGO — Learning that Empowers Goals and Ownership and shared how the theme is being implemented to engage and empower both staff and students.

9. Action: Approval of Superintendent Goals 2026-2027

- Ms. Darrow moved to approve the Superintendent Goals 2026-2027.
- Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
- Discussion: Dr. Vivian Price and Amy Podratz reviewed the Superintendent's goals for the upcoming school year, which address several key areas of focus for the school, including academic achievement, enrollment, LEGO-themed initiatives, and high school graduation rates and college and career readiness.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

10. Action: Waive the First Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policy - 7001.1 - Board Stipends

- Mr. Rodriguez moved to waive the first reading and approve revised Board Policy - 7001.1 - Board Stipends.
- Ms. Darrow seconded.
- Discussion: Natali South explained that the policy would change the Board member stipend from \$500 to \$650 per month and responded to the Board's questions. She further explained that waiving the first reading would allow the policy to take effect immediately.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

11. Action: Waive the First Reading and Approval of Board Policy - 6006.1 - AI Use and Governance

- Ms. Darrow moved to waive the first reading of Board Policy - 6006.1 - AI Use and Governance.
- Ms. Araiza seconded.
- Discussion: Aaron Lorenz explained that recent legislation has taken effect establishing requirements and responsibilities for the school related to the use of artificial intelligence (AI).
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

12. Action: Approval of Special Education Contract with Harbottle Law Group

- Ms. Darrow moved to approve the Special Education Contract with Harbottle Law Group.
- Mr. Rodriguez seconded.

- Discussion: Courtney Cook explained that, following the retirement of Debbie Cesario, Hatch & Cesario has transitioned the school's casework to Harbottle Law Group. She noted that there will be no change to the school's legal team.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

13. Action:Approval of Revised 188 Salary Schedule

- Ms. Darrow moved to approve the revised 188 Salary Schedule.
- Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
- Discussion: Dr. Virginia Smith explained that an error was identified in the recently approved Salary Schedule. She noted that the revised schedules contain the correct information and confirmed that all employees were paid correctly.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

14. Action:Approval of Unaudited Actuals

- Mr. Rodriguez moved to approve the Unaudited Actuals.
- Ms. Darrow seconded.
- Discussion: Trevor Johnson reviewed the Unaudited Actuals and explained any differences between projections and actual revenues and expenditures.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

15. Action:Approval of the Annual Prop 28 Report

- Ms. Vargas moved to approve the Annual Prop 28 Report.
- Mr. Rodriguez seconded.
- Discussion: Trevor Johnson reviewed the annual Proposition 28 report, which details the use of funding provided for arts and music education.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

16. Action:Approval of Supplemental Pay Agreement Form Schedule for 2026-27

- Mr. Rodriguez moved to approve the Supplemental Pay Agreement Form Schedule for 2026-27.
- Ms. Darrow seconded.
- Discussion: Trevor Johnson reviewed the positions and projects that are paid via the Supplemental Pay Agreement.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

17. Action: Approval to Piggyback Hemet Unified School District Bid # PUR2026-01

- Ms. Vargas moved to approve the Piggyback agreement with Hemet Unified School District Bid # PUR2026-01.
- Ms. Darrow seconded.
- Discussion: Trevor Johnson explained that the agreement will allow the school to receive the same pricing as Hemet Unified School District through a recent competitive bidding process for school furniture and supplies.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

18. Action: Approval to Piggyback Kern County Superintendent of Schools / PEPPM Contract Bid #546422

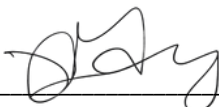
- Ms. Vargas moved to approve the Piggyback agreement with Kern County Superintendent of Schools / PEPPM Contract Bid #546422.
- Ms. Darrow seconded.
- Discussion: Trevor Johnson explained that the agreement will allow the school to receive the same pricing as Kern County Superintendent of Schools through a recent competitive bidding process for school furniture and supplies.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted

19. Board Comments

- Ms. Darrow: I am interested in the school tours and look forward

20. Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

- Ms. Vargas moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m.
- Ms. Darrow seconded.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Araiza, Darrow, Dauber, Rodriguez, Vargas Vela;
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Schneider; Motion Adopted



Jason Rodriguez, Secretary

09/10/2026

Date