

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**March 6, 2026**

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**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

|                                                |                |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Allan Hancock Joint Community College District | Laura Becker   | Director                             |
| Buellton Union School District                 | Adam Bailey    | Director                             |
| College School District                        | Ian Trejo      | Director                             |
| Cuyama Joint Unified School District           | Alfonso Gamino | Director ( <i>joined 9:52 a.m.</i> ) |
| Goleta Union School District                   | Jordan Goines  | Director                             |
| Hope School District                           | Mike Thomson   | Director                             |
| Lompoc Unified School District                 | Doug Sorum     | Director                             |
| Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO)  | Nicole Evenson | Vice President                       |
| Santa Maria Joint Union High School District   | Cesar Lugo     | Alternate                            |
| Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District   | Elysia Lewis   | President                            |

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ballard School District  
Blochman Union School District  
Carpinteria Unified School District  
Cold Spring School District  
Guadalupe Union School District  
Los Olivos School District  
Montecito Union School District  
Orcutt Union School District  
Santa Maria-Bonita School District  
Solvang School District  
Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)  
Vista Del Mar Union School District

**OTHERS PRESENT**

|                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Alliant Insurance Services           | Angela Hatley       |
|                                      | Stephanie Millholon |
| Eide Bailly                          | Shilo Gorospe       |
| Johnson Schachter & Lewis            | Kellie Murphy       |
| Risk Program Administrators          | Keith Oarde         |
| SBCEO                                | Keith Cox           |
| Workers' Compensation Administrators | Bruce White         |

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Elysia Lewis called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM & INTRODUCTIONS**

Keith Oarde, program administrator, confirmed quorum.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS POSTED**

Motion made by Adam Bailey (Buellton USD), seconded by Laura Becker (Allan Hancock Joint CCD) to approve the agenda as posted.

*Motion passed unanimously by all members present voting "aye":*

Allan Hancock Joint Comm. College District

Buellton Union School District

College School District

Goleta Union School District

Hope School District

Lompoc Unified School District

SBCEO

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District

*Cuyama Joint Unified School District was not present for this vote.*

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion made by Laura Becker (Allan Hancock Joint CCD), seconded by Cesar Lugo (Santa Maria Joint UHSD), to approve: (a) Minutes of the December 12, 2025 Board Meeting; (b) Minutes of the February 25, 2026 Rates Committee Meeting; (c) Approved Minutes of the October 9, 2025 Safety & Health Committee Meeting; (d) Warrants: December through February 2026; (E) Education & Training Opportunities; (F) Annual Calendar Overview

*Motion passed unanimously by all members present voting "aye":*

Allan Hancock Joint Comm. College District

Buellton Union School District

College School District

Goleta Union School District

Hope School District

Lompoc Unified School District

SBCEO

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District

*Cuyama Joint Unified School District was not present for this vote.*

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## 6. OPEN SESSION

### A. **Adoption of Financial Statements Compilation Report & Audited Financial Statements**

Shilo Gorospe provided a remote presentation of the June 30, 2025 financial audit results to the board, noting that the goal of the audit was to: (1) obtain an impartial opinion as to whether the financial statements prepared by management have been presented fairly in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.; and (2) obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material misstatement. In doing so, the audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances.

The audit findings are presented below.

Significant risks identified:

- Management, as management may override organizational controls.
- Revenue recognition, due to financial and operational incentives for the organization to overstate revenues.
- Claims liability, due to reliance on actuarial estimates, which introduces uncertainty about future outcomes, involves complex calculations, and depends on significant assumptions.

Significant accounting policies:

- The audit identified no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2025.

Significant accounting estimates:

- The audit found that the most sensitive accounting estimate affecting the financial statements is management's estimate of outstanding claims liability, which is based on calculations provided by the actuary and claims administrator. The key factors and assumptions used were considered reasonable in the context of the financial statements as a whole.

The audit also noted that there were no significant difficulties in dealing with management during the course of the audit.

The board was asked to approve the review and adoption of SIPE Financial Statements Compilation Report and Audited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2025.

Motion made by Doug Sorum (Lompoc USD), seconded by Adam Bailey (Buellton USD), to approve the review and adoption of SIPE Financial Statements Compilation Report and Audited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2025

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Motion passed unanimously by all members present voting “aye”:

|                                            |                                              |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Allan Hancock Joint Comm. College District | Lompoc Unified School District               |
| Buellton Union School District             | SBCEO                                        |
| College School District                    | Santa Maria Joint Union High School District |
| Goleta Union School District               | Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District |
| Hope School District                       |                                              |

*Cuyama Joint Unified School District was not present for this vote.*

#### **B. Adoption of Rates Committee Recommendation for 2026–2027 Funding**

Nicole Evenson shared with the board the recommendation put forth by the Rates Committee based on the meeting held remotely on February 25, 2026. The Rates Committee, which was comprised of Dennis Curran (Allan Hancock Joint CCD), Nicole Evenson (SBCEO), Elysia Lewis (Santa Ynez Valley UHSD), Mike Thomson (Hope School District), and Rachel Wigle (SELPA), recommended a premium rate of \$1.42 per \$100 of payroll, which represents a 5% increase in base premium rate for 2026–2027. The board was asked to approve the rate recommendation.

Motion made by Adam Bailey (Buellton USD), seconded by Cesar Lugo (Santa Maria Joint UHSD), to approve the adoption of the rates committee recommendation for 2026-2027 program year

Motion passed unanimously by all members present voting “aye”:

|                                            |                                              |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Allan Hancock Joint Comm. College District | Hope School District                         |
| Buellton Union School District             | Lompoc Unified School District               |
| College School District                    | SBCEO                                        |
| Cuyama Joint Unified School District       | Santa Maria Joint Union High School District |
| Goleta Union School District               | Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District |

#### **C. Excess Workers’ Compensation Program Renewal/Market Update**

Angela Hatley provided an insurance marketplace update with a focus on workers’ compensation trends, followed by renewal terms for the upcoming 2026–2027 program year. According to Ms. Hatley, workers’ compensation claims frequency has been steady or slightly down. However, severity continues to trend upward. Regarding renewal terms, Alliant is working with Safety National to ensure that the rate guarantee obtained last year will continue to apply for the 2026–2027 renewal.

*No action—information only*

**D. Risk and Loss Control Update**

Keith Cox updated the board on the risk and loss control services he has provided to the JPA since the previous meeting, including:

- Revising and updating the IIPP and contact sections on the JPA website
- Conducting a meeting to discuss the Student Violence Mitigation Plan
- Conducting CPR classes and forklift training with members
- Conducting a Safety And Health Committee meeting
- Providing AED supplies to members
- Conducting ergonomic evaluations and providing related supplies to members
- Attending the PARMA conference and district-level safety meetings

*No action—information only*

**E. Claims Administration Update**

Bruce White provided an overview of claims administration, which included the following topics:

- Current claims activity
- Open/closed claims
- Change in reserves & IBNRs
- Estimated ultimate value of claims
- Comparison of claims paid

*No action—information only*

**7. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

Michelle Carter facilitated the strategic planning session. The session began with an introductory exercise and a review of last year's strategic priorities. The board considered progress made toward the priorities identified, then collaborated on the creation of a set of priorities to focus on the coming year. The priorities identified for the following year included:

- Clarifying SIPE's autonomy and authority over its own operations and aligning the fiscal agent's role and authority with that clarification
- Conducting a claims audit with an independent provider
- Aligning claims drivers with loss control initiatives such as a return-to-work program
- Strengthening member-facing communications

Staff will provide a summary of the strategic priorities identified by the board throughout the year.

*No action—information only*

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**8. CLOSING COMMENTS**

President Lewis thanked all attendees for their participation and proceeded to adjourn the meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

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