

East Region Adult Education
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Foothills Adult Center, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon, CA 92019 - Room 108.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 8:05am by ERAE Governing Board President Kirsten Vital Brulte.
- The following ERAE Governing Board members were present: Kristen Vital Brulte, Paul Dautremont, Patrick Keeley, Jessica Robinson, and Rick Wilson.

II. SPECIAL REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

Kim Bellaart recognized Dr. Paul Dautremont commending his commitment and support to ERAE and his upcoming retirement.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no communications from the public.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Passed: The December 8, 2025 minutes were approved as written. The first motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Jessica Robinson and seconded by Paul Dautremont.

- Yes Paul Dautremont
- Yes Patrick Keeley
- Absent Lynn Neault
- Yes Jessica Robinson
- Yes Kristen Vital Brulte
- Yes Rick Wilson

V. REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM/CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda. The first motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Patrick Keeley and seconded by Paul Dautremont.

- Yes Paul Dautremont
- Yes Patrick Keeley
- Absent Lynn Neault
- Yes Jessica Robinson
- Yes Kristen Vital Brulte
- Yes Rick Wilson

VI. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Meeting Students Where They Are: ERAE Support for Hard-to-Reach Communities

- Kim Bellaart provided an overview on how East Region Adult Education (ERAE) works collaboratively with Transition Services to help student access classes, overcome challenges, and become successful working adults. Alignment, Access and Equity are state priorities.
- CAEP Core Outcome Areas: Educational Progress, High School Completion, Post secondary Completion, Transition to Postsecondary, Employment Placement, Wage Increases, and Transition to Workforce. Metrics are continually reviewed to make sure the above areas are supported. Today we are looking at some specific areas where ERAE serves students in hard to reach areas.
- Grossmont Adult Education (GAE) has been serving reentry students in San Diego County Jails for over 30 years and offers many career training programs as well as high school equivalency preparation and testing. Currently Grossmont College offers Counseling and Art courses Las Colinas with Math, Psych or Sociology being projected to roll out in Fall 2026. Grossmont Adult Education (GAE) has courses in the jails with articulated credits from both Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges. There is high interest in leveraging distance learning for career training in the correctional setting. GAE also has pre-apprenticeship programs offered in the county jails. A video was shared titled "Seeds of Change" highlighting the program at Las Colinas where students are learning job skills related to horticulture. The Fresh Start Farms grows with a purpose. Inmates must be nonviolent with 6 months or less to serve. This program has expanded and they now grow greens for the kitchen as well as growing acorns that are planted in city parks.
- Transition Service's Manager, Jessica Hernandez shared a student's journey from 10+ years of incarceration to employment. Some of the challenges trying to get back into the workplace after incarceration include are being on parole, required anger management classes, required community service time, no income for programs, and supporting dependents. Transition Services was able to connect him to community resources to meet his challenges. He was able to complete his courses in Spring 2026 and he now has his diploma. This summer he begins college for culinary arts. Jessica then introduced the Transition Team members and explained the areas they support.
- Jessica Robinson gave an overview of English as a Second Language offered in Campo, Mt. Empire, Potrero. Jessica shared most students have transportation challenges to attend classes. Instructor Manuel Mancillas-Gomez is looking to expand on online options which were started during COVID. Currently the community center is where classes are being held. The Interim Dean of Career Education would like to



- expand their program to offer more than ESL courses, night classes, and provide support for courses and financial assistance. A handout was provided showing the course offerings and sequencing.
- Transition Specialist, Daisy Sanchez shared an Afghanistan immigrant ESL student's journey transitioning to the United States and starting over with a career path through the Health Occupations Center. The challenges immigrant students face are language barriers, lack of understanding the U.S. school systems, and lack of finances. Transition Services was able to meet those needs. The student was able to complete the Phlebotomy program successfully and Transition Services helped him navigate obtaining his licence. After a two year journey, he is now successfully employed. Sally Cox asked how Transition Services supported the student with a language barrier. Daisy shared that they use ILA translation devices, Google Translate, and sometimes students bring someone with them to translate.
 - East County Transitional Living Center (ECTLC): Kim Bellaart shared that GAE has an onsite high school equivalency preparation instructor at the transitional living center. In over 10 years there have been over 80 graduates. Graduates are invited to the GAE graduation.
 - Transition Specialist, Ban Bakkal shared an example of a student experiencing housing challenges who was seeking welding training. The barriers he faced were lack of transportation, finances, no bank-credit card etc. Transition Services was able to help meet those needs with resources and he was able to successfully complete the CTE Welding Program.

ELL Healthcare Pathways Grant

- Heather Peterson expressed her excitement for the new \$3,000,000.00 grant for Integrated Education & Training (IET). These added classes would incorporate 2 teachers (1 Career Training, 1 EL teacher). This program will be called the new ERAE Career Pathways Center.
- Heather met with Nancy Sacks from Grossmont College who said they do have increasing numbers of EL students who would like to be in Allied Health programs. Shawn Hicks (anatomy/physiology instructor) is excited about this program and bridging the transition of EL students.
- The grant would support purchasing additional equipment for consortium sites. This is a 3 yr grant. Grant decisions will be announced by May 19,2026. Paul Dautrement asked why we didn't qualify for this grant in prior years. Heather said the Chancellor's office told her that there was not a big enough need for health care pathways in our area. They suggested we apply for this third round, and we have now applied.

Consortium Fiscal Administration Declaration (CFAD)

- Sally Cox provided the CFAD funding allocation spreadsheet which shows a 2.4% COLA that will be shared across the board for the 2026-2027 school year. Patrick Keely stated that funding was discussed for Mountain Empire Unified in his meeting yesterday. He thinks the COLA will remain at that percentage. Sally shared the budget may need to be revised if there are changes to the state budget. .

VII. GOVERNANCE/ACTION ITEMS

- **Motion Passed:** The CFAD was approved as written. The first motion to approve the CFAD was made by Patrick Keeley and seconded by Paul Dautremont.

- Yes Paul Dautremont
- Yes Patrick Keeley
- Absent Lynn Neault
- Yes Jessica Robinson
- Yes Kristen Vital Brulte
- Yes Rick Wilson

- **Motion Passed:** ERAE Governing Board Meeting dates- August 20, 2026, January 14, 2027, April 15, 2027. The first motion to approve the ERAE Governing Board Meeting dates for 2026-2027 was made by Patrick Keeley and seconded by Paul Dautremont.

- Yes Paul Dautremont
- Yes Patrick Keeley
- Absent Lynn Neault
- Yes Jessica Robinson
- Yes Kristen Vital Brulte
- Yes Rick Wilson

VIII. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Kristen Vital Brulte called on board members to report:

- Paul Dautremont thanked the Governing Board and expressed what a pleasure it was to work with everyone.
- Patrick Keeley shared there has been a lot of transition at Mountain Empire School District. The entire District business office is new. Patrick is the current president of East County ACSA however, Steve Bailey will be taking over this position. There is an upcoming ACSA East County Sunrise awards will be April 29, 2026. Patrick recognized Transition Services and the important support and services they provide students.
- Lynn Neault - Absent
- Jessica Robinson announced that Cuyamaca College has a new Interim Dean of Math, Science, and Engineering as well as three new faculty who have great insight on the



students and programs future. They are currently searching for a new Automotive Tech teacher and are working towards developing a Bachelor Degree in Auto. It will be their first Bachelor Degree program ever. The college is 47 years old and enrollment is growing. They are close to a record high. President Dr. Pamela Luster has one more year on her contract. They submitted a bond application for safety and infrastructure for students, staff, and community. No additional tax increase and will be on the November ballot.

- Kristen Vital Brulte shared that Grossmont Union High School District has met their goals this year. They have completed Board and governance workshops, Core Values, Portrait of a Graduate (which goes before the board approval on May 28th). Once approved, strategic planning begins which aligns with ELCAP and budgeting. She gave Paul Dautremont a shout out for his upcoming retirement. The search for a replacement has begun. They are currently hiring replacements for administration vacancies. The GUHSD Board was asked to do a poll of interest in the proposed bond. 53% were negative so it will not move forward for 2026. They will reconsider for 2030 or maybe in 2028. The bond oversight committee meeting will be tonight and every penny has been spent correctly.
- Rick Wilson reported that the Ethics in Business is in its 35th year. Students are learning what is ethical to do in business. The AI and Virtual Reality events had low participation until Grossmont College held a workshop that greatly increased enrollment. There will be an Ask Me Anything Workshop (with a lawyer) helping businesses know their rights. Many exciting activities are upcoming which you can find on the East County Chamber of Commerce website under Events & Programs.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m. The next ERAE Governing Board meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2026.