

# **Board of Directors Reports**

For CABA Board Meeting, June 13, 2026

## **Dr. Karling Aguilera-Fort, CABA Board President:**

Weekly Meetings with the Interim CEO: Continued regular meetings with the Interim CEO to provide support, monitor organizational progress, and address key priorities. Our guiding themes during this transition period remain Healing, Reconnecting, Collaborating, and Partnering as we work to strengthen relationships and move the organization forward. At the same ensuring the implementation of key initiatives.

Personnel and Organizational Matters: Met with the Interim CEO, Deputy Director, Director of Operations, and Legal Counsel to review and address outstanding personnel matters and other unresolved organizational issues requiring attention and resolution.

CABA 2026 Conference Planning: Held meetings with Community Council (CC) team members to advance planning for the CABA 2026 Conference, including discussions related to artwork, keynote and featured speakers, logistics, planning committees, and overall conference design and implementation.

Meeting with the Sobrato Foundation: Engaged in discussions with representatives from the Sobrato Foundation regarding the CEO search process and their perspectives on CABA's future direction, growth opportunities, and impact through the lens of nonprofit leadership and organizational development.

Finance Committee and Executive Committee Meetings: Participated in Finance Committee and Executive Committee meetings to address critical organizational deadlines, review priorities, and develop agendas and recommendations for upcoming Board meetings.

## **Dr. MariaElena Esquer, CABA Vice-President:**

The Region Representatives and I welcomed over twenty chapter leaders to our Spring online JDA, April 22, 2026. Leaders heard legislative updates from Sally Fox, had a chance to network with one another, and share reflections from some homework we had given them at the conference JDA, regarding membership and chapter activities. They also received CABA updates, and we reviewed the responsibilities they hold as chapter leaders.

A big thank you to all of our amazing Region Representatives!

**Mary Helen Ybarra**, Director of State and Legislative Affairs:

Jennifer Baker will be briefing us on the final budget. She will be speaking about the primary elections and how it's going to affect us and our districts. She is also going to give us an update on the bills that we are supporting.

This is my last meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the CABE Region Representatives and the legislative team since 2018. I've learned a lot. Thank you.

**Rosa Armstrong**, Director of Community Affairs:

With the help of Mary Hernandez and Palmdale School District I was very honored to be able to bring my Peruvian culture to the Annual CABE 2026 conference.

Attended Riverside Conference on May 2, 2026.

Attended Chapter 58AV Mini CABE Conference on May 16, 2026.

**Maryanna Lee**, Director of Parent Relations:

I had the opportunity to present at the National Community Schools and Family Engagement Conference in Long Beach, sharing Ball Junior High School's approach to family engagement and Community Schools implementation.

I also helped facilitate a partnership between AUHSD and the Spanish Embassy that created an international professional development opportunity for CABE Seal of Excellence schools, Anaheim HS and Sycamore JHS. Through this partnership, one educator from Anaheim High School was selected to attend a fully funded professional learning experience at a university in Salamanca, Spain, including tuition, housing, meals, and cultural activities. AUHSD generously agreed to cover the cost of airfare.

**Dr. Reyes Quezada**, Director of Secondary and IHE Affairs:

As CABE's Board representative to the California Association for Bilingual Teacher Educators (CABTE), I had the opportunity to participate in the CABTE Board Meeting and research sessions in San Francisco, where I welcomed members and provided historical perspectives on the organization's work and its longstanding partnership with CABE.

I also participated in the June CABTE Board Meeting and webinar, during which a new report was released in partnership with Californians Together titled, *Towards 2030: A Grounded Call for Action to Strengthen California's Bilingual Teacher Pipeline*. The report was co-authored by Eduardo R. Muñoz-Muñoz, Ph.D. (San José State University), Nirmala Griarte Flores, Ed.D. (Cal Poly Pomona), Clara Amador-Lankster, Ph.D. (National University), and Danna Baldwin Moreno (UC Santa Cruz).

I encourage the CAFE Board to review this important report and consider co-sponsoring a webinar featuring the authors to present the findings and recommendations. The report offers timely insights and actionable strategies for addressing California's bilingual teacher workforce needs and strengthening the educator pipeline.

I am also pleased to share that I was recently elected to the CABTE Board of Directors for a two-year term. This appointment will allow me to further strengthen collaboration between CAFE and CABTE and advance our shared commitment to multilingual education and bilingual teacher preparation.

In addition, I participated in the California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE) State Superintendent's Forum, where four candidates seeking the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction shared their goals, priorities, and visions for California's educational future.

Looking ahead, I will participate in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Annual Conference in October, where I will moderate a session with multiple stakeholders (San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Superintendent, Dr. Alberto Ochoa, Chair of the SDCOE Superintendent's Latino Advisory Council. The focus is on advocacy for Latino students and their families. This national platform will also provide an opportunity to advance the importance of multilingualism, bilingual education, and educational equity for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

**Dr. Barbara Flores**, Director of Financial Affairs:

#### BRIEF END OF APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

Interim CEO Cynthia Vasquez Petitt, Deputy Director Maria Villa, Yvette Chong, CAFE Finance Consultant, and Dr. Flores met to review the end of April 2025-26 Budget financials and review the proposed 2026-2027 Budget on May 26, 2025.

We are currently on track to end the year with about \$21,000 positive after all the bills are paid and outstanding invoices are collected.

Yvette will present the Financial status with more specific details as of the End of April 30, 2026 during our Closed Session.

Note that as CAFE's Director of Financial Affairs, I am very vigilant and a fiscal conservative given my extensive experience as a school board member regarding budget expenditures and incoming money. I am raising a **RED FLAG** regarding the proposed Expenditures for the 2027 Annual Conference in Long Beach. The Amount proposed for Expenditures is \$1.9 Million dollars for 4,000 Attendees.

I recommend that we ask our Auditor to do a trend study for the last 4 years of costs by category to compare and contrast expenditures and propose cuts in areas that are costly, e.g. the amount of registration and hotel room comps that we give, pricing of meals, other expenses, etc.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Barbara Flores

CAFE Director of Financial Affairs

## **Dr. Annie BichLoan Duong, Region 1 Representative:**

### Chapter 8 - META:

Preparing for the 2027 Annual Conference, possibly at San Joaquin COE

### Chapter 13 - San Joaquin:

Leadership met 4 times a year

Had a successful fundraiser event on Saturday, May 23, 2026

Conducted interviews and will award a total of \$3000 to 6 students who are going to college

### Chapter 23 - SFBE

This past month we celebrated San Francisco USD high school graduate bilingual educator scholarship winners with TACT (Chinese Teachers Association) and LATA (Latin American Teachers Association).

### Chapter 76 - Woodland:

Community Involvement & Celebration Día de los Niños y las Niñas Literacy Celebration This year's 22nd anniversary of the Día de los Niños/Día del Libro celebration in Woodland, California was a success! The event took place on Friday, April 24, 2026 at Ferns Park in Woodland from 3 - 7 p.m. Agencies from across the community were brought together to distribute free books and provide educational, social, and health information to families in Woodland and surrounding areas. The Latino culture was celebrated at this Día event through the gift of high-quality, bilingual, and culturally relevant books, live performances and food for families to enjoy. The highlight was seeing tables of books organized and labeled by age group. The Woodland Joint Unified School District's Ballet Folklórico de Beamer Elementary School performed, as well as first-time participants, Lucha Libro. Lucha Libro, a group of professional wrestlers, performed a skit for children celebrating literacy and books. Our thanks to the donors for this year's event which includes a Reforma (The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latino and the Spanish Speaking) Dia de los Niños y Dia de los Libros Mini Grant, Yolo County Supervisors Grants, 100 Club of Solano and Yolo Counties, Community Members: Stallard, Rodriguez Families

Five 2026 CABA Chapter 76 High School Aspiring \$1,000 Bilingual Teacher Scholarships Awarded CABA Yolo/Woodland Chapter 76 is proud to recognize this year's recipients of the 2026 "Aspiring Bilingual Teachers" Scholarships for \$1,000, awarded annually to qualifying Woodland Joint Unified School District seniors pursuing a future in education. Congratulations to our five CABA Chapter 76 Scholarship Recipients:

- Limari Alvarado-Galvan, Woodland High School
- Noelia Hernandez Gasca, Woodland High School
- Sabrina Suárez, Pioneer High School
- Luna Buenrostro, Pioneer High School
- Camila Perez, Pioneer High School

Our heartfelt thanks for the support of our fundraisers, primarily craft sales, and donors, including retired and current educators, members of our community, CABE scholarship rebates, and chapter membership contributions, for making these scholarships possible.

Chapter 76 Fundraisers CABE Craft Sales – Community Events & Local Merchants (Casa del Pan) – Ongoing Upcoming - Casa del Pan Concha Making Fundraiser

**HồngTiên Trần**, Region 3 Representative:

As the school year comes to an end, I was invited to attend two Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion (VDLI) events within the Westminster School District.

The first event was the Biliteracy Awards & Celebration at **Warner Middle School**. This marks their third VDLI cohort, celebrating a total of 56 eighth-grade students. Among them, 41 began their journey at DeMille Mỹ Việt Language Academy, while 15 joined during their middle school years. Thirty-eight students received the Pathway to Biliteracy Medal, representing approximately 68% of the cohort. Additionally, the school plans to implement the Home Language Development Award next year. This initiative will open up opportunities for non-VDLI students to attain their Pathway to Biliteracy Medal at a campus comprised of roughly 40% Spanish-speaking students.



The second event was the Biliteracy Awards & Celebration at **DeMille Mỹ Việt Language Academy**. This fifth-grade cohort featured 43 participating VDLI students, 39 of whom attained their Pathway to Biliteracy Medal—including two Home Language Development recipients (Spanish and Korean). This marks the first year DeMille Mỹ Việt has successfully implemented the Home Language

Development Award pathway, a milestone achieved thanks to the leadership of Ms. Michelle Watkins, WSD Chief Academic Officer, and the dedication of Ms. Sophia Nguyễn, the fifth-grade VDLI teacher.



**Dr. Angélica Hurtado, Region 4 Representative:**

I attended the successful one day CABE regional at the Riverside Convention Center in May 2026. I was able to talk to attendees about the benefits of becoming a member. I have been in contact with SB CABE Chapter since they are revising their By-Laws. Also, got to touch base with another one of our CABE Chapters; The Riverside CABE Chapter 6 is taking June off from their meeting. They will resume their meetings in July to plan and schedule their monthly meetings on the calendar, to discuss dates for their general meeting, and open seats on the board and elections. Also, a date for their mini conference, topics for their mini conference, and BEST awards will be scheduled.

**Dr. Sarah Zepeda, Region 5 Representative**

**Ventura County CABE Chapter 48** is preparing for their 18th annual conference on October 9, 2026 - *United and Empowered by Our Cultures & Languages*. Keynote speaker: Reyna Grande, Author. Corazon Award Recipient: Martha Hernandez.

**Antelope Valley CABE Chapter 58** held their annual conference on May 16, 2026. Parents were invited to attend workshops to support their children with language acquisition and literacy development.



Name	Title of Presentation	Description
Natalie Allard Ana Donovan  Special Education	Understanding Special Education: Identification, Services, and Impact  Comprendiendo la Educación Especial: Identificación, Servicios e Impacto	This workshop will focus on providing an understanding for parents about the process of identifying a child that may need special education services. It will also provide information on how services are provided, and the impact of a child receiving special education.  Este taller se enfocará en brindar a los padres una comprensión del proceso para identificar a un niño que pueda necesitar servicios de educación especial. También proporcionará información sobre cómo se brindan los servicios y el impacto de que un niño reciba educación especial.
Juliana Xochimilt  English Learners (EL)	Easy and Fun English Family Activities  Actividades Familiares de Inglés Fáciles y Divertidas	We will look at digital and hands-on activities to help your English language learner (EL) further develop their English language development at home. These strategies can help them earn a "Well Developed" on their ELPAC test.  Exploramos actividades digitales y prácticas para ayudar a su estudiante de inglés (EL) a seguir desarrollando sus habilidades en el idioma inglés en casa. Estas estrategias pueden ayudarlo a obtener un nivel de "Bien Desarrollado" en su examen ELPAC.
Elizabeth Zambrano  Math K-5	Fun Math Strategies for Elementary Success  Estrategias Divertidas de Matemáticas para el Éxito en la Escuela Primaria	Join us for an interactive session designed to bridge the gap between "homework time" and "playtime." Learn new strategies that can be used daily to help your student improve math skills.  Únase a nosotros para una sesión interactiva diseñada para cerrar la brecha entre el "tiempo de tarea" y el "tiempo de juego." Aprenda nuevas estrategias que pueden usarse diariamente para ayudar a su estudiante a mejorar sus habilidades matemáticas.
Claudia Andrade  Language Arts K-12	Thinking Maps- The Visual Language of Thinking  Mapas de Pensamiento: El Lenguaje Visual del Pensamiento	Learn how to use "Thinking Maps" to help your child organize their thoughts, build vocabulary, and solve problems. Come practice the top maps that will turn your child into a confident, independent learner.  Aprenda cómo usar los "Mapas de Pensamiento" para ayudar a su hijo a organizar sus ideas, desarrollar vocabulario y resolver problemas. Venga a practicar los mapas principales que ayudarán a su hijo a convertirse en un estudiante seguro e independiente.
Violeta	Foundational Skills - (Family	High-impact games parents can play to build foundational skills in a fun and

Banuelos Language Arts K-3	Activities, Games)  Habilidades fundamentales – (Actividades familiares, juegos)	interactive way. These games will provide parents with ideas that can be utilized to support their child in a fun and bonding way at home.  Juegos de alto impacto que los padres pueden jugar para desarrollar habilidades fundamentales de una manera divertida e interactiva. Estos juegos proporcionarán a los padres ideas que pueden utilizarse para apoyar a sus hijos de una forma divertida y que fortalezcan el vínculo en el hogar.
Lizeth DeLaTorre School Counselor  All Grades	College & Career Readiness: Families Empowering Futures  Preparación para la universidad y la carrera: Familias empoderando futuros	Understand the California educational Pathway and how to support your child's academic learning and college & career success. Learn practical strategies for building future opportunities.  Comprenda la trayectoria educativa de California y cómo apoyar el aprendizaje académico de su hijo, así como su éxito universitario y profesional.

**Marissa Lazo-Necco, Director of Paraprofessional Affairs:**

It was wonderful to support Dr. Erin Gruwell's session at the CAFE 2026 Conference. I am honored to continue supporting this meaningful work through follow-up professional development opportunities, including providing teachers, community liaisons, and paraprofessionals with the opportunity to participate in a one-week institute with Erin Gruwell and the Freedom Writers.

I was also grateful for the opportunity to attend the CAFE Regional Conference in Riverside and continue engaging in meaningful learning and connection with colleagues across the region.

In addition, I continue to support community liaisons and paraprofessionals through a Family and Community Engagement Certification Program. This series has been highlighted by the California Department of Education and the California Family Engagement Network as a best practice, and it continues to build capacity for those serving students, families, and multilingual communities.

We are also currently planning the San Bernardino County Family and Community Engagement Summit, which will bring together families, staff, para-educators, and community partners for a day of learning, partnership, and shared tools to support students throughout the school year. This year's Summit will be held at the University of Redlands and marks our 10th Annual Summit, and we will have a great partnership with our local San Bernardino Region CAFE.

Lastly, this is my final meeting as CAFE Board Director for Paraprofessional Affairs, as my term comes to an end. It has truly been an honor to serve on this Board for the past 15 years. I am also honored to welcome back to the Board my dear colleague and CAFE familia, Ana Donovan, who will be stepping into this role. I know she will do a beautiful job serving our multilingual community with heart, dedication, and excellence.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.