



First 5 Commission, September 30, 2026

Agencies/Organizations affected by Action Items or Discussion Items on the agenda for today's meeting are:
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None

Conflict of Interest Reminder for Commissioners and Alternates:

Commissioners with a direct financial interest (for themselves or their family members) shall recuse themselves from the decision on the proposal.

Commissioners who wish to recuse themselves for reason other than a financial interest (such as a possible perception of personal or professional bias for or against a proposal), may recuse themselves from the decision. Commissioners are asked to carefully evaluate this if there might be any problem with a quorum.

It is the Commission's practice to ask individuals who are recusing themselves to leave the room while the proposal is being considered. If you recuse yourself, please remain available so that you can be easily found to rejoin the meeting for subsequent agenda items.

Advisory and Community Members Participation. Members should avoid any perception of influencing the Commissioner's funding decisions affecting their own agencies. Although they may speak on any agenda item at any time, it is impossible to speak regarding one's own agency's First 5 funding without the public perception of bias, and they are encouraged to avoid doing so. Although it is appropriate to answer specific questions of the Commission regarding a proposal affecting their agency, it would be inappropriate to advocate for a proposal affecting their agency.



Item 1: Approve Minutes for August 2026 (Att. #1)

Minutes

August 5, 2026, 2:15-4:15 pm

Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Room 217
175 Fairview Lane, Sonora, CA 95370

Voting Members Present: Zack Abrnathy, Michelle Clark, Cathy Parker, Jackie Roberts
Alternates: Anita Vicini,
Absent: Kimberly Freeman, Anaiah Kirk,
Staff Present: Sarah Garcia

Meeting Opens: 2:27pm

Welcome and introductions- *How do you unwind after a tough day?*

Public comment

None

Action Items

1. Consider action to approve the agenda
Discussion: None
Public Comment: none
Motion: Commissioner Abernathy
2nd: Commissioner Clark
Abstain: None
Recusal: None
All in favor: All 5 (Abernathy, Clark, Parker, Roberts, Vicini)

Presentation

2. Bright Life Kids
Overview of free, statewide virtual behavioral health coaching for families with children ages 0–12. Services include self-guided resources, secure chat, live video coaching, care navigation, and virtual parent community. Program is free, accessible regardless of insurance or income, and supports families up to age 17 for siblings. Coaches have specialized training and families select coaches based on needs.
3. ICES and SEED Quality Counts
Program supports professional development for early childhood providers through PD tracking and cash stipends. Participants include licensed family childcare providers, family/friend/neighbor caregivers, preschool staff, Head Start teachers, home visitors, and children's librarians. Flexible PD options include college courses, workshops, online learning, and coaching. Hub system manages applications and documentation. Focus on workforce quality improvement and retention.

Action Items

4. Approve Minutes for June 2026 (Att. #1)

Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Motion: Commissioner Vicini

2nd: Commissioner Parker

Abstain: None

Recusal: None

All in favor: All 5 (Abernathy, Clark, Parker, Roberts, Vicini)

5. Approve the selection of Jensen Smith Certified Public Accountants, Inc. to perform the FY 2025–26 annual financial and state compliance audits; authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement in an amount not to exceed \$10,500, with optional extensions for FY 2026–27 and FY 2027–28 at \$9,000 per year; and authorize the Executive Director to make nonmaterial changes, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel and verification of the firm’s current professional qualifications, insurance, independence, and final engagement schedule. (Att. #2)

Discussion: Contract up to \$10,500 first year, optional extensions at \$9,000/year.

No RFP required due to amount.

Strong references and backup staffing confirmed.

Public Comment: None

Motion: Commissioner Abernathy

2nd: Commissioner Vicini

Abstain: None

Recusal: None

All in favor: All 5 (Abernathy, Clark, Parker, Roberts, Vicini)

6. Approve annual meeting calendar (Att. #3)

Discussion: Dates: Sep 30, Dec 2, Feb 3, Apr 7, Jun 9 (second Wednesday to avoid graduation).

Public Comment: None

Motion: Commissioner Clark

2nd: Commissioner Roberts

Abstain: None

Recusal: None

All in favor: All 5 (Abernathy, Clark, Parker, Roberts, Vicini)

7. Approve sending a letter of support for Tuolumne County CASA from the First 5 Tuolumne Commission (Att. #4)

Discussion: Background provided on prior reliance on the District Attorney’s Office to represent children and the shift to contracted attorneys. Discussion of CASA’s role, training (40–50 hours), boundaries, coordination with child welfare, and educational advocacy. Support noted from Calaveras/Amador CASA, local judges, Child Welfare leadership, and potential donors via Sonora Area Foundation.

Public Comment: None

Motion: Commissioner Roberts
2nd: Commissioner Parker
Abstain: None
Recusal: None
All in favor: All 5 (Abernathy, Clark, Parker, Roberts, Vicini)

Discussion Items, Information Items and Reports

8. First 5 Director Post Retirement Benefits
The exact cost of post-retirement health coverage for the First 5 Director, the period between retirement and Medicare eligibility, and any parallel obligations for the TCSOS-managed First 5 staff need to be defined.
Mechanisms for setting aside funds (e.g., a designated line item or reserve) and impacts on long-term budget projections will be considered at the September 30 meeting with business office staff.
9. Monthly Financial Reports through May 2026 (Att. #5)
April 2026 reports are available; May and June financials are not yet final due to year-end close. Historically, full year-end reports and audited financials become available after the annual audit; updated financials are anticipated for the December meeting.
10. Reports from Executive Director, Commissioners and Community Members
 - a. Small Population Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) allocation adjustment
First 5 California increased annual allocation from about \$185,000 to about \$198,000 next year, then to about \$194,000 the following year.
 - b. Community Resiliency Model Training
The Community Resiliency Model (CRM) training, held recently, was well-received by approximately 30 early childhood educators and other community helpers. The training focused on trauma-informed techniques to help individuals who are emotionally dysregulated regain calm and engage effectively, especially after stressful situations like natural disasters. Participants practiced sensory and mindfulness activities designed to regulate the nervous system and learned coping strategies that could support both families and professionals. The training, funded through a Behavioral Health grant, is planned to be expanded countywide to benefit a broader range of community members, with hopes for longer sessions to allow deeper skill mastery.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:07pm

Time and location for next meeting:

Date September 30, 2026 2:15 pm, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office,
Room 217, Sonora, CA 95370



ATTACHMENT # 2
FIRST 5 Meeting September 30, 2026

Item 2: Election of Officers (attachment #2)

History: The Commission nominates and elects officers annually. Elections are being held this month due to the term ending of the Chair who was elected in October.

The current slate of Commission Officers began their annual officer terms in December 2024.
The Commissioners that have served as officers in the last five years are:

	Chair	Vice Chair	Treasurer
FY 25-26 (Interim)	Michelle Clark	Zack Abernathy	Jackie Roberts
FY 25-26	Laura Sunday	Michelle Clark	Jackie Roberts
FY 24-25	Laura Sunday	Mayra Patey	Jackie Roberts
FY 23-24	Cathy Parker	Laura Sunday	Michelle Clark
FY 22-23	Cathy Parker	Laura Sunday	Michelle Clark
FY 21-22	Michelle Clark	Anaiah Kirk	Dee Keshner
FY 20-21	Michelle Clark	Dee Keshner	Laura Sunday

The By-Laws state:

Qualifications, Selection and Term:

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer are elected by the Commission at the Annual Meeting from among its own members. Election must be by majority vote of the Commissioners. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer are elected for a term of one (1) year and shall serve until a successor has been duly elected. No officer shall serve more than two (2) successive years in the same office, but may subsequently serve in a different office. After a break of at least one year, a Commissioner may again serve in an office where she or he has served a full term prior.

The following Commissioners are currently eligible for the officer positions.

Eligible for Chair	Eligible for Vice Chair (All)	Eligible for Treasurer (All)
Zack Abernathy	Zack Abernathy	Zack Abernathy
Michelle Clark	Michelle Clark	Michelle Clark
Kim Freeman	Kim Freeman	Kim Freeman
Anaiah Kirk	Anaiah Kirk	Anaiah Kirk
Cathy Parker	Cathy Parker	Cathy Parker
Jackie Roberts	Jackie Roberts	

Discussion Requested: Nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting. Officers will be formally elected at today's meeting and will begin their terms upon the conclusion of this meeting, September 30, 2026.

Action requested: Approve officers as follows:

Chair:

Vice Chair:

Treasurer:

With a term to last 1 year.