



CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

BOARD	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
COOK	Absent	Present									
KONCZAL	Present	Present									
MESFIN	Present	Proxy*									
AWTREY	Present	Present									
WITTRUP	Present	Present									
HER	Proxy	Present									
FOLMER	Present	Present									
ADMINISTRATORS											
STAFF											
WATSON	Present	Present									
BYNUM	Present	Present									
PARKER	Present	Present									

Deb Nankivell, CEO, Fresno Business Council, was in proxy for Ms. Mesfin.

ATTENDANCE

MCU [Awtrey/Konczal] to approve the Agenda for September 9, 2025.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MCU [Konczal/Awtrey] to approve the Minutes for August 12, 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. CART Opening School Report 2025-2026

C.E.O. Dr. Watson and Dean of Curriculum, Staci Bynum shared a CART 2025-2026 Opening School Report power-point with the Board highlighting first CART's state testing results and trends. Administration is very proud of our students for their improvements in scores. Historical data of the testing was shared to reflect CART's impact on the students' successes in the testing process.

CART Enrollment numbers have been a little bit of a challenge this year. We started with a great number of applications from both school districts. We have had many students retract their application. We have several retention efforts in place, such as New Student/Family Orientations held in March of each year, for students that have been placed through the lottery and Counselor contact for those wishing to retract their enrollment over the summer and or at the beginning of the school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

MCU [Folmer/Awtrey] to approve the Consent Agenda.

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1. Approval of Purchase Orders & Check Register
Approve purchase orders from August 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025, warrants numbered:080425RF; 080525CL; 080525WB; 080625RF; 80425WB;081325CL;081425WB; 081525RF; 081925CL; 082125WB; 082625A; 082625WB; 082825WB.

**APPROVAL OF
PURCHASE
ORDERS
AND
CHECK REGISTER**

1. Approval of Conference Requests
N/A

**APPROVAL OF
CONFERENCE
REQUESTS**

2. Approval of Student Field Trips
N/A

**APPROVAL OF
STUDENT
FIELD TRIPS**

ACTION

ACTION

1. Approve CART 2024-2025 Budget Transfers.
MCU [Awtrey/Wittrup] to approve CART 2024-2025 Budget Transfers.
2. Approve CART Annual 2024-2025 Financial Report.
MCU [Konczal/Her] to approve CART Annual 2024-2025 Financial Report.

INFORMATION
N/A

INFORMATION

STAFF REPORTS

STAFF REPORTS

- C.E.O. Dr. Watson shared several recent CART activities and highlights.
1. Our staff returned the day after our last board meeting on August 13th. We held three days of Professional Development. Two of the days were a “CART Conference” concept. Day one of the conference were presentations and information provided by C.E.O. Dr. Watson and Dean of Curriculum, Staci Bynum. Day two we had Swanson and Cosgrove Consultants, Theron Cosgrove and Michelle Swanson who presented AI information. Day three was Tara Natrass, Ed. D., Chief Innovation Strategist for Lenovo who shared on AI use in the education industry. Deputy Superintendent, Norm Anderson, CART Board Member, Kim Mesfin and Deb Nankivell were there for Day three with Tara Natrass from Lenovo.
2. CART’s first two weeks of school have gone very well. CART Student Ambassadors were trained to give our new student presentations and they all did a great job with their program. We held our CART Olympics on Friday, August 29th. The students really bond and experience the CART culture with this event. CART’s Back to School Night was held on September 4th, we had a great turn out of students and families.
3. CART is transitioning student/parent communication systems from Remind to Parent Square. This is a good transition for our CART families since both CUSD and FUSD use Parent Square as well.
4. Tomorrow, we are looking forward to a visit from two visitors with Transend. This visit will be a validation of the CART innovative staffing model.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS – Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Chairperson Cook.

ADJOURNMENT

CART 09.09.25 TC/kp

MSCU=Motion (*Board Member making the motion listed*), Second (*Board Member making the second listed*), Carried Unanimously

MSC=Motion, Second, Carried (*Board members voting NO listed.*)

MSF=Motion, Second, Failed (*Board members voting NO listed.*)