



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, August 11, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

BOARD	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
COOK	Present										
KONCZAL	Present										
MESFIN	Present										
AWTREY	Present										
WITTRUP	Present										
HER	Present										
FOLMER	Present										
ADMINISTRATORS											
STAFF											
MORGAN	Present										
BYNUM	Present										
MASSA	Present										

MSCU [Awtrey/Mesfin] to approve the Agenda for August 11, 2026,

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

MSCU [Konczal/Folmer] to approve the Minutes for June 16, 2026.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Special Presentation
N/A

**SPECIAL
PRESENTATION**

MSCU [Folmer/Wittrup] to approve the Consent Agenda.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

1. Approval of Purchase Orders & Check Register

Approve purchase orders from June 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026, 060126CL, 060426AP, 060526RF, 060826CL, 061126AP, 061526CL, 061726AP, 062226CL, 062426AP, 062926CL, 070126AP, 070126AP, 070626CL, 070726AP, 070926AP, 071326CL, 071426RF, 071526AP, 072026CL, 072326AP, 072826AP, 073026AP, 080426AP, 080626AP

**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

1. Approve CART's 2026-27 Salary Schedule

MS [Awtrey/Folmer] Discussion included a request for more clarity on the data and information provided on this agenda item. No vote was taken. A motion was made to table the item for a future meeting. MSCU [Folmer/Wittrup]

ACTION

STAFF REPORTS

C.E.O. Report

1. It was a busy summer, learning the CART way which also means learning the CUSD and FUSD and ROP and CTE and FCOE way!

1 Appreciative of retired CEO Rick Watson and the time he was able to
2 meet and his availability. Appreciative of Staci Bynum and her
3 willingness to support and share and help us learn the nuances of
4 CART. Her background as both a teacher and administrator here at
5 CART have been extremely helpful in navigating this summer,
6 digging through the past 25 years of staff development, strategic
7 planning, and vision for the school.

8
9 Acknowledged Cyndi Massa, our new Office Supervisor, for stepping
10 into a huge role and learning a million new systems as well this
11 summer, and Robert Lopez our Plant Supervisor, who is already
12 stepping onto the campus and training his team by setting a high
13 standard for our facility.

14
15 This is a year with a lot of change for our site and our teachers, but
16 we want to make it a smooth transition and allow the normal
17 elements of the school year to continue as they always have. One of
18 the points emphasized with our staff this year is the need for grace
19 and understanding. This is a year where “extra grace required” is
20 what we need to wear on our sleeves as we take this year to learn.

- 21
22 2. Dioceses of Stockton and Modesto came to visit – Marian Graham,
23 Director for Catholic Schools, and her team – looking to start a CTE
24 program in their area and wanted to get some ideas on how we utilize
25 an integrated and collaborative teaching model to support student
26 learning. They are looking into more industrial areas, such as HVAC
27 repair and technician work, but they still wanted to hear from our
28 team.

CART did not receive the New Schools grant that Rick Watson and
Staci Bynum had been working on last year but are still fostering
relationships and plans to carry out pilot work with O’Connell High
School’s administrative team. We still have the \$25,000 initial grant
that is in our Foundation account that we can use to facilitate
networking and sharing our interdisciplinary team staffing model.
Will continue to work with O’Connell in small doses and look at ways
to have strategic meet-ups during the year with some of their staff
and ours to form our “critical friends” network and share best
practices.

3. Coming up this year, we have teachers and staff from Mammoth
Unified visiting us in September. Pete Webber reached out in July
and asked if CART could be a stopping point for the California
Competes group. Additionally, Pete had asked if in October Paul Fain
of Workshift, as part of the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing
Summit, could bring a group of business leaders to experience CART.
We are looking forward to those upcoming visits, and I am looking
forward to continuing the work of building connections in our
community and abroad to strengthen the partnership between
education and industry.

4. This summer we moved forward with our Technology Refresh. We
met with the Lenovo representatives – Travis Massie our account
manager and Dan Einhorn, the Senior PC Specialist Leader. They
were able to show us the various options for our labs, and we were
able to secure the tech refreshes we needed for this cycle, with about
200 Chromebooks for our Engineering, Manufacturing and Robotics,
Psychology, and BioTechnology labs and 11 staff computer refreshes
as well. We also were able to install new AV systems for our science
lab that is shared by Psychology, BioTechnology and Forensics, a
new system for our Business Finance Lab, the large Biotechnology

lab, and both the main large room and conference room. We also had some repairs completed on other AV units in the multimedia rooms. Thanks to Craig Morrison for his work on pricing and gathering quotes for all the computers, projectors and installs as well as coordinating it all.

5. As many of you may have heard, a CART graduate, Gisselle Diaz, passed away this summer. She and her mother were involved in a fatal collision north of Madera. Gisselle was a leader on our CART campus and had gone through BioMed and Digital Marketing and Entrepreneurship. She was our student spotlight in May and was also the recipient of the Susan Cook Memorial Scholarship. There was a GoFundMe account set up for her family which many people have contributed to. We are also coordinating to transfer her scholarship to the GoFundMe account or to the family to support their needs. Thank you, Chairperson Cook and family, for helping the family in that way. Such a tragic loss and there simply are no words to describe how heartbreaking this is.
6. Isaac Reyna, our head counselor, and Diane Baymiller, one of our English teachers, spent the last two days working with and training our new Student Ambassadors. They walked them through several leadership and community building activities and helped them begin the preparation for their presentations in the first week of school. The students will be in small teams and go into each of the labs on the first Friday of the school year to talk about the CART way – our rules, procedures, expectations, and just what it takes to make CART the special place that it is. We are looking forward to seeing our new ambassadors in action and within a few weeks they will start to welcome new groups and interested people onto our campus.
7. Last year, we implemented a new system for student registration with PowerSchool. The program presented a bit of a learning curve, but we were able to get students signed up, run the lottery, and invite students into our program. Throughout the summer we have been working on moving students from the enrollment system into the Student Information System for PowerSchool (CART), Atlas (FUSD), and Q (CUSD). It has been quite a process! While we have numbers, they are changing as students either decline the invitation or change their minds, and we continue to seek out more students. Overall, the numbers are not where we would like them to be, so we are actively working to add more students these first couple weeks of school from each district. CART Head Counselor Reyna is prioritizing FUSD students from the waitlist to increase the numbers and continue to reach out to the counselors to pick up more students.

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 5:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted, Chairperson Cook.

CART 8.11.26 TC/cm

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.*)