Santa Fe Public Schools
Board of Education Joint Study Session &
Community Review Committee (CRC) Minutes
January 21, 2026
5:30 p.m.
YOUTUBE LINK TO BOARD MEETING

I. Opening Activities

A. Call to Order

1. President Noble called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M.
2. Attending:
   - Board President Noble
   - Vice President Sarah Boses
   - Secretary Dr. Carmen Gonzales
   - Board Member Roman "Tiger" Abeyta (arrived 6:42 p.m.)
   - Board Member Juan Blea

   CRC Members:
   - Allana Cartier
   - April Gallegos
   - Dylan Weller
   - Daniel Werwarth
   - Danny Maki
   - Jessica Johnson Shelton
   - Simon Mont
   - Sue Finger

3. Not Attending:
   - Jeremy Perea
   - Kristen Pelz

B. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico Flag
C. Acknowledgment of Tribal Land
D. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Vice President Boses
Seconded by: Secretary Dr. Gonzales

Aye President Noble, Vice President Boses, Secretary Dr. Gonzales, and Board Member Blea

Carried 4-0

Moved by: Vice President Boses
Seconded by: Secretary Dr. Gonzalez

II. Introduction of Interpreter

Interpreter Ms. Esmeralda Peña was introduced.

III. Public Forum

A. 14 emails were added to the record and 6 in-house speakers
   1. Kimberly Will - Parent, E.J. Martinez Elementary

Thank you for keeping EJ open and for agreeing to look into rebuilding us as a small school, including the cost of a new roof. Our children are learning in unsafe and less than ideal conditions, and it's clear we cannot remain at Chaparral, nor was that ever our first choice. Our preference has always been to return to our own building, even if that means renovating safe portions rather than rebuilding entirely. I ask that the board and CRC increase communication with educators, as collaboration is essential to making decisions that truly meet students' needs.

2. Sophie Hickman - Teacher, Chaparral
   I am a teacher at Chaparral, and my students regularly ask what is happening because the situation remains unresolved. Continued delays have prolonged uncertainty and stress for both Chaparral and EJ Martinez communities for over a year and a half. Over 300 students and 50 staff are sharing cramped spaces where instruction and services take place in hallways and shared rooms. While no decision is perfect, the lack of resolution feels like the worst outcome.
3. Jessica Lange - Instruction Coach at E.J. Martinez
   I am the instructional coach at EJ Martinez, and I urge you to recommend relocating EJ to the Milagro site. This is a student equity and safety decision, as our current building does not meet basic needs and negatively impacts students daily. The time and money required to fix the Chaparral location are extensive and unrealistic, and we need relief now. Milagro offers a solution that preserves school continuity while providing a healthy and dignified learning environment.
4. William Swanwick - SAGE Teacher, Chaparral
   I am a SAGE teacher at Chaparral and previously taught in the wing now used by EJ Martinez. The building was intended for one school, not two, and the setup does not work for either community. While Chaparral may not be at full capacity, having two schools at one site is a redundancy that creates ongoing problems. A fair and decisive solution needs to be made soon, even if opinions differ on which option is best.
5. Grace Mayor - Retired Educator
   I am a retired educator and former union president with over two decades of experience in this district and on this committee. I am here to advocate for maintaining Milagro Middle School as a comprehensive middle school at its current site. Past school-within-a-school models and the use of portables caused significant disruption and inequity. After decades of substandard facilities, this site should not be broken up or made makeshift again.
6. Rebecca Gutierrez - teacher at EJ Martinez.
   I am a fourth-grade teacher at EJ Martinez, and I continue to express concern about the inadequacy of the current Chaparral facility. Space and infrastructure limitations strain students and staff and do not support effective instruction. Keeping students together in a single, appropriate facility is critical for stability and well-being. Milagro Middle School is the most practical solution available at this time.
7. Lisa Marley - Community Member
   Chaparral Elementary urges the board to reach a fair and equitable resolution after more than a year and a half without a decision. Daily operations force multiple programs and staff to share a single space, which is not best practice and harms students. The board may not fully see the day-to-day impact of these conditions on our community. Please choose a fiscally responsible option and allow us to move forward.

President Noble stated that all written public comments had been reviewed by the Board earlier that day and were entered into the official record. Written public comments referenced during Public Forum are available at the following link: Public Forum Emails: January 21, 2026

IV. Action

A. 2025/2026 SY Board of Education Committee Representative

President Noble made a motion to add Board Member Blea to the audit committee

Moved by: President Noble
Seconded by: Vice President Boses

Aye President Noble, Vice President Boses, Secretary Dr. Gonzales, and Board Member Blea

Carried 4-0

V. Presentation

A. CRC Policy, Roles, and Responsibilities

Topics Discussed

- Overview of CRC roles and responsibilities, including review of the one-page summary and related policy, to establish shared understanding of the committee's purpose.
- Expectations of CRC members, including preparation, reviewing materials, asking critical questions, attending meetings, and staying connected to the community.
- Clarification that funding for EJ reconstruction is tied to the 2025 bond, which was only recently approved, and that planning and construction timelines extend beyond bond approval. The CRC's role is advisory, while final facilities decisions rest with the board.
- Importance of ongoing communication between the CRC and the board, as well as the value of site visits and monitoring board meetings to inform recommendations.

VI. Committees Discussion and Possible Action

A. Housing Resolution

Topics include:

- Discussion of the ongoing educator housing crisis, including the $14 million legislative request, worsening affordability, and the district's need to respond without becoming a housing institution.
- Agreement that a task force is needed to develop a strategic, programmatic housing framework, addressing both immediate needs and long-term solutions, rather than focusing solely on construction.
  Consideration of task force structure, size, and timeline, including a proposed 3–6 month initial phase, potential phased work, and the importance of keeping the group small and effective.
- Emphasis on strategy and programming questions, including who the housing would serve, length of residency, rent structure, ownership, equity, fair housing considerations, and alignment with employment and union status.
- Discussion of whether housing should be addressed within the Facilities Master Plan, with concern expressed about separating facilities planning from housing strategy.
- Recognition that building housing alone is not a comprehensive solution and that partnerships, external expertise, and review of models from other states and cities may be necessary.
- Discussion of financial and operational considerations, including operating pro formas, rental revenue, equity, management responsibility, and the complexity of financing housing compared to school facilities.
- Clarification that the CRC will provide strategic framing and oversight, while the task force conducts focused research and develops recommendations.
  Identification of the need for staff support, data sharing, and use of existing analyses to avoid duplicating prior work.
- Agreement on forming a CRC Housing Subcommittee with designated leadership and members, with the subcommittee to return to the CRC with proposed questions, process design, and recommendations.

B. CRC Housing Subcommittee
Confirmed participants (by name and role):
- Daniel Werwath – Chair
- Board Member Abeyta – Co-Chair
- Vice President Boses
- Grace Meyer
- Johnson Shelton
- Danny Maki

At the next CRC meeting, the CRC will help define priority questions and review the task force's proposed process, including timelines and reporting structure back to the CRC.

C. Midtown Schools - Looking Ahead
Topics include:
- Clarification of the CRC's role in supporting long-term facilities planning for midtown schools, including EJ Martinez, Chaparral, Milagro, Nava, Kearny, and Salazar, beyond immediate or temporary solutions.
- Overview of the Board's upcoming January 29 study session, at which district staff will present data, costs, timelines, and pros and cons for three previously identified short-term options, with the Board providing direction.
- Emphasis that actions taken on January 29 will address short-term needs, while the CRC will be asked to study and develop recommendations for long-term, districtwide solutions related to facilities use and declining enrollment.
- Discussion of the importance of clear and careful communication with school communities to avoid misinterpretation of short-term decisions as long-term commitments.
- Recognition that declining enrollment is a districtwide and national issue requiring comprehensive, systemwide planning rather than school-by-school responses.
- Acknowledgment of the passion and advocacy of school communities and the need to balance community input with long-term planning considerations.
- Discussion of factors influencing facilities decisions, including operating and staffing costs, enrollment-based funding, safety concerns, equity, program quality, and the limitations of renovating aging facilities.
- Clarification that rezoning, consolidation, or school closure options are not categorically off the table long-term, but must be evaluated within a broader districtwide framework.
- Discussion of the respective roles of district staff, the Board, and the CRC in developing data, evaluating options, and making facilities recommendations and decisions.
- Emphasis on the need for accurate, transparent data, including clear assumptions and methodologies, to support trust and informed decision-making.
- Recognition that facilities planning must consider both capital funding and ongoing operating costs.
- Discussion of aligning long-term planning with the current bond cycle, potential reallocations, and preparation for future bond cycles.
- Identification of the need for a clear, long-term districtwide strategic framework to guide facilities and program decisions over time.
- Discussion of public input procedures for the January 29 study session, including advance collection of written public comments, a defined submission deadline, limited live public comment, and proactive communication of these procedures to the community prior to the meeting.

VII. Advance Planning

1. 01/22/2026 4:00-8:00 p.m Tentative Standalone Executive Session
   Clarification was provided that the January 22 meeting would begin at 4:30 p.m., rather than 4:00 p.m. as previously listed
2. 01/27/2026 12:00 p.m. Partners In Education Meeting
3. 01/29/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
4. 02/04/2026 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
5. 02/18/2026 Tentative 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting

6. 02/19/2025 5:00 p.m. Study Session Finance Subcommittee
7. 02/24/2026 12:00 p.m. Partners In Education Meeting
8. 02/26/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
9. 03/04/2026 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
10. 03/12/2026 12:00 p.m. Audit Committee Meeting
11. 03/12/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
12. 03/18/2026 Tentative 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
13. 03/24/2026 12:00 p.m. Partners In Education Meeting
14. 03/26/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
15. Spring Break March 30 - April 3, 2026
16. 04/08/2026 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
17. 04/16/2026 5:00 p.m. Tentative Study Session/Finance Subcommittee
18. 04/21/2026 12:00 p.m. Partners In Education Meeting
19. 04/23/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
20. 04/29/2026 Tentative 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
21. 05/06/2026 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
22. 05/12/2026 12:00 p.m. Partners In Education Meeting
23. 05/14/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
24. 05/20/2026 Tentative 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
25. 05/28/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
26. 06/03/2026 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
27. 06/11/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting
28. 06/17/2026 Tentative 6:00 p.m. Community Review Committee Meeting
29. 06/23/2026 12:00 p.m. Partners In Education Meeting
30. 06/25/2026 4:30 p.m. Tentative Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

IX. Adjournment

President Noble adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

SANTA FE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION **Minutes approved on:** 2/19/2026

Kate I Noble

President Kate I. Noble, President

Carmen Gonzales

Attested by: Dr. Carmen L. Gonzales, Secretary