

Salida School District R-32-J

Board of Education

January 13, 2026

The Crest Academy Great Room, 627 Oak Street

6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

- 1) President Breckenridge Petit called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. In attendance were Directors Breckenridge Petit, Hill, Pashcall, Rhodes, and Schuchman.

- a) **Board Member Comments**

Director Paschall thanked LES Principal Cory Scheffel for his lifetime of service to the District. Scheffel noted he appreciates the board for all of their work and support, and looks forward to spending the final years of his career working more directly with students.

Director Breckenridge Petit shared her thanks to Shannon Scheffel for her decade working on Salida Schools' central admin team, and for her support of Mr. Scheffel; she then read quote from IT board report (pretty epic): *The bottom line is that The Salida School District now uses the same communications platform (Webex) as Apple and 95% of the Fortune 500. We utilize the same paging and mass notification system as the Pentagon. Our new network has the same capabilities and architecture as Stanford, MIT and Oxford Universities. Once we transition to our new Palo Alto Firewalls (used by Harvard, 8 of the 10 largest banks in the world and 9 of the Fortune 10) this summer, The Salida School District's technological infrastructure and backbone will be world-class from end to end.*

- b) Written Messages to the Board -**None**

- c) **Public Comments**

Mike Lamond - sharing as a parent, teacher, coach, co-president SEA, CBT member. He expressed his interest in making sure there is a plan in place for CBT to communicate with the Board to continue to make the relationship stronger.

Roz Roberts - SMS librarian, spoke to some concerns the District's library staff had regarding the proposed changes to the library policies and are happy to offer their input.

Andre Wilkins - co-President SEA invited guests to fill out a postcard to be shared with legislators at Rural Lobby Day on January 22 to gain attention to school funding in the state.

Evalyn Parks - As the representative for the staff appreciation committee, honored Directors for Board Appreciation Month, with dinner and gifts.

- d) Director Paschall made a motion to **Approve the Agenda**, with the report from CMC being pushed to the future. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.

- 2) Reports

- a) Guest Reports - ~~CMC Salida~~

- b) **Campus Reports** - Salida High School, Principal Jesse Hull shared a slide deck with highlights of the programming at the school that reflects their mission to make sure kids have a purpose, learn durable skills, build relationships with understanding and feel a sense of belonging. They do this by knowing every student by name, by need, and by strength. Students from SHS were in attendance and the board split up into small breakout sessions with students to get feedback from the students about their lived experience at the school. After the sessions,

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directors reported back to the group some of the key topics they learned about. Several themes emerged - senior seminar is a very well received class by students, there is interest in continued improvement in advisory as some students feel very connected to their advisor while others feel they get less out of the time, opportunities through CMC are very well received, most students and parents are supportive of the phone ban, and every student felt they had an adult they could go to with a concern, question, or when they needed support or guidance. While the new schedule has been received very well overall, there are concerns about some students missing the same class multiple times because of how activity schedules interact with the A/B approach to class schedules. Generally, test scores are up, and it appears that the combination of the new schedule and the no-phone policy are both proving to be successful.

JBP - Q to Dawn C - building a foundation - making adjustments - committee to review and adjust - advisory Q to AC - CDIP? - the whole program is being redone for funding process - bummer now, but will be better for us in the long run - industry recognized certificates (list is linked in slidedeck) - want to do what is right for every kid - it is different for each student, Big Three is a great approach; ASCENT also going away - going to new model, next two years will be catching up other rural schools/schools that don't have these options yet;

- c) **District Reports** - Superintendent Blackburn shared that the district had a great, stable start to the semester. There is a focus on considering future capital projects as the board enters budget season for the 26-27 school year. The district is working through the process to hire a new principal for Longfellow Elementary School for the start of the 26-27 school year, as well as an activities director.

- 3) Director Paschall made a motion to table items 3gi CASB Special Policy Updates from October 15, 2025 pending communications with district library staff. Director Hill seconded the motion. Dr. Blackburn noted the input from the libraries would be considered. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved to table these items until February for final review and approval.

Director Paschall made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

- a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on **December 9, 2025**
- b) Claims Payable – All Funds
- c) Claims Payable – Bills over \$20,000
- d) Personnel Items
- e) Acknowledge and Approve Exhibits and Regulations as Recommended by the Superintendent - None
- f) Approve on 1st Reading Policies - None
- g) Approve on 3rd Reading Policies:
 - i) ~~CASB Special Policy Update – October 15, 2025~~ (tabled to February 2026 meeting)
 - ~~(1) IJ Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption~~
 - ~~(2) KEC Public Concerns about Instructional Materials~~
 - ~~(3) IJL Library Resource Selection, Adoption, and Reconsideration *NEW*~~
 - ii) DJE - Purchasing And Bidding Procedures – School District
- h) Approve Mountain Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Operating Agreement

Director Schuchman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was

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approved.

4) Discussion Items - None

5) Action Items

- a) Director Rhodes made a motion to **Approve on 2nd Reading Policy IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar/Instruction time**. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. It was noted that there could be future conversation around the application of instructional time to passing periods. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.
- b) Director Paschall made a motion to **Authorize Superintendent Dr. Blackburn to finalize the Transportation Equipment Services Agreement with HEF-P Starling (Highland)**, including the lease of two electric buses, conditional upon finalization of the Excel Energy Grant. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Connor from Highland shared a slidedeck with more details about the updated proposal which includes an award of \$1.4M in funding from Xcel Energy, which includes two electric buses, charging stations, and bi-directional connectivity at SMS so a bus could be turned into source of energy in the case of a power outage. Salida Schools was selected as the flagship rural project. There was discussion about provided comprehensive training to SSD staff including drivers and mechanics, potential for using the program for STEM learning opportunities for students, and the possibility for providing energy back into the system when needed. The board discussed the cost of purchasing new buses and the lifespan of buses, and questions about differing insurance and registration for electric vehicles. Director Hill noted his concerns about limitation on drivable hours per charge, compatibility with other systems in the future, and ethical concerns related to mining of needed materials for the batteries. Evalyn Parks provided some insight after the extensive research she has been conducting in recent years. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, no; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.
- c) Director Schuchman made a motion to **Approve the Amended 25-26 Budget and the Associated Appropriation Resolution 202526-02**. Director Paschall seconded the motion. Business Manager Aaron Dobson noted that there were a few minor adjustments as there has been more clarity on some staffing items, such as finalized retirement dates and the number of people taking insurance. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.
- d) Director Hill made a motion to **Approve Resolution 202526-03 Authorizing the use of a portion of the beginning fund balance as authorized by Colorado Statutes**. Director Rhodes seconded the motion. Dobson shared information on the standard nature of this item and budgeting through Fund 10. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.
- e) Director Schuchman made a motion to **Approve Resolution 202526-04 to Declare a Vacancy on the School Board**. Director Rhodes seconded the motion. Breckenridge Petit thanked former Director Matt Hobbs for his service to the school district and community and noted the life changes that necessitated his decision to step down. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.

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- f) Director Schuchman made a motion to **Approve the Reapportionment of Salida School District Board of Education Districts**. Director Paschall seconded the motion. Blackburn noted that the adjustments will provide better representation for citizens, reflecting changes by the demographer of the required 3% rule. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.

6) **Board Communications and Committee Reports**

Breckenridge Petit noted that the board will discuss potential changes to the committees at the annual January work session or “Grind”, on January 30, 2026.

- a) BOCES – Director Rhodes will attend her first BOCES meeting on Thursday and be sworn onto that board.
- b) Facilities Committee – the county has interest in an MOU for the land near the fairground land, and progress is being made on negotiations on land with the City of Salida. SSD is nearing final sale of Spartan Heights quad plex to the Chaffee Housing Trust. Progress is being made on the installation of the ice rink with hopeful opening soon, with no liability to the district.
- c) Communications – Work is being done to finish the 2025 Annual Report to the Community with planned distribution prior to spring break.
- d) CASB - There was no update on CASB.
- e) DAC - no update, and will be discussed at the retreat.

7) **Future Business**

- a) Topics for Future meetings
- b) Calendar of events
 - i) Annual Retreat - Friday, January 30, 8 am - 4 pm, 2nd Floor 627 Oak Street
 - ii) Regular Meeting, February 10, 2026 6 p.m., 2nd Floor 627 Oak Street
- (1) Agenda Review - Jenn Schuchman volunteered.

Dr. Blackburn noted the heavy lift with a significant amount planned for coming months. There will be discussion at the retreat about aligning priorities for the remainder of the 25-26 school year.

8) **Adjournment** – Director Schuchman made a motion to adjourn.

Minutes were approved at the February 10, 2026 regular meeting of the board of education. A signed copy is available in the Central Administration Office at 627 Oak Street, Salida, CO

Kim LeTourneau, Board Secretary

Jodi Breckenridge Petit, Board President