

Salida School District R-32-J

Board of Education

December 9, 2025

2nd Floor Conference Room, 627 Oak Street

Career Day Training SHS Assistant Principal Abigail Cooksey joined the board at 4:30 to share information about the upcoming Junior Career Day where the board has volunteered to meet with students in a mock convention meet and greet. In attendance were Directors Breckenridge Petit, Ben Hill, Karen Lundberg, Mandy Paschall, Tiffany Rhodes, and Jenn Schuchman.

Work Session

At 5:03 the board opened a work session to discuss the Financial Budget Cycle and proposed Amended Budget. Director Breckenridge Petit has been working with Superintendent Blackburn, Business Manager Dobson, and Secretary LeTourneau to create a graphic that helps explain the frequently confusing school budget cycle. Dobson then used that as a jumping off point to discuss the changes that are being presented in the proposed amended budget. He requested any questions, suggestions, or clarifications as soon as possible as he will create the final proposal to be reviewed and approved at the January meeting. Dobson noted that he continues to tighten the budget as he gains more experience and refines each line item.

6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

President Breckenridge Petit called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. In attendance were Directors Breckenridge Petit, Hill, Matt Hobbs, Lundberg, Paschall, Rhodes, and Schuchman.

a) Board Member Comments

Director Schuchman thanked teachers, staff, and principals for their work in getting students through the final six days of school before winter break.

Director Hobbs thanked staff, teachers and everyone who serves the district for their hard work and offered luck getting through the final push to break. He then shared an announcement of his resignation to the board effective December 31, 2025 and that it has been a privilege and honor to serve the community as a board member. He thanked Dr. Blackburn for his work and being the reason the district has been so high performing for so long. By attending events like the CASB conference it becomes clear that Dr. Blackburn is truly a visionary.

Director Paschall thanked Hobbs and noted some of the significant challenges that they faced when they started as directors. She appreciates his knowledge, friendship, and the very specific knowledge he has shared with the board. He will be missed on a personal and professional level.

Director Lundberg commended Hobbs for the great questions he asked that provided insight to the board. She thanked the students in attendance (even if they were there for extra credit), and noted that she will be presenting a discussion about Destination Imagination (DI) at the February meeting and welcomes any insight or questions before then.

Director Hill thanked Hobbs for his time on the board and appreciated his professional manor, patience, and friendship.

Director Breckenridge Petit thanked Hobbs for his compassion and care, with a student-first agenda. She also thanked SHS Principal Jesse Hull and Curriculum and Instruction Director Savanah Craft for setting high expectations for the high school and helping her understand the scope and sequence they are working on.

Director Rhodes shared a brief review of her statement from swearing in about her whys of running for the board and excitement to follow in the footsteps of four generations of women educators and to give back to the community that has supported her and her son.

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- b) Written Messages to the Board - None

- c) **Public Comments**

Courtney Landry from the Salida Montessori shared her excitement about the new building and being a part of a community that values education. They will host an open house on January 9 and invite the SSD BOE to attend. *Rozlyn Roberts*, SMS librarian shared her background in library knowledge, including CDE policies and offered her insight to the board.

Evalyn Parks, Transportation Manager and representative of the staff appreciation committee, shared a thank you with the board and presented them with a holiday gift for their work and dedication to the district.

Jesse Hull, SHS principal, reminded the board that in January he would bring a student panel to the board meeting to share an update on the school.

- d) Director Lundberg made a **motion to Approve the Agenda with the following change:**

- i) Table Item 4a Discussion of Destination Imagination (DI) until February

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

2) Reports

- a) **Guest Reports - Hoelting & Company, Inc. CPA**

Tom Sistare shared a review of the audit with the board and reminded everyone that every local government agency in Colorado is required to have finances audited if the budget they manage meets a certain value, which Salida Schools does meet. He encouraged the students in attendance to consider accounting as a future career as there will always be a demand for the service. The Hoelting team was in Salida in August for the audit and offered a clean audit. He was pleased with the district's preparation which helps the process go smoothly. He answered several questions from the directors.

- b) **Campus Reports - Longfellow Elementary School, Principal Cory Scheffel**

Principal Scheffel shared a slideshow presentation about the incredible work being done at Longfellow and highlighted staff, grade-level specific programming, goals, systems of support, and how the school has worked to welcome new staff members to the team this year. He noted that it is the people that make Longfellow special and thanked the community partners that enhance the opportunities for students. He answered several questions from the directors.

- c) **District Reports**

Superintendent Dr. Blackburn welcomed interim Activities Director Jeremy Grier. Grier noted that he is excited about this opportunity to serve the youth of the Salida School District. Dobson thanked Tom from Hoelting for attending and sharing details for the board. The process can be a bit overwhelming, but working with Hoelting continues to be a good experience. Craft's report offered a bit more depth and information about the progress they are making and are ahead of the expected timeline of their work for the year. Directors are impressed with the progress of the C&I team. Blackburn noted that a new demographic report was being developed, and while there is expectation that the area is still growing, enrollment trends seem to be softening in Salida, a lag in what seems to be a trend across the state. Enrollment numbers are of keen interest to the board because of their direct relationship with funding and available budget dollars. There is an awareness regarding online education opportunities, but that doesn't seem to be a contributing factor in the district, and it was noted it does not seem to be a good choice for most students. The district is again participating in the Healthy Kids Colorado survey which is the only data set available to get the student perspective, and opens up opportunities for grant dollars

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and funding. Lead school psychologist Jessica Bena did go through the survey before it launched to remove any questions that weren't a good fit for our community. Dr. Blackburn is always happy to talk to anyone who has any questions, and parents are able to opt their students out of participating in the survey. With substance use, car accidents, and despair being key concerns for our youth, the survey may also provide insight into the district's focus on the wellness policy this year. Blackburn offered a likely path for appointing a replacement for Director Hobbs who provided stability through several challenging times during his tenure, with a formal posting of the vacancy at the January meeting at which time the board will detail the process and deadlines so they are ready to appoint someone in February to meet the 60-day requirement.

The board took a short break and returned to session at 7:30.

3) Director Schuchman made a motion to approve the following **Consent Agenda** Items:

- a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on **November 11, 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 - None
- h) Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of the Board on **December 2, 2025**
- i) Special SSD Approval of Policy IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar/Instruction time per policy BG
- j) Approve HEA student trip to Albuquerque, NM for the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow, April 25-25, 2025

Director Paschall seconded the motion. Director Paschall noted that policy IC needs further revision to address the allowed length of Thanksgiving break, and Director Lundberg noted that the HEA trip only needed approval and wasn't requesting funding. Directors supported the trip and were disappointed to hear that it would be the final Gathering of Nations Pow Wow, potentially forever. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was **approved**.

4) **Discussion Items** - The only item was forwarded to the February meeting.

- a) ~~Destination Imagination (DI)~~

5) Action Items

- a) Director Paschall made a motion to **approve the following policies on 2nd Reading**
 - i) CASB Special Policy Update - October 15, 2025
 - (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

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

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- b) Director Schuchman made a motion to **Accept the '24-'25 Audit as Presented**. Director Hobbs seconded the motion. There was no discussion, but it was noted that the board reviewed the audit in November and heard Mr. Sistare's presentation earlier in the evening. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was **approved**.
- c) Director Hill made a motion to **Certify the Mills as Presented**. Director Lundberg seconded the motion. Dobson share a few insights, including the required increase by one mill for the next five years, and changes in property valuations, and the awareness of how increases do impact those in the community who are on a fixed income. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was **approved**.

6) Board Communications and Committee Reports

- a) BOCES – the board thanked Director Paschall for her service. Director Rhodes will step into this role and will start at the next BOCEs meeting. Other committees will remain in place until there is opportunity to talk about committee structure at the retreat in January.
- b) Facilities Committee – Karen Lundberg
- c) Communications – Jenn Schuchman, Matt Hobbs
- d) CASB - Jenn Schuchman
- e) DAC - Ben Hill

7) Future Business

- a) Topics for Future meetings
- b) Calendar of events
 - i) **Annual CASB Conference** - December 11-13, 2025 - The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs
The members of the Salida School District board of education will be attending the Colorado Association of School Board's Annual Convention on December 11-13, 2025. The purpose of this event is for board members to engage in professional learning--it is not to conduct public business of the local district or engage in formal action. While notice is not required pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402, the Board believes in transparency and therefore is providing this information regarding the event.
 - ii) **Annual Retreat - Friday, January 30, 8 am - 4 pm**
 - iii) **Regular Meeting, January 13, 2026** 6 p.m., Crest Academy Great Room
 - (1) Agenda Review - Director Paschall
 - (2) It was noted that Director Lundberg would not be attending the January meeting.

Dobson requested that new leadership, including President Breckenridge Petit, Vice President Paschall, and Treasurer Hill remain to update signatures for accounting purposes.

8) Director Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Minutes were approved at the January 13, 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