

Salida School District R-32-J

Board of Education

June 9, 2026

At 4:30 pm the board hosted a work session at the Holman property to discuss future development opportunities.

At 5:30 Directors Breckenridge Petit, Paschall, Schuchman, Rhodes, Vaughn, and Lundberg were in attendance at 627 Oak Street for public review of the '26-'27 budget at 627 Oak Street. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Blackburn, Business Manager Aaron Dobson, Curriculum and Instruction Director Savanah Craft, and Board Secretary Kim LeTourneau. There were no attendees from the community.

- 1) President Breckenridge Petit **called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm**. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. In attendance were Directors Jodi Breckenridge Petit, Karen Lundberg, Mandy Paschall, Tiffany Rhodes, Jennifer Schuchman, and Derek Vaughn. Director Hill was not present.

a) **Board Member Comments**

Director Vaughn thanked staff members for their patience with the recent change to the insurance plan, as well as the insurance committee for their recommendations, and the business office for their time and effort to support staff through this transition.

Director Schuchman also thanked Aaron and his team for the work that went into the significant change in insurance coverage.

Director Paschall noted a big win for our students sharing stats from CMC regarding the number of credits earned by Salida Schools' students and the associated money saved by families.

Director Breckenridge Petit issued a reminder about summer safety - play safe and remember to use the safety equipment for your favorite summer activity.

Director Lundberg shared her delight of the SHS Graduation ceremony. She was very impressed with the event and celebration.

Director Rhodes attended both the SHS and HEA graduation ceremony and was also impressed with the celebrations at both campuses.

b) **Written Messages to the Board**

- i) N. Talley - Tennis Courts

c) There were no **Public Comments**.

- d) Director Schuchman made a motion to Approval of Agenda with the following changes:

- i) Remove Item 3l Acknowledge Change in Procedures for Capital Assets, and add Item 3exv DID-R Fixed Assets
- ii) Add Consent Item 3n Approve Application for Ed-Flex Title I Schoolwide Waive for SMS
- iii) Remove Consent Item 3h Approve District Liability Insurance (tabled in May)

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

2) **Reports**

- a) Guest Reports - None
- b) Campus Reports - None

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- c) District Reports - Dr. Blackburn reviewed the progress made during the 25-26 school year and noted that he was already preparing resources and reference material for planning at the start of the 26-27 school year. The budget is in good shape. There were a lot of big wins this year including a smooth transition to phone-free schools. He addressed concerns with the senior prank this year and noted that it crossed the line from fun and creative to a space where there was trespassing, property was damaged and students were putting their futures at risk. Principal Hull noted he appreciates the board support. He has a great sense of humor and welcomes a creative prank that doesn't cause safety issues or harm district property. He thanked Salida PD for their time and for looking deeper into the situation. It was noted that keys or building access badges issued to law enforcement partners for building access must be used for approved uses only and must never be shared with others, including students, for building access for any purpose. Dr. Blackburn shared a message from incoming LES Principal Anne Sytsma who thanked Cory Scheffel for his kindness and care as they have been working through the transition of leadership at the elementary school. Reports this month shared updates on summer capital projects throughout the district, upgrades in transportation highlighting the incoming electric bus upgrade, and curriculum and instruction work being done over the summer to set up a successful 26-27 school year. Mr. Dobson shared a brief review of the budget, and noted the proposed change to policy DID-R which would allow for more consistent tracking and accountability. Director Breckenridge Petit thanked the library team for their engagement with the proposed changes to policies that could impact that team. Dr. Blackburn noted that the proposed changes have been reviewed by legal counsel, and the goal of providing a gap between library resources and curriculum resources and how the modification addresses a parent's right regarding what their child is presented in school. Roz Roberts, the SMS library aide, thanked the board for listening to their concerns. Dr. Blackburn then shared that at least 85% of the Class of 2026 took at least one concurrent enrollment class, with 66% earning 12 or more credits through the District partnership with CMC. He also reminded everyone that there were so many celebrations from the year, and everyone should enjoy the well earned summer break.
- 3) Director Schuchman made a motion to approve the following **Consent Agenda Items**:
- a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on **May 12, 2026**
 - b) Claims Payable – All Funds
 - c) Claims Payable – Bills over \$20,000
 - d) Personnel Items
 - i) Approve the removal of .5 FTE Bus Monitor Position from FTE count
 - e) Acknowledge and Approve Exhibits and Regulations as Recommended by the Superintendent
 - i) ADF-R - School Wellness
 - ii) EF-R - School Nutrition Program - **NEW**
 - iii) EF-E1 - School Meal Payments **REPEAL**
 - iv) EF-E2 - Civil Rights Complaint Procedure for School Nutrition Program **NEW (Revised)**
 - v) EF-EA-E - Healthy Beverages Standards for Schools
 - vi) JQ-R - Student Fees, Fines, and Charges **New**
 - vii) JJD-R Student Activity Fees
 - viii) KEC-R Public Concerns/Complaints about Instructional Materials or Library Resources
 - ix) KEC-E Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials or Library Resources

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- x) KDDA-R1 - Press Releases, Conferences and Interviews **REPEAL**
- xi) KDDA-R2 - News Media Services at Board Meetings **REPEAL**
- xii) GBEC-E - Employee Acknowledgment Form Drug-Free Workplace Policy Statement **REPEAL**
- xiii) GBEE-E - Staff Use of the Internet and Electronic Communications **REPEAL**
- xiv) IG-E - Curriculum Strategic Plan And Materials Purchase Cycle **REPEAL**
- xv) DID-R - Fixed Assets **NEW**
- f) Approve on 1st Reading Policies
 - i) ADF - School Wellness
 - ii) EF - School Nutrition Program
 - iii) JQ - Student Fees, Fines and Charges
 - iv) IJ - Instructional Materials Selection
 - v) KDDA - Press Releases, Conferences, and Interviews
 - vi) KD - Public Information and Communications **REPEAL**
 - vii) KDE - Crisis Management
 - viii) BDFB - Career and Technical Advisory Council (and Career and Technical Program Advisory Committees) **REPEAL**
 - ix) BDFD - District Safe and Drug-Free Schools Advisory Council **REPEAL**
 - x) IHBG - Home Schooling
 - xi) JFBA - Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment
- g) Approve on 3rd Reading Policies
 - i) KEC - Public Concerns about Instructional Materials
 - ii) IJL - Library Resource Selection, Adoption, and Reconsideration
- ~~h) Approve District Liability Insurance (tabled in May)~~
- i) Approve 26-27 HR Handbook (Policy CHCA)
- j) Approve Sale of Bus #6 (VIN 1HVBBAAN0 WH534719) Via Auction
- k) Approve Superintendent Contract Modifications Related to Insurance
- ~~l) Acknowledge Change in Procedures for Capital Assets~~
- m) Approve Salary Schedules (GCBA-E2 N Certified and GDBA-E3 Admin approved in May, GDBA-E-N Classified, GBCB-E Extra Duty, and GCBA-E4-N SSP have no changes for 26-27)
- n) Approve Application for Ed-Flex Title I Schoolwide Waiver for SMS

Director Paschall seconded the motion. She then thanked Dr. Blackburn for his review and work on the policy deck, including the clarity provided in the recommended homeschool policies. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Vaughn, yes; and was approved.

4) Discussion Items

- a) *Teen Alcohol Use* - Director Paschall asked that this item be added to the agenda following several concerning events that took place at the end of the school year, including the destructive senior prank, ditch day, and behavior at graduation parties including several students ending up in the hospital following the “woody” event. The Salida community trends higher in teen alcohol and substance use and there is concern about the general culture that adults in our community model. Several guests were in attendance from FYI, CCYA, and Chaffee County Public Health to provide details about programs that are available and how they are trying to educate and provide resources for the community to help avoid tragedy related to substance use and

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abuse. It was noted that the human brain is still developing until age 25, and providing a “safe place” for teens to drink is not sending the right message. Students have noted the incredible peer pressure related to attending parties, and to participate in unhealthy choices even if they don’t intend to when they decide to go. Often, there are photos taken at these parties as well that have the potential to harm future opportunities for students as well. It was noted that the community offers opportunities like After Prom and a post-Winterfest event that give students a safe place to gather and it was suggested that perhaps something like this could be offered as an alternative to rogue after-graduation parties. The Board is interested in looking at future partnerships and education to help support the development of positive, healthy choices for our kids. Dr. Blackburn reviewed some data from the most recent Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) that detailed the behaviors, access, and perceived access to substances in our community vs. state data. The Board plans continued discussion about possible ways forward, enhanced partnerships, and research and literature to help build a community conversation that would lead to healthier options for students.

- b) *Communication Plan/Perception Analysis* - Dr. Blackburn shared data from the NewMeasures all staff survey from the fall of 2025. This was the second year for the survey and he looks forward to next year when it is reasonable to expect to see some trend lines start to develop. There was high engagement with the survey and the data is largely very positive, although salary and benefits continue to be a key area of concern. Generally most staff are happy in their work and feel empowered by their team. A team of folks from across different buildings and departments sat with the data from the NM survey and also looked at the TLCC survey collected through the state. Both show that Salida Schools continues to provide a space where staff satisfaction is high (80%+), information we want to share and support.

The Board took a break from 7:43-7:50 pm.

5) Action Items

- a) Approve on 2nd Reading Policies - None
- b) Director Schuchman made a motion to **Approve Handwriting Curriculum**. Director Lundberg seconded the motion. Director Paschall confirmed that the cost was in the budget, and Director Breckenridge Petit noted that she was looking into the possibility of grants that might support these costs. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Vaughn, yes; and was approved.
- c) Director Schuchman made a motion to **table the Approval of the County Land MOU until August**. Director Lundberg seconded the motion. The Board looks forward to reviewing the proposed MOU. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Vaughn, yes; and was tabled until August.

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- d) Director Schuchman made a motion to **Authorize Superintendent to Develop a Long-term Lease with Ice Rink for Chaffee County**. Director Rhodes seconded the motion. Director Schuchman noted the great work session at Holman field to discuss ongoing maintenance costs, partnerships with CCU and Ice Rink for Chaffee County. It was noted long-term agreements will allow these partners to pursue grant funding and substantiate their financial contributions to these community assets. Director Breckenridge Petit expressed her appreciation of the healthy partnerships at the Holman site, including IRCC, CCU, and Guidestone, noting the healthy options it provides our students and the community at large. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Vaughn, yes; and was approved.
- e) Director Lundberg made a motion to **Authorize Superintendent to Develop a Long-term Lease with Chaffee County United**. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. There may be a need to modify Guidestone's orientation on the property. That conversation has begun and they are willing partners to help develop the property for the best interest of the District and community. Superintendent Blackburn will work with Director Lundberg and bring updates back to the board on both IRCC and CCU. Blackburn will come back to the Board with if any financial contributions are requested from the District. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Vaughn, yes; and was approved. Blackburn thanked the community leaders like Ben Oswald and John Fritz whose passion has been instrumental in developing the soccer fields and bringing an ice rink to the community.
- f) Director Paschall made a motion to Approve the '26-'27 Budget as proposed. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Business Manager Dobson noted this is the budget as proposed in May, presented to the community. Also shared in May were the Budget Resolution and the Authorization to use a portion of the beginning fund balance which allows the District to get a head start on summer projects that need to be done when students are out of the building. Directors thanked the Business Office for their work on the Strategic Financial Plan which has made the budget process easier to navigate and far more efficient, and appreciate the innovative approach to health insurance, with positive impacts to pay checks as well. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Vaughn, yes; and was approved.
- g) Director Rhodes made a motion to **Approve the 26-27 Budget Resolution 202526-05**. Director Paschall seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Vaughn, yes; and was approved.
- h) Director Rhodes made a motion to **Approve Resolution 202526-06 to Authorize the Use of a Portion of Beginning Fund Balance for the 26-27 Budget Year**. Director Lundberg seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr.

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Vaughn, yes; and was approved.

6) Board Communications and Committee Reports

- a) *Policy Book* – Superintendent Blackburn has continued work to finish the policy book review started in 2023. Blackburn has recommended adopting a structure similar to what Boulder Valley School District Uses for their Student Handbooks. This would allow a district-wide code of conduct, and allow for each campus to supplement with information specific to their campus. Blackburn also noted a suggestion that he would like to add a column added to the board monitoring document that indicates a specific policy deck be reviewed annually each month to ensure the policy book is maintained on an ongoing, routine basis.
- b) DAC Executive Team – President Breckenridge Petit and Superintendent Blackburn are working to establish the plan for DAC for the year.
- c) DAC Finance– Business Manager Dobson has been focused on the final presentation of the 26-27 budget. A meeting was held with community members with a background in finance.
- d) DAC Facilities–Director Lundberg noted the final sale of Spartan Heights should happen in coming weeks, the MOU with the county is pending, and it is exciting to see the forward progress with CCU and IRCC. With many of the items identified in the Strategic Facility Plan taken care of, it is time to assess and develop the next long-term facilities plan for the District. A meeting was held with community members with a background in facilities and financial planning.
- e) DAC Communications–Director Schuchman reviewed the communications plan.
- f) DAC Technology–Directors Schuchman and Vaughn noted they are researching tech use in schools and are interested in learning a bit more about how tech is being used at each campus. Curriculum and Instruction Director Savannah Craft will lead that discussion.
- g) DAC Wellness (&SEL)--Director Rhodes shared updates on several position papers being developed related to screen time and school violence.
- h) DAC Activities–Director Paschall shared that the new Activities Director Ryan Hilbig starts in July, and activities will have a full summer with strength and conditioning opportunities for athletes, and Physical Night scheduled for Aug 3 to kick off the 26-27 school year.
- i) BOCES - Director Rhodes reported positive results indicating that graduation rates are climbing, drop out rates are going down and math and reading scores are going up. Ninetyone percent of students who had an IEP were enrolled in higher learning or had a job. Having specific coordinators in each district has proven to be very effective in meeting each district's needs.

7) Future Business

- a) Topics for Future meetings - there will not be a meeting in July.

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b) Calendar of events

- i) **August 11, 2026 Regular Meeting** 6 p.m., **627 Oak Street**
(1) Agenda Review - Director Lundberg
- ii) **Set Date for Annual August Retreat - Friday, July 24**

Superintendent Blackburn closed the meeting noting that there were challenges throughout the school year, but it was a great year for the District all around.

Director Paschall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Minutes were approved at the August 11, 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