

Salida School District R-32-J

Board of Education

February 10, 2026

2nd Floor Conference Room, 627 Oak Street

5 p.m. Work Session - Perspective Director Interviews

Board of Directors Ben Hill, Mandy Paschall, Karen Lundberg, Tiffany Rhodes, Jenn Schuchman asked questions to three citizens who submitted letters of interest in serving on the school board, Derek Vaughn, John Witherspoon, and Richie Cahill. The board answered questions from the prospective directors.

The board took a short break at 5:52.

6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

- 1) Vice President Paschall called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. In attendance were Directors Ben Hill, Karen Lundberg, Mandy Paschall, Tiffany Rhodes, and Jenn Schuchman. President Jodi Breckenridge Petit was not in attendance.
 - a) Board Member Comments

Director Lundberg - thanked the candidates who shared their interest in joining the board, and shared her belief that it was a reflection of living in a great community when quality people are willing to volunteer to serve their community. *Director Hill* agreed.

Director Paschall shared a reflection of the retreat (aka "The Grind") and provided some insight into Dr. Blackburn's annual evaluation including his scores of distinction in most categories, including leadership, academics, and operation, and noted the areas that were identified for growth.
 - b) Written Messages to the Board

Twelve community members sent letter in support of adding a DI (Destination Imagination) coach as an official school activity.
 - c) Public Comments
 - i) Amelie Keyser - has participated in DI and believes the skills learned filled gaps in her education, and sees the difference it makes in student lives.
 - ii) Erin Johnke - SMS counselor spoke on behalf of staff are interested in the potential for a MIL override on the November ballot.
 - d) Director Lundberg made a motion to Approve the Agenda with the following changes:
 - i) Add Consent Agenda Item 3s Accept 2025 Energy Audit
 - ii) Remove 3r Update Strategic Financial Plan
 - iii) Remove 3di Hire Activities Manager

Director Rhodes seconded the motion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.

2) Reports

- a) Guest Reports - Rob Simpson, Associate Dean of Academics and Student Affairs at CMC Salida shared an update about the success of the concurrent enrollment program. Simpson has been checking in with former Salida

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students who have had most of their credits accepted, even when attending out-of-state institutions.

- b) Campus Reports - HEA, Principal Kristie Servis, with the help of several students who are in the Leadership class at HEA, shared a presentation about the campus. She shared a slide deck that featured staff, students, a thank you for the new building, and why the individualized program at HEA is such an important opportunity for students in the district. She has worked with the teams at both non-traditional schools this year to define what non-traditional education looks like in Salida. The students all shared what they hope to do after graduation, and were asked to consider what the board might do to support the campus.

- c) District Reports

Dr. Blackburn shared his belief in non-traditional education - a key factor in his family's decision to move to the valley. He thanked the librarians for their feedback and review of several policy changes; Jenn Schuchman for her advocacy at a state level; Erin Johnke for her time; and Evalyn Parks and the transportation team for all the work they do to "keep the wheels on the bus turning".

Aaron Dobson shared an update on advocacy with the state related to specific ownership tax and how it is being discussed this year related to the school funding formula. He noted that insurance is a big conversation this year, and several RFP deadlines are the following day which will provide more insight into some other budget questions.

The board took a short break at 6:58 pm and returned to session at 7:07.

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

- a) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on **January 13, 2026**
- b) Claims Payable – All Funds
- c) Claims Payable – Bills over \$20,000
- d) Personnel Items
 - i) ~~Hire Activities Manager~~
- 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) IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar/Instruction time
 - ii) CASB Special Policy Update - October 15, 2025 (tabled from January, 2026)
 - (1) IJ Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption
- h) Approve CDR EHS Grant with Children's Discovery Ranch
- i) Formally Acknowledge Superintendent Evaluative Conversation
- j) Accept Demographic Study
- k) Approve Math Curriculum and Resource Adoption
- l) Approve Coaches Handbook
- m) Approve Activities Handbook
- n) Approve ERate Bid Award
- o) Accept ELD Audit
- p) Approve Tolin BAS Bid Award of \$99,713
- q) Accept CDE Legacy Audit and \$41,456.36 payment for FY 2016-2020
- r) ~~Update Strategic Financial Plan~~
- s) Accept 2025 Energy Audit

Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes

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Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.

4) Discussion Items

- a) Curriculum Update - Curriculum and Instruction Director Savanah Craft and Curriculum Coordinator (TOSA) April Holdinghaus shared a presentation with an update of progress on cataloging and understanding the “what” of the SSD curriculum to ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum (GVC). They shared the Atlas program being used for that work and how it will help to ensure consistent curriculum, depth of learning, purposeful benchmarks, and access for staff and community members interested in curriculum.

5) Action Items

- a) Approve on 2nd Reading Policies - None
- b) Director Hill made a motion to **Approve the Addition Destination Imagination (DI) as a new activity option for FY 2026-27**. Director Schuchman seconded the motion. Director Lundberg then shared a slide deck with her fellow board members offering more insight into DI and how adding a stipend “coach” position would positively impact students and the community. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, yes; and was approved.
- c) Director Hill made a motion to appoint Derek Vaughn as the At-Large Director seat vacated by Director Hobbs. Director Lundberg seconded the motion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Hill, yes; Mrs. Lundberg, yes Mrs. Paschall, yes; Dr. Rhodes, yes; and Ms. Schuchman, no; and was approved

Board Secretary Kim LeTourneau, acting in an official capacity as a notary public for the State of Colorado, swore in Mr. Vaughn. The board took a short break at 8:26 while Mr. Vaugh completed required paperwork for the appointment. They returned to session at 8:31 pm.

6) Board Communications and Committee Reports - the board shared the updated committee structure they discussed at the January retreat (The Grind). Committee work will be routed through a DAC advisory role, and has been restructured to reflect the strategic planning documents that have been developed over the past several years. The new committees are:

- a) Policy Book—Directors Breckenridge Petit and Paschall. After a thorough review over the last two years, this is anticipated to provide maintenance and a deep dive should specific topics come to the board’s attention.
- b) DAC Executive Team—Director Breckenridge Petit and Dr. Blackburn will work to identify interested community members to help support the work of the DAC at an executive level.
- c) DAC Finance—Director Hill and Business Manager Aaron Dobson will start with a review of the financial planning document, and then work to find community members who have the knowledge and interest in supporting this committee.
- d) DAC Facilities— Director Lundberg and Dr. Blackburn shared several updates related to recent facility items, including a review of the strategic plan to be shared in March, progress towards finalizing the sale of the final Spartan Heights Quad Plex, a proposed MOU with the city related to land at the South Ark development, and the opportunity to purchase a “dome” at a discount that could be used to support school and local rec programs. It was noted that SSD facility use is incredibly high, which keeps our custodial teams busy. The MOU for the dog park needs to be updated, and there is forward progress on the ice rink project.
- e) DAC Communications—Director Schuchman and Kim LeTourneau will continue to work on communication items and will also look to engage interested community members.

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- f) DAC Technology--Director Schuchman will start with this new committee, with a draft of the technology plan expected in the coming months.
 - g) DAC Wellness (&SEL)--Director Rhodes will lead the Wellness Committee, with first projects including middle school health curriculum. Dr. Blackburn has started conversations with some staff members who might be interested in supporting the work of this committee.
 - h) DAC Activities--Director Paschall shared that interviews for the full-time AD have happened, but the District was waiting on final selection before being able to make an announcement.
- 7) Future Business
- a) Topics for Future meetings
 - b) Calendar of events
 - i) **March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting 6 p.m., 2nd Floor Conference Room, 627 Oak Street**
 - (1) Agenda Review - Director Schuchman volunteered to help.

Director Rhodes made a motion to adjourn at 8:54 pm.

Minutes were approved at the March 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