

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RE-1 Valley School District ~ Logan County, Colorado

SPECIAL MEETING

Location: Hagen Administration Center, Sterling, CO

July 21, 2025 at 6:00 pm

President Shinn called the Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Michelle Erb, Heather Harris, Dustin Hunt, Brenda Kloberdanz, Joel McCracken, Michelle Sharp, Steve Shinn, and Ronda Monheiser attended remotely.

Five members were present, establishing a quorum.

Guests in person: Kyle Arnoldy, Chris Connor, Callie Jones, Lisa Schumacher, Brenda Zink, Paul Zink.

Guests Remote: Beatrice, Jesseb's, Jessica's iPhone, iPhone, iphone, Laura, Leah Lamkin, Michelle Erb(host), Michelle, Dan O'connel, Chris Roth, reyesc, Oskar Smeal, Joe V.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Harris moved to amend the agenda removing action item 7.03: 2025 Bond Proposal from the agenda. .

Director McCracken seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

2.01

Director McCracken moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Director Harris seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: NONE

4. SCHOOL/PROGRAM/COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS:

4.01 Chris Connor-HUDL Update:

Chris Connor provided an overview of the HU DL system, explaining that it delivers a high-quality multimedia experience for athletics and activities, along with valuable analytics and recruiting tools. The system currently supports football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, choir, band, and elementary events—all of which are streamed using HU DL.

Coaches in attendance shared positive feedback, noting that HU DL saves time by providing detailed game and player statistics and allows for easy game film exchange with others across the county. They also appreciate how students can easily create their own highlight reels for college recruiting, and how college recruiters can search for players based on specific criteria. Northeastern Junior College (NJC) has expressed interest in increased collaboration, and Director Harris voiced interest in involving SmartLab students in future HU DL-related projects.

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5. COMMUNICATION

5.01 Staff Reports:

Luke Janes, CFO began by presenting the 2024–25 unaudited financials. Although they don't yet reflect accounts payable and payroll accruals, which are still being finalized, he projects the district's surplus will align with expectations at approximately \$1.65 million.

On a less positive note, Janes reported that the district's property and casualty insurance costs for 2025–26 are set to rise significantly more than the initially anticipated 10%. This spike is due to the district being dropped by its previous property insurance provider. Mr. Janes explained that RE-1 was not alone in this situation as the insurer pulled coverage for multiple clients across the region due to increased natural disasters such as wildfires and hailstorms. As a result, the district is now facing a 50% increase in insurance costs, totaling around \$200,000.

There was also some encouraging news. Following discussions with the district's auditor, Mr. Janes confirmed that interest earnings from the bond fund, typically ranging between \$700,000 and \$750,000 in recent years, can be transferred to the general fund. This move will help stabilize the district's finances for the current year. Superintendent Dustin Hunt reiterated that Mr. Janes is exploring ways to possibly reduce the tax impact of the bond.

5.02 Superintendent's Report:

Podcast Launch and Educational Outreach

The district has now completed its third bond committee meeting. Many community members have already listened to the first episode of the new podcast, which served as an introductory launch featuring the superintendent. Future podcast episodes will focus on educating the public about the upcoming bond measure. The first content episode will feature an interview with Mr. Jesseb Adam, who will discuss the history of education in Sterling which offers valuable insight for local patrons.

Legal Counsel for Bond Campaign

Legal counsel has been secured specifically to support the bond process, providing helpful guidance as the district moves forward. Ashley Dennis will assist with drafting the ballot language in coordination with underwriter Dan O'Connell. At this stage, the district is prioritizing information-sharing. For example, during the recent July Jams event, trifold brochures were distributed. These materials contained factual, non-promotional content intended solely to inform voters. These events have also offered the superintendent a chance to connect with patrons and answer questions directly.

Bond Committee Growth and Public Engagement

As the fall season approaches and ballots begin mailing in October, the bond committee plans to expand its efforts. The committee will be active at upcoming events such as the county fair and Sugar Beet Days to continue sharing information with the public. Once the official ballot question is

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finalized by the Board, all communications will come from the committee rather than the district itself. The district's website will host tools such as a tax calculator to help residents understand the potential financial impact. The superintendent also expressed appreciation for CFO Luke Janes' thoughtful consideration of taxpayer concerns throughout this process.

Community Feedback

Safety continues to be a top priority, aligning with themes discussed in recent facilities planning meetings. There is also strong interest in enhancing Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings. While maintenance items such as HVAC and boiler systems are understood to be necessary, they do not garner as much attention or enthusiasm in public discussions.

Call for School Board Election Nominations

The Board of Education of RE-1 Valley School District has issued its formal Call for Nominations for the November 4, 2025, biennial election. The election, coordinated with Logan County, will include six open seats: four-year terms for Director Districts 1, 2, 5, and 6, and two-year terms for Districts 4 and 7. To qualify, candidates must be registered electors and have resided within the district for at least 12 consecutive months, as well as reside in the specific director district they seek to represent. Nomination petitions require 25 signatures from eligible voters and will be available beginning August 6, 2025, from Cheri Dubs, the designated election official at Johnson and Associates CPAs. Completed petitions must be returned by 5:00 PM on August 29, 2025.

Upcoming Conferences and Leadership Development

Board members were reminded about the upcoming CASB Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly scheduled for September 5th through 6th in Loveland. No decisions are required at this time, but registration will open soon.

CASE Conference July 23-25, 2025

The superintendent also shared enthusiasm for attending the CASE conference alongside much of the district's leadership team. The group looks forward to valuable training and collaborative time to strengthen their leadership capacity.

5.03 BOARD OF DIRECTOR REPORTS:

The Board Directors held their comments for closing remarks.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.01 2025-2026 Professional Development Plan Proposal

Brenda Kloberdanz, Assistant Superintendent presented the district's 2025-2026 Professional Development (PD) plan. It was developed with input from administrators and staff, moving away from a top-down model to a more building-specific approach. After trying the Northeast BOCES Consortium last year, the district opted not to continue due to cost and repeated content.

Elementary schools Ayres, Campbell, and Caliche are focusing on DIBELS training, including a new data-driven session on September 15. Middle and high schools will concentrate on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), curriculum planning, and block schedule instruction. Caliche's PD emphasizes trauma-informed practices aligned with their improvement plan.

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Special education and paraeducator training was expanded thanks to SPED Director Elizabeth Mauler, who also arranged CPI training for safely supporting students in crisis. Work group meetings tied to Policy GBB are scheduled throughout the year as well.

The district kickoff is August 11, featuring a teacher-comedian guest speaker. Banner Health will return to provide staff health screenings, thanks to renewed coordination efforts along with additional vendors for the Business Fair.

6.02 2025 Election: Bond Proposal

Committee Recommendations & Scope

The RE-1 Bond 25 Committee largely followed the scope discussed in the last meeting but made key recommendations focused on safety, security, and facility longevity. The superintendent emphasized that all decisions ultimately lie with the board.

Safety and Security Enhancements

A central theme was ensuring upgrades are done thoroughly, especially around safety. The committee recommended increasing funding for camera system upgrades across buildings to ensure full interior coverage, not just entryways. Outdated systems were flagged, with some new models allowing law enforcement remote access during emergencies.

Track Resurfacing

There was strong support for resurfacing the track, not only for student use but also to host regional events and generate community revenue. A \$250,000 placeholder was included, considering both surface and subsurface deterioration. Community use was also noted as a benefit. Director Harris suggested checking the warranty from a previous resurfacing to explore potential cost savings.

Fire Alarm System Upgrades

With potential changes to vestibules, fire alarm systems in some buildings may also need upgrades. The superintendent emphasized the importance of including these for comprehensive student safety.

Equity Between Buildings

Concerns were raised about ensuring equity between Ayres and Campbell buildings, specifically regarding gym, music, and learning environments. If one is improved, the other should be considered to maintain equity between schools.

BREAK: The Board took a short break and resumed at 7:42 p.m.

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7. ACTION ITEMS:

7.01 Consent Agenda:

Director Harris moved to approve the consent agenda, including staff changes as read, and the minutes from June 16, 2025, as presented.

Director Monheiser seconded the motion.

Approved by unanimous consent.

7/21/2025

Personnel

Classified / Resignation / Retirement / Work Agreement:

Effective Date

Amanda Harris	Declined Offer	District Wide	YouthLink Coordinator	7/15/2025
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Certified / Contracts / Reassignment / Transfer / Resignations / Disciplinary Actions:

Ashley Reimers	Transfer	Campbell	Smart Lab Facilitator to 3 rd Grade Teacher	8/7/2025
Jennifer Couch	Transfer	Ayres	Ayres Substitute to Kindergarten Teacher	8/7/2025
Jimmi Gillham	Transfer	District Wide	Substitute Health Assistant to District Nurse	7/22/2025
Bobbie Archuleta	New Hire	SMS	Volleyball Assistant Coach	8/4/2025
Yareli Pulido	New Hire	SHS	ESL Paraeducator	8/7/2025

7.02 2025-2026 Professional Development Plan Proposal

Director McCracken moved to approve the 2025-2026 Professional Development Plan as presented.

Director Mohneiser seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Harris: aye McCracken: aye Monheiser: aye Sharp: aye Shinn: aye

Motion Carried

8. CLOSING REMARKS:

Director McCracken: We have a Bond Committee meeting Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the Staff Development Room. I'll be there unless an emergency comes up. I appreciated tonight's HUML presentation. I know Heather found it helpful, and from experience, highlight reels made a big difference for my boys' football scholarships. You mentioned how important it is for elderly community members to watch games. My mom watches Kiran's basketball games on YouTube since she prefers to not get out in the cold—it's a vital connection for the community.

During the nomination call, I realized my director seat is the only one not up for election. I encourage you all to run again. Each of us brings value: Steve's legal background, Ronda's financial skills, Michelle's Pre-K experience, and Heather's classroom insight. That balance and perspective are important to keep on the board.

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Director Sharp: I really appreciated the HUML presentation. Such a great tool for students to market themselves for scholarships and for colleges to see real game footage. It's also exciting that it can tie into classrooms and even be used to showcase our schools to potential outside investors.

I mentioned to Brenda some playground grants I had shared a while back. I'll look into those again. There are local funding sources we can tap into, and I've got my eye on a few others I'll pass along.

I'm super excited for the school year to start. And Mr. Hunt, thank you for jumping in. I know you're not brand new, but it probably still feels like drinking from a fire hydrant!

Director Harris: Thank you all. Being a board member is a lot of work and entirely volunteer. Over four years, we've dealt with calls, complaints, and even visits at our homes or jobs. We put our lives on hold to serve the community, and I deeply appreciate the time, commitment, and friendships formed.

I shared the podcast on Facebook, and people said it felt real and vulnerable. They value that you plan to stay and bring long-term stability.

We need candidates. Two seats have been empty a while. Many don't realize we're all up for election. Joel, you can't be the lone ranger! Thank you all. It's a rollercoaster, but I'm grateful for every one of you.

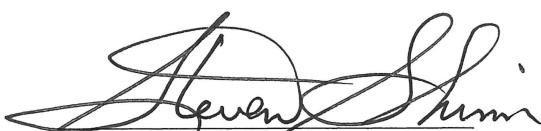
Director Shinn: Thanks, everyone. Though the agenda was short, we covered important topics that guide not only the bond but our broader future planning. Without full commitment, things decline, so it's time to reinvigorate key areas.

When I was asked to run four years ago, I didn't know what to expect, but I'm grateful I did and for the support around this table. Without it, none of this would be possible. I've thought a lot about this. With five kids, 12 grandkids, and five great-grandkids from Phoenix to Iowa City, I wouldn't trade this experience, but it's time for someone else to take my place so I can spend more time with family. I'm not seeking sympathy, just being honest.

I don't plan to run again and encourage anyone in District One to consider running. I want to be upfront and give notice so no one misses the chance to run. I'm happy to stay involved as a volunteer, but if re-elected, I'd be nearly 80 by term's end.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2025.



Steven Shinn
President



Heather Harris
Secretary/Treasurer