



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes
September 14, 2026
4:30 PM

Board Members present: Kevin Callahan, Lara Craig, Leah Helme, Kim Lemmer, and Jane Toothaker

Lara Craig attended remotely via Google Meet.

District Administration present and presenting: Superintendent Kristin Drury and Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Tim Ridder

1. Business Meeting - Call to Order

Kevin Callahan called the business meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

All members present.

4. Approval of Agenda

Jane Toothaker made a motion and Kim Lemmer seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda Items

Background information is provided in Boardbook under item 5.

- 5.1 Employment
- 5.2 Resignations
- 5.3 Child Care (Parental Leave) Request 2026-27
- 5.4 Substitute Teachers 2026-27
- 5.5 Substitute Paraprofessionals 2026-27
- 5.6 Substitute Nurse and Health Techs 2026-27
- 5.7 Acknowledge Receipt of Quarterly Financials through June 30, 2026

Leah Helme made a motion and Jane Toothaker seconded to approve consent agenda items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes- August 24, 2026 Business Meeting and Work Session

Background information is provided in Boardbook under item 6.

Kim Lemmer made a motion and Leah Helme seconded to approve the minutes for the August 24, 2026 business meeting and work session, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Reports and Communication

Background information is provided in Boardbook under Item 7.

District News - Superintendent Kristin Drury

- Professional Development Day- September 18- buildings will be leading their professional development in the morning and the District will be leading in the afternoon; included in this day is 90 minutes of staff uninterrupted plan time
- SSHS - 88% of students who took AP exams received a score of 3 or higher; 42 more students took exams and an additional 100 exams were taken over the previous year



- Laura Stack with Johnny's Ambassadors will join us on September 25th for student assemblies focused on the impact of marijuana and THC on the developing adolescent brain; the assemblies will serve our 9-12 grade students at SSHS and our 8th grade students in a joint assembly at Sleeping Giant
- We are in our second year of the Grow Your Own Grant funding for staff to apply for scholarship grants toward their education to support staff interested in moving into education or gaining education towards positions that are hard to fill; application cycle closed in late August with 30 applications for South Routt, Hayden, Steamboat, NRCCS and Montessori; 23 SSSD staff were awarded scholarship money
- This is Homecoming Week- highlights include Homecoming Parade on the 17th at 2:30, a a Talgate BBQ starting at 5 pm on the 18th on the front lawn of the high school followed by some Friday night lights with our football team playing Grand Junction Central starting at 7 pm; Students will top off the week with their Homecoming dance on Saturday
- Kristi Bertron, SSSD's Student Data Technician for Exceptional Student Services and Medicaid Coordinator, was honored at the meeting as a Colorado Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) Summit Award winner; her award-winning Medicaid Reimbursement Initiative brings in a projected \$180,000 annually to the district - funding a Bilingual Family Liaison, an additional school nurse, and mental health resources, plus a \$1,000 donation is being gifted to a local school or foundation

Housing Update - Director of Finance and Operations Derek Fettig

- SSSD has selected Dynamic Program Management (DPM) as the owner's representative to assist SSSD with the employee housing project
- SSSD reps will be meeting with DPM to review the project and create a contract for future Board review and approval at the October 12 Board business meeting
- Kevin Callahan - Looking forward to having an owner's rep for this project

District Performance Frameworks Results - Director of Teaching & Learning Dr. Tim Ridder

- Presentation is included in Boardbook for review
- The District earned the state's highest rating - Accredited with Distinction - with a total score of 77.9%, up from 75.3% in 2025
- Elementary Schools Highlights: All students achieved top-tier grade-level test scores in Math and Science; Students with Disabilities demonstrated outstanding year-over-year progress, earning "exceeds" in Growth for both english language arts (ELA) and math
- Elementary Schools Focus areas: Raising baseline test scores (Achievement) in ELA for Multilingual Learners and Students with Disabilities to help them reach overall grade-level targets
- Middle Schools Highlights: All student grade-level scores reached top marks across ELA, Math, and Science; English Language Proficiency progress also earned an "Exceeds" Growth rating
- Middle School Focus areas: Supporting overall grade-level test scores in ELA for Students with Disabilities and in Science for Multilingual Learners
- High School Highlights: PSAT Reading, Writing and Math achievement rated "Exceeds" overall; postsecondary readiness reached 81.4%, supported by a 96.2% 6-year graduation rate a rising matriculation rate (74.9%)
- High School Focus areas: Boosting year-over-year (Growth) in PSAT.SAT Math for all students, while expanding graduation and academic achievement supports for Multilingual Learners
- District will continue to have a big focus on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and continued growth
- Professional Development with building administrators and District to support classrooms and building educators
- Kevin Callahan - Percentile Rank - is that throughout Colorado? Maggie Bruski - some of the data shared at the last meeting included Colorado data
- Jane Toothaker - Congratulations to the District on student progress; appreciate the facts and growth opportunities presentation
- Lara Craig - Good job moving the District forward; multilingual learners - is it possible to see what other school districts are doing? Dr. Ridder - we have Culturally Linguistically Diverse Education (CLDE) Committee work - finding successes and reviewing programming
- Lara Craig - How do we do the work with teachers? How do we know what we are going to do this year is actually going to work? Dr. Ridder - Through PLC work, the Early Literacy Grant work provides predictive piece with assessments for review - allows for norming against district and state
- Jane Toothaker - How often do the PLCs meet? Dr. Ridder - that depends on the school- some meet weekly- some meet monthly



- Jane Toothaker - Is this the last year for STRIVE? Dr. Ridder - this is the last year that it is funded by the state; school leadership teams continue doing work around literacy

Amendment 87 - The Income Tax Fairness Act - Leah Helme

- Draft resolution is included in Boardbook for review - 2026-09-01 - to endorse Amendment 87 (previously Initiative 195)
- Leah Helme and Lara Craig worked on together on this resolution to support Amendment 87 which will be on the November ballot
- Board had previously adopted a resolution in support of Initiative 195
- Amendment 87 would create a new funding stream in our state budget that would go specifically to K-12 Education, Healthcare, and Early Childhood Education
- Board will consider adopting the resolution under Action Item 9.1 in the agenda

Kevin Callahan made a motion and Kim Lemmer seconded to acknowledge receipt of reports and communications as presented by the superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Comment

No public comment on non agenda items.

9. Action Item

9.1 Consideration of Adoption of Resolution 2026-09-01 to Endorse Amendment 87

- Draft Resolution is included in Boardbook for review
- Board reviewed and discussed the document under Reports and Communications
- No changes to the draft document

Kevin Callahan made a motion and Jane Toothaker seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-09-01 to endorse Amendment 87, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Board Policy Review

- First Reading and discussion of revisions and consideration of new policies
- Draft versions of Board policies are included in Boardbook for review
- Ends-1: Global Ends fka Mission, Vision, and Beliefs
- Ends-2: Academic Excellence fka Academic Achievement
- Ends-3: Mindful Technology - NEW POLICY
- Ends-4: Thriving Educator Community - NEW POLICY
- Ends-5: Community Feedback - NEW POLICY
- Board reviewed each draft and no changes were made
- Policies will be on the October 12 Board business meeting agenda for second reading and adoption

11. Board Member Updates/Comments/Debrief

Jane Toothaker

- Attended Back to School nights at SCE, SPE, SSMS and SSHS
- Met with Derek and Matt (SSSD) to discuss District finances
- Participated in the Owners' Rep interviews
- Attended the CASB Regional Meeting
- Met with Lara Craig, Sonja Macys, Amy Dickson, and Gail Gary (City Council & Commissioner) for community engagement
- Met with SSEA to discuss state initiatives
- SPE is doing a Literacy Jamboree

Kim Lemmer

- SSMS PIC - Fall Fundraiser - Sept 30
- SCE PIC - trying to recruit new parents
- Attended SCE Literacy night - 2 part series- encourage parents to attend - very helpful - teach parents how to help your kid with school - push out to parents to encourage attendance
- Coffee with the Board with Leah at Off the Beaten Path Bookstore - no one showed - need a marketing strategy

Leah Helme



- Attended Back to School events at SPE and SSMS
- Attended CASB Regional Meeting
- Attended Coffee with the Board with Kim
- Attended SEAC Meeting
- Attended CASB Fall Conference & Delegate Assembly
- Met with Jane and SSEA to talk about state initiatives

Lara Craig

- Attended SSHS open house
- Met with Jane and City Council and County Commissioner reps- amazing collaboration opportunities
- Met with Leah on resolution for Amendment 87
- Update the superintendent evaluation rubric
- Met with Kristin and Leah

Kevin Callahan

- Appreciate the 2 on 1 meetings with Kristin
- Attended the CASB Regional Meeting
- Appreciate the work from Board members and collaboration with City Council and Routt County

11. Plan for future meetings

- Board Work Session - September 28
- SCE Team Presentation - October 12
- CASB Annual Convention - December 3-5

Board Work Sessions - Second Meeting every month

- Board has adjusted our second meeting of every month to be a board work session to allow us to focus more on getting into the detail of things
- Work Session - September 28
- SSSD Data Report - Work Session - October 26
- Work Session - January 25
- Work Session - March 15
- Work Session - May 17

Board Chats

- October 7 at 3:15 pm at Soda Creek Elementary - Kim Lemmer & Jane Toothaker
- November 4 at 11:30 am at Strawberry Park Elementary - Jane Toothaker
- December 9 at 3:15 pm at Off the Beaten Path Bookstore - Jane Toothaker
- February 3 at 3:15 pm at Sleeping Giant School - Kevin Callahan
- March 3 at 11:30 am at Off the Beaten Path Bookstore
- April 7 at 3:15 pm at Steamboat Springs Middle School - Leah Helme
- May 5 at 3:15 pm at Steamboat Springs High School - Lara Craig
- May 5 at 3:15 pm at Yampa Valley High School - Leah Helme

Work Session Topics - input from Board members during the Board update

Jane Toothaker - work session topics

- Affordable Housing
- Strategic Planning
- Initiatives that District is working on
- Technology Use
- How can we engage parents and community members with surveys?

Leah Helme

- Board Self Assessment
- Board long-term calendar

Lara Craig

- Agenda Planning

Kevin Callahan

- Strategic Plan consultant - begin discussion
- Board Chats - discuss long term plans
- Board long-term calendar planning
- Board Self Assessment

12. Adjourn

The Steamboat Springs School District RE-2 Board of Education business meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Board of Education Business Meeting minutes for September 14, 2026 are submitted by: Deb Ginesta, SSSD Administrative Assistant and Secretary to the Board of Education.

Minutes approved by the Board on October 12, 2026:



Lara Craig, Vice President