

CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING: September 10, 2025
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CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Glasen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the CHS Multipurpose Room.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Members Present: Mr. Glasen, Mr. Kruithof, Ms. Merritt, Mr. Hoepfner, Ms. Trudeau

Quorum: Established 5-0

Staff Present: Principal Dawn Gonzalez, Principal Paul Tancrede, Technology Director Jason Fastenau, Budget & Finance Director Ann Linville, Superintendent Alex Russin, Secretary Kristie Beckett.

Staff Unavailable: Activities Director Seth Balint, Food Service Director Sandie Ponte, Maintenance Director Chris Moreno.

Student Council Rep: Morgan Saiget

CEA Rep: Barbra Donachy

City Council Rep: None

Visitors: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA:

Ms. Merritt moved to approve the September 10, 2025 regular meeting agenda, as presented in the Board Packet. Mr. Kruithof seconded.

Discussion: None

Motion: PASSED 5-0

AUDIENCE COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Ms. Trudeau moved to approve the Consent Agenda for September 10, 2025, as presented in the Board Packet. Mr. Hoepfner seconded.

Discussion: None

Motion: PASSED 5-0

REPORTS:

Student Council: Ms. Saiget noted cross country departed [September 11, 2025] for a competition and student council was planning an upcoming spirit week September 15-17, 2025. She shared that students were excited about moving the library from the media center to a designated classroom to make space for cheer to perform more stunts and the wrestlers setup with mats in the multipurpose room.

CEA: Ms. Donachy had no report and wanted to introduce herself to the Board as the teacher representative from the association.

City Council: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AASB Liaison: (Mr. Glasen / Mr. Hoepfner) Mr. Hoepfner noted AASB was holding a Trauma Engaged school policy review including tribal consultation, student mental health, head lice, along with chapter 4000 (personnel) and 5000 (students) policy reviews. He added that the AASB Fall Boardmanship Academy was to be held September 20-21, 2025 with discussion on the Open Meetings Act, what's new in the world of policy, orientating new board members, the school board's role in welcoming new board members, and an education update about what was currently happening in Alaska. He shared that AASB was planning for the upcoming annual meeting to be held in November.

Jr./Sr. HS Site Council: (Mr. Glasen / Ms. Merritt) Scheduled for September 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Elementary Site Council: (Ms. Merritt / Ms. Trudeau) Scheduled for September 17, 2025 at 5:00 pm. It was noted that the possibility of Board quorum at site council meetings might occur and that the secretary would make public notices, noting no action of the Board would be taken.

Safety-Facility Committee: (Mr. Hoepfner & Mr. Glasen) Next scheduled for September 30, 2025.

Curriculum Committee: (Mr. Kruithof & Ms. Trudeau) Next scheduled for September 22, 2025.

Policy Committee: (Mr. Hoepfner & Mr. Glasen) A meeting was held on August 26, 2025 where the committee reviewed the 7000 chapter. Mr. Hoepfner shared that the next meeting was scheduled for September 16, 2025 at 4:00 pm, where a newly proposed chapter (charter schools) would be reviewed.

Negotiations Committee: (Mr. Hoepfner & Mr. Kruithof) No meetings currently scheduled.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Activities Director - Mr. Balint

Mr. Balint included a written report in the Board Packet and was unavailable for questions.

Ms. Trudeau shared her appreciation for the cross-country team running practices in the hard rain. Ms. Merritt added her appreciation for Mr. Balint including the activity participation rate numbers. Mr. Hoepfner shared his surprise with high school volleyball having 24 student participants.

There were no further comments.

Mt. Eccles Elementary School - Ms. Gonzalez

Ms. Gonzalez included a written report in the Board Packet and noted for Ms. Trudeau the *One Book One School* title was still being kept under wraps until the official announcement to students and families at the Monday September 22, 2025 student assembly. She was excited there was a picture book available for kindergarteners.

Mr. Kruithof inquired how the 5/6 combo classes were running. Ms. Gonzalez was impressed and felt classes were going well with friendships being formed across grade levels. She added that scheduling was still being reviewed and fine-tuned, noting during enrichment time students worked on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and common-sense curriculum for digital citizenship. Ms. Gonzalez shared that she enjoyed enrichment time with students and was impressed with how students interacted with each other. She noted enrichment time was a lot of students at once, so if there was anyone in the community with available time to assist in volunteering to send them her way. She also highlighted that fire safety was coming up and enrichment time would be used to speak with students as an additional time besides the ten minutes during Monday morning assembly.

There were no further comments.

Jr./Sr. High School - Mr. Tancrede

Mr. Tancrede included a written report in the Board Packet and had heard feedback that this school year felt like a continuation of last year. He noted having the opportunity to split 7th and 8th grade into 2 groups for interventions two days a week for ELA, once staff had been trained in HD Word Vocabulary program. He noted purchasing additional Infercabulary, vocab licensing, for the 9th grade students as well. He explained there were a total of 6 opportunities a week to incorporate interventions, in addition to Friday tutorials. He highlighted the cross-country team held a community race at Skaters Cabin and that the next Site Council meeting would be held on September 24, 2025 to cover what the Friday intervention framework looked like for parents, since he felt there was still some misinterpretations about what happened at school on Fridays.

Mr. Tancrede clarified the study skills class was primarily for students on an IEP to focus on their specific goals based on their required minutes of instruction and support.

Mr. Kruithof extended his appreciation to Principal Tancrede and the staff for making the incoming 7th grade students feel comfortable and welcomed.

There were no further Board comments.

Ms. Saiget departed the meeting at 7:19 pm.

Food Service - Ms. Ponte

Ms. Ponte included a written report in the Board Packet and was unavailable for Board questions.

Ms. Merritt inquired what the Unalaska School District food service support entailed, to which Mr. Russin noted Ms. Ponte was assisting them in menu planning, production sheets to order the appropriate food amounts, recipe sharing in an effort to help bring their program up to standard, and federal and state compliance after a recent audit had findings. Mr. Russin added that he and the Unalaska superintendent had collaborated over the summer how CSD might support their needs. Mr. Russin shared that Ms. Ponte was willing to assist and that the Unalaska superintendent has really appreciated her assistance. Ms. Merritt felt that was excellent and a great way to share Cordova's top notch food service program while meeting one of the Board's goals.

Mr. Kruithof was familiar from his Washington state experience to share food service directors among districts. Mr. Russin noted he was able to negotiate a small contract with the district that included a stipend for Ms. Ponte.

Mr. Glasen inquired with the hiring of the new food service team member if Ms. Ponte was now fully staffed. Mr. Russin commented that Cordova food service was now fully staffed, noting the traditionally part-time position was moved to a full-time position based on the District's need.

There were no further Board comments.

Technology Department - Mr. Fastenau

Mr. Fastenau included a written report and noted with bigger summer projects wrapping up, he was now focused on things like attending the first literacy grant conference, (CSLD), this coming weekend [September 11-13] with Principal Gonzalez. Mr. Fastenau confirmed it was a federal grant with state pass through funding by taking a cut to administer funds to districts via DEED.

Mr. Hoepfner inquired if summer was typically the time of year for Chromebook upgrades. Mr. Fastenau shared that he tried to time the refreshes before the end of a school year before students took the computers home for summer. He noted that any additional refreshes for testing specific applications could be performed remotely and that, when students logged on, updates were "pushed" automatically without the need for IT to physically touch student computers.

There were no further Board comments.

Maintenance Department - Mr. Moreno

Mr. Moreno included a written report in the Board Packet and was unavailable for questions.

There were no Board questions or comments.

Budget & Finance Office - Ms. Linville

Ms. Linville included a written report in the Board Packet and noted Ms. Stow completed her last day on Friday September 5, 2025. Ms. Linville shared that she was working through her role, noting she was overwhelmed but finding answers to the many questions that she was learning. She added that she was waiting to hear from the auditors on progress being made.

Mr. Russin spoke on Ms. Linville's behalf that she was doing a great job coming on board, with a steep learning curve he was happy she was learning everything she could. He shared that he was able to have conversations about processes and systems within the District to become more efficient and effective. He commented that he was impressed with her attitude and her work with her being able to ask questions and that he appreciated having her on the team.

Mr. Glasen noted he liked the capital projects report and Mr. Russin noted we were not at the financials report section yet.

There were no additional Board comments.

Superintendent Report - Mr. Russin

Mr. Russin included a written report and noted he would be attending the fall Superintendent conference in Fairbanks September 23, 2025. He added that a colleague he provided a letter of support for had been awarded their safety and security grant and would be covering the cost of transportation to the event.

The Board had no further questions for the Superintendent.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ms. Stow and Ms. Linville prepared July and August 2025 Financial Reports available in the Board Packet and Ms. Linville was available for questions.

Ms. Merritt inquired if page 67 was the budget to actuals information, to which Ms. Linville confirmed that was correct for July with August right behind.

Ms. Linville wanted to discuss trimming the financial report and how often to report on the CHSSA funds but Mr. Hoepfner noted that conversation should wait until the New/Unfinished Business section of the agenda, as the topic was listed there.

Ms. Merritt wanted to know which funds listed were cash accounts, which she believed were the general fund, capital projects fund, pupil transportation, food service, and CHSSA funds. Ms. Linville noted those were listed on page 69 as the monthly Fund Balance report.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. AASB Annual Conference and Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) November 13-16, 2025 in Anchorage.
2. August 13, 2025 Work Session Notes.
3. August 22 & 23, 2025 Workshop Notes for Board Self Evaluation and Goal Setting.

Mr. Hoepfner wanted to add comments about the AASB Annual conference and Mr. Russin made a point of order by noting information items were for Board members reference only and not to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Community Access to School Board Meetings.

Discussion: Mr. Glasen noted this was for discussion with no action but the Board could make a directive to the superintendent pending the outcome of the discussion. Ms. Merritt hoped there would have been a staff report on this topic and asked Mr. Russin if staff had looked into providing access, noting multiple board members and community letters had been written. Mr. Russin commented that the Board had not given him any direction on providing a report and only suggested to have the topic added as a discussion item.

Ms. Trudeau asked about any context before pursuing and inquired if there were any administration recommendations for the Board to take under consideration. Mr. Glasen remembered at the last meeting staff had noted providing access was something that could be done. Mr. Russin noted anything was doable and Mr. Glasen commented currently just the audio recording was possible available and able to be shared.

Mr. Russin began the conversation with asking what was the desired goal and outcome of the Board, knowing the community wanted the board meeting in general to be more accessible as the broader big picture goal. He let the Board know several ways to access school board meetings by attending in person, sharing the audio recordings currently being made the day after the meeting, or potentially live streaming meetings with no interactive option for remote listeners (one-way stream). He let the Board know those were options to consider and the Board might discuss these to determine what the directive for the superintendent should be.

Mr. Glasen thought sharing the audio recordings should be made available [online] per community feedback and wanted to know if tracking number of people listening was possible that way. Mr. Russin noted there was not currently a way to track traffic on the website at this time and he would have to research the available technology further.

Ms. Merritt felt people were already accustomed to the way the City of Cordova Council meetings were being live streamed through YouTube and felt school board meetings should be live streamed with the ability to listen later on YouTube as a quality of service, knowing there was the ability to see how many people had viewed a particular meeting. She also wanted to discuss the retention policy about how long previous meetings should be available on the YouTube site for public access, feeling the previous two years should be available with the approved minutes available.

Mr. Hoepfner felt making the audio recordings already made was a reasonable, simple request and would not take a large amount of staff time.

Ms. Trudeau liked the option of sharing the audio recording allowing people the option to listen, that she understood the value of YouTube but was ok with just the audio recording based on the letters she had read as long as the Board did something.

Mr. Kruithof felt the Board should live stream meetings and share via YouTube to be completely transparent with the community, as a meeting of the Board in public. He felt it was also an opportunity for Board members to listen back to their meetings, as well. He shared that he had a few people wanting to attend meetings but said school board meetings run too late for them getting kids to bed.

Mr. Glasen felt the Board should try the option of making the audio recording public to see if that met the public's need.

Mr. Russin wanted to focus on what would achieve the Board's goal and for them not worry about what was the easiest for staff. If it was the Board's goal to increase community engagement, he recommended starting with live streaming. He noted staff were willing to configure and support live streaming or upload audio, whichever the Board preferred. He mentioned that legal counsel had advised the district that current meeting minutes should be shortened and not so specific, only recording the Board's actions [votes] and not the discussion of the Board. He recommended using the stream recording for reference and streamline the meeting minutes per legal counsel recommendation. Mr. Kruithof felt that video stream would be an accurate representation of the meeting if the community wanted to hear discussions. Mr. Russin noted he was willing to move to live streaming in conjunction of the Board's support to shorten the meeting minutes format. He noted the district already had a pro Zoom account that could be directly linked to a Board specific YouTube channel with archive ability.

Ms. Merritt felt the live streaming was the gold standard that aligned to the Boards goal of accessibility with more summarized meeting minutes.

Mr. Kruithof supported directing the superintendent to live streaming meetings.

Ms. Hoepfner agreed to shortening the meeting minutes format to only reflect action items with live streaming.

Mr. Russin noted that change to meeting minutes would be a departure from the historical norm and if the Board live streamed, there should be some consideration around Board etiquette and protocols training.

Ms. Trudeau loved the idea of accountability to the public with video streaming, as body language and tone of conversation could be seen.

Ms. Merritt wanted to add meeting minutes details to the pending agenda item for the next meeting, as she had thoughts about paring down. She was concerned the new format of minutes would be so pared down that the minutes would not help keep a record. She added that she had seen some minutes that were summarized like city council versus the district's current format were almost verbatim. Mr. Hoepfner noted there were best practices and legal guidance around meeting minutes and he continued to be concerned the Board was putting themselves in legal peril based on the current format of minutes.

There were no further comments.

2. Superintendent Search Update and Board Member Point(s) of Contact.

Discussion: Mr. Hoepfner inquired if any Board member had responded to Mr. Glasen's email from September 3rd to the Board about the search brochure and noted AASB, Katie Oliver, was waiting to hear Cordova Board's feedback on the information. Mr. Kruithof noted he had responded to Mr. Glasen with comments. Ms. Trudeau also had made comments on good content.

Mr. Russin noted the next steps were for any Board Members that had feedback or comments to forward them to him. He noted the Board also needed to identify a Board point of contact after it had originally assigned the district point of contact to be Mr. Russin. Mr. Glasen felt it would be beneficial for the Board to select Mr. Hoepfner. Mr. Kruithof inquired if any member wanted to volunteer for the role, to which Mr. Hoepfner agreed to be the single point of contact for the search process.

Ms. Merritt felt the salary noted in the AASB offer was not what the Board had discussed and was lower than desired. Mr. Kruithof felt there was still room to have negotiations on salary with any candidates once a position was offered. Mr. Russin offered the Board to review the notes from the workshop with AASB and confirm the posted salary details.

Mr. Russin wrapped up by noting the Board selected himself as the district point and Mr. Hoepfner as the Board contact with the Board agreeing to the consensus. He added that the points of contact would review the information coming from AASB and respond timely to AASB. Mr. Russin noted if any Board feedback was required on any item, he would reach out to the Board as a whole and then directly with Mr. Hoepfner to provide responses so as to avoid the potential of the Board engaging in conversation outside of a noticed meeting.

There were no further comments.

3. All-Day Kindergarten.

Discussion: Mr. Kruithof had brought this topic up last year and agreed to wait until the current school year to pick up the conversation. He had performed lots of research where he found 70% of students [nationwide] were not prepared for kindergarten. He believed in all day kindergarten, noted he was part of a school district where they moved to all day kindergarten and had seen the transition. His research revealed stronger academic foundations, higher achievement, better school readiness skills going into first grade, social emotional benefits, increased self-confidence, better for families with a single time for pickup, academic equity, long term impacts to reduce grade retention, and a positive investment in reduced interventions at later grades. He had also heard the negative aspects that many students catch up by 4th grade and that younger students would be fatigued, but he felt learning could be slowed down when students had a full day to work on concepts with more opportunity to cover science or more math, along with additional play time. He felt Cordova should support and pursue all day kindergarten for the academic benefits.

Ms. Trudeau was not familiar with the process of how to move to all day kindergarten and that she had read studies for the pros and cons like Mr. Kruithof had found, and knew from her teaching experience it was worth teaching kindergarten all day. She felt like all day kindergarten provided opportunities for her community.

Mr. Hoepfner felt this was a slippery slope of managing the school district or making the assumption that a superintendent or principal were not doing their job. He worried about the Board telling staff how to schedule their time and wondered if the topic was a policy or governance role and how they fit together. He wondered if it was appropriate for a Board member to bring up scheduling and what to teach and whether that was more for an administration decision by the superintendent and elementary principal.

Mr. Glasen felt the details would be left up to the superintendent and their administrative team. Mr. Kruithof understood these points of view but noted the junior-senior high school scheduling topic of Friday tutorials was approved by the board, since the school Board approved calendars. Mr. Kruithof felt this was just another calendar piece the Board was responsible for, like approving the budget and knew the district was fully funded for kindergarten and that there would be no additional cost since the kindergarten teachers were already paid for a full day. Mr. Glasen was not confident directing the superintendent to force all-day kindergarten and felt that was an administrative decision.

Ms. Merritt wanted to clarify that having a discussion was not assuming someone was not doing their job, discussions were good for teachers and staff to hear, since Board members were the leaders setting the standards and expectations in the district and she felt all discussions were aimed at improving student achievement. She was conflicted in all-day kindergarten, was in support of the Board's reading goals, would love to see the administrative team provide items they needed to have in order to support the Board's goals, such as more time for kindergarten and offering preschool to help with kindergarten readiness. She added that she was fully prepared to support what the Board needed to achieve its goals. She continued that she was let down by the Board's self-evaluation weekend led by AASB, since it seemed to focus more on the superintendent search than what had been described. She hoped for setting a better direction with Board goals and tasked the administration with seeing initiative, what were the pros and cons of all-day kindergarten, how would that work with staffing and the budget, and what was being seen in the industry. She was leery of the goal setting process while wanting to see the right things happen by working together with the administration to support the Board's goals. She felt her children would have benefited from all day kindergarten but knew other parents felt all day was too much for other students and shared that she wanted to be mindful of supporting increased overall student achievement with the best solution by having the appropriate information.

Ms. Trudeau appreciated Ms. Merritt's comments and insight, especially around preschool. Ms. Trudeau valued all-day kindergarten and she noted the National Library of Medical study research felt full day kindergarten was on par with having public preschool. Her concern was around kindergarten capacity for staff loading, knowing that current kindergarten teachers were fulfilling literacy interventions in the afternoons and what might need to be given up by moving them into the kindergarten classroom all day.

Mr. Hoepfner hoped if the administration, superintendent and principal, felt all day kindergarten was beneficial and warranted, that administration would have brought the topic to the Board.

Mr. Kruithof believed the Board's reading goal would be better met by having all day kindergarten. He was more confused about the roles of the Board than he ever had been, knowing the Board voted on school calendars, specifically the Friday schedule at the high school.

Mr. Glasen felt if there was information available to be brought the Board from the superintendent, he would be interested to hear if there were any current issues with kindergarten.

Ms. Merritt felt Board members could hide behind Board roles and responsibilities and was not interested in drawing lines in the sand. She wanted to work together to blur the lines to have an open discussion to see where the Board wanted to go and where everyone worked on goals together. She mentioned attitudes and wanting everyone to share their experiences to get the district to a better place versus clamming up and saying that was not the Board's role in serving education. She was happy to have discussions and hoped to get the Board thinking about their actual goals and wanted more than a reading goal for K-3 to help all students by including better reporting on the goals or breaking goals into phases and next steps. She wanted measurable goals and wondered when the Board would add math goals with all Board members working together with the superintendent and wanted to see information in the packets for context since the Board was asking questions about what went into decisions.

Mr. Glasen noted there was no way to blur the Boards lines, as there were clearly defined roles for school Board members and the superintendent. Ms. Merritt asked Mr. Glasen if he understood her meaning and he noted he understood her meaning and she wondered if that was against what they were supposed to be doing as a Board. He felt if she wanted something to happen bad enough, she could go around some rules to achieve her goal but recommended that was not something she should try to do. She felt she was trying to work together and was not trying to push her operational decisions on the school but wanted to have open discussions about school. Mr. Glasen agreed about having open discussions and agreed with Mr. Hoepfner about having clearly defined Board roles and noted a member could micro manage a superintendent by following [management vs. governance] the rules. He noted the Board could still direct a superintendent when needed but felt working together in a collaborative effort was more beneficial. Ms. Merritt felt that was what she was getting at but that did not come across right. It was the blurring the lines comment that caught Mr. Glasen's attention. She was not trying to be unorthodox and knew from her experience on Boards what micromanaging looked like and her experience must not be translating well to this instance. She did not want to micro manage but did want to work together.

Mr. Russin noted that Boards were statutorily required to adopt the school calendars as part of their role. He added that he took in everyone's comments and did not feel lines were drawn, that this was just another topic asked to be on the agenda, and if the Board wanted the superintendent's input, the Board could always ask. He noted that if the Board wanted his perspective based on his experience, he was openly available for discussions. He commented the current kindergarten schedule was not a forever thing, the district was on plan of implementing a structured plan of MTSS framework for interventions, which had taken a number of years through multiple principals to make progress on, and felt the district was at a point now with interventions where staff were scheduled with the two grade level teachers, splitting interventions while their students were at specials like swimming or PE, that more information could be gathered on student learning. He felt that as teachers moved through these intense interventions there may not be as big of a need for kindergarten teachers using their last half hour of their day for interventions in coming years and hoped time would tell by the end of the year if there was still a need to have the kinder teachers help with interventions. He noted the district was in the midst of a very structured MTSS system with all staff members contributing to interventions and enrichment. He was not opposed to all day kindergarten based on his professional and life experiences with all day kindergarten. Mr. Kruithof hoped no one thought he expected to change to all day kindergarten right now. Mr. Russin felt the current schedule was structured around interventions across the board for students and did not want to see those interrupted at this moment, but knew schedule, space, and availability of staff were factors for reconsideration.

Mr. Kruithof felt the Board had a healthy conversation with an opportunity to think more on the topic. Mr. Russin noted the district could provide pros and cons with limiting or driving factors but was cautious of research and conscious of all programs not being cut and paste from other districts when the variables were different to achieve the same results in Cordova. He could provide kindergarten profile information for the Board to look at and show the Board the 13 indicators kindergartens were assessed for in terms of their developmental profile.

Mr. Glasen stated that he would be interested to see a more information like that, as well as Ms. Trudeau. Ms. Merritt wanted to see Cordova specific information. Mr. Hoepfner inquired if all day kindergarten would be brought up with the staff and appreciated hearing that administration had already been in discussion on the topic.

Mr. Russin noted the administration had been talking about all day kindergarten way before it had come up at the Board level, and there were ongoing administrative discussions about what the current needs were and the current ability to make a change. He explained when he first arrived in Cordova there was a morning and afternoon session for kindergarteners, which were shorter sessions than what they were now since the same teacher taught both sessions and noted the variables were different then than what they were now. He further explained the discussion centered around what were the driving factors, limiting factors, other things the administration could do differently to make something happen. He was open to discussions since all day kindergarten was something administration was already discussing and noted through district operations there could be overlap in Board goals and topics of interest.

There were no further comments.

4. Business Office Monthly Financials Report to the Board.

Discussion: Mr. Russin invited Ms. Linville to discuss the ongoing Board feedback about the length of the financial report, how to pare down to what the Board and community wanted to see on a monthly or quarterly basis combined with what the state required districts to report.

Ms. Trudeau wondered if the District was required to report the monthly checkbook register and Ms. Linville noted the monthly checkbook registry was required to be posted publicly but did not have to be included in the regular meeting packet. She shared that she could instead post the checkbook register to her business office website for public reference and meet statutory requirements.

Mr. Hoepfner noted things had been added to the financial reports over time and the state legislature had proposed a bill for additions to the monthly checkbook register. He felt it was appropriate to provide these reports for public transparency. He noted he did not feel like the checkbook register created waste since the packet was not being printed in bulk but found the reports, like CHSSA, Alaska Air miles account, budget to actual, very helpful for reference when needed.

Mr. Russin asked for clarification if those reports were important to be reported every month or if there were some the Board could see periodically. Mr. Hoepfner liked seeing the current financials included in the regular meeting packets. Mr. Russin clarified none of the reports were a problem to continue to publish but noted that some reports were much more involved than others. Ms. Linville noted pulling the monthly checkbook register was one of the easier reports to prepare, the other reports required much more staff time to gather information for development to publish the formatted monthly report, such as the fund balance and capital projects reports.

Mr. Kruithof felt it was not necessary to see the monthly checkbook and preferred to only see the CHSSA reports for the student activities quarterly or twice a year, with beginning and end balances. Mr. Russin noted on the CHSSA report had been formatted over the years with several iterations and this month's report only included current balances.

Ms. Merritt felt that things should be posted publicly as required but not necessarily included in the regular meeting packet and hoped as Ms. Linville became more comfortable, she would be able to help the Board see the forest through the trees and make recommendations on how to modify financial reporting. She most preferred the budget to actual report, could handle a one-page quarterly CHSSA report, and liked to see when student activities borrowed from the District general fund.

Mr. Glasen felt the budget was always available on the District website and Board Members could reference where District money was being spent. He shared that he was ok with whatever the District could legally leave out and when the Board had a specific question requesting additional financial information be included in the monthly packet for the Board's reference.

Ms. Trudeau also wanted to see the monthly budget to actual report, to see where the District was tracking and Ms. Merritt agreed that was important for Board members to see regularly for forecast indicators.

Mr. Russin noted Ms. Linville would draft, once she became more familiar with the system, a couple of suggested reformatted reports until the Board agreed the financials were what they wanted to see while statutorily including the necessary items while posting the remaining items on the business office website.

There were no further comments.

5. Approval of the 2025-2026 Cordova School Board Improvement Goals.

Ms. Trudeau moved to approve the 2025-2026 Cordova School Board Improvement Goals, as presented in the Board Packet. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Merritt felt these goals reflected what the Board had discussed at the self-evaluation, but was a little disappointed in the Board's workshop which limited the Board's District goals discussion. She felt there still lacked a full conversation and had hoped members would have had more time to more fully develop their goals. She highlighted goals like space planning, middle and high school remodeling, and felt there were more long-term goals that fit very well together.

Ms. Trudeau felt if she followed the Board's self-identified goal number 4 of vising long and short-term goals, it alluded to further discussion.

Mr. Russin noted the way to accomplish further goal development could happen during an upcoming work session. Mr. Hoepfner agreed that in the past a work session accomplished the fine-tuning of the Board's goal setting process. Mr. Kruithof noted that the Board went down more of the superintendent search path this year at its weekend workshop.

There were no further Board comments.

Motion: PASSED 5-0

6. Amplify Tutoring Services Quote Approval to be Paid for from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant.

Ms. Merritt moved to approve the Amplify Tutoring Services Quote Approval to be Paid for from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant, as presented in the Board Packet. Ms. Trudeau seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Merritt wanted to hear more about the quality of virtual tutoring and Mr. Russin noted small groups of students at a time would work with an online tutor along with newly hired teacher positions to help facilitate students' attention. He highlighted the company the District was working with did remote tutoring and were very good at providing specific means of interventions for short periods of time. Ms. Merritt was skeptical of online tutoring for younger students and Mr. Russin clarified that would not be the only tutoring students would receive.

Ms. Merritt additionally inquired about the CSLD grant covering budgeted expenses, to which Mr. Russin confirmed these would be in addition to the already budgeted items. Mr. Fastenau clarified there were different types of grants and commented that a district could supplement but could not supplant programs and operations with grant funds.

Mr. Hoepfner commented the CSLD grant looked like a great program and was impressed with the work involved.

Ms. Merritt inquired about the specific amounts to be spent among the age ranges and Mr. Russin noted current preschool students were required to be provided special education services outside of any grant funding. He explained someone had been hired to host family nights for parents, including providing birthday bundles with literacy materials and resources along with a library for early literacy development to check out from the district office as ongoing community partnerships for students aged 0-5.

There were no further comments or questions.

Motion: PASSED 5-0

7. Draft Board Resolution Supporting an Increase to the 10% Fund Balance Limitation.

Ms. Merritt moved to approve the Draft Board Resolution Supporting an Increase to the 10% Fund Balance Limitation, as presented in the Board Packet. Ms. Trudeau seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Hoepfner felt this was a redundant resolution and wanted to see 15% or higher feeling that the current AASB resolution was sufficient. Mr. Russin clarified that last month the intention was for Board Members to propose resolution ideas to be brought to AASB at the annual conference. Mr. Hoepfner explained how the AASB organization used district proposed resolutions to bring up during the active state legislation session while conducting their business as talking points to have ready.

Mr. Glasen stepped away at 9:06pm and returned at 9:08 pm.

Mr. Russin noted for Ms. Merritt that Cordova did not have a Cordova specific resolution on fund balances and recommended the Board consider adopting the resolution to document local support to advocate for in February at the legislative fly in or not adopt it, knowing that AASB already had a similar resolution.

Ms. Merritt was in favor of adding this resolution to Cordova's and Mr. Glasen agreed while Mr. Hoepfner felt there was no harm in having one on file as a speaking point.

Mr. Kruithof shared that he was not in favor of the resolution.

There were no further comments.

Motion: PASSED 4-1

8. Draft Resolution Supporting Lowering Compulsory School Attendance From 7 to 5 Years of Age and Requiring Kindergarten School Attendance.

Ms. Merritt moved to approve the Draft Resolution Supporting Lowering Compulsory School Attendance From 7 to 5 Years of Age and Requiring Kindergarten School Attendance, as presented in the Board Packet. Ms. Trudeau seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Merritt stated that she was in favor of adding pre-k funding but was not in favor of supporting this resolution.

Mr. Hoepfner added the compulsory attendance age was already in the AASB version 1.8 resolution and spoke about state funded voluntary childhood pre-k education for public school funding in 2.47 proposed resolution.

Ms. Trudeau agreed with Ms. Rodrigues' recent letter to the School Board on this topic and felt starting education of the younger students in preschool was a better approach with time, energy, and effort.

Mr. Glasen agreed about leaving enrollment in school with parents, not having a mandatory starting age and felt most parents would enroll their children already at kindergarten age if given an option. Mr. Trudeau agreed that most parents wanted to have their children enrolled in school and if a parents chose not to enroll, they must have a very good reason not to and felt preschool was a more reasonable starting place.

Mr. Kruithof agreed with making kindergarten required in the state of Alaska but did not agree with attaching an age to the requirement.

There were no further comments.

Motion: FAILED 0-5

9. Draft Resolution Authorizing the Superintendent to Approve Expenditures in Excess of \$10,000 for the Purpose of Implementing the Comprehensive Literacy State Development 2024 CLSD Cohort Grant Award.

Ms. Merritt moved to approve the Draft Resolution Authorizing the Superintendent to Approve Expenditures in Excess of \$10,000 for the Purpose of Implementing the Comprehensive Literacy State Development 2024 CLSD Cohort Grant Award, as presented in the Board Packet. Ms. Trudeau seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Russin noted adding this resolution based on prior years need to manage the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) grant with time-bound factors and added that this allowed for when there was not time to call a special meeting to spend \$15,000, which was \$5000

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above his spending limit, for example. He explained following the practice of including for Board action ex-post facto to approve his authorized spend the following month.

Mr. Hoepfner saw no problem with relaxing the spending limit in regards to this grant fund, but highlighted the 5-year timeframe, knowing a new superintendent would be in place next year but was still ok knowing the resolution was very specific to these funds only with maximum grant dollars per year.

Mr. Russin felt a similar programmatic approach would be used next year with administrative plans in place and this resolution allowed him a stop gap to get resources where they needed to be in a timely fashion. Mr. Russin noted the five-year grant award timeframe was subject to what continued to develop at the federal level.

Ms. Trudeau had Mr. Russin clarify the resolution was just for the 5 years of the grant and when the grant expired the resolution authorization also expired, to which he concurred.

Ms. Merritt appreciated hearing that Mr. Russin would continue to present grant spending at the next meeting still seeking the Board's approval and appreciated that would include the new superintendent. She added that she wanted to see the grant budget versus current expenditures, as she calculated already spending \$70,000 towards this year's funding.

Mr. Russin noted he worked closely with Mr. Fastenau who was tracking the grant spending and would continue to format letters of intent to be subject to approval by the school Board and subject to funding being available by the state. Mr. Russin felt the funding would come in the form of quarterly reimbursements through the state grant system.

There were no further comments or questions.

Motion: PASSED 5-0

PERSONNEL:

1. DRAFT Superintendent Contract for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Ms. Merritt moved to approve the Draft Superintendent Contract for the 2025-2026 School Year, as presented in the Board Packet. Ms. Trudeau seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Trudeau inquired if the Board had removed the required physical for the next superintendent. Ms. Merritt believed the Board had not removed any items from the new tentative contract. Mr. Russin noted the comprehensive medical physical was included for his current contract before the Board and that a new superintendent's contract could be subject to revision.

There were no further comments.

Motion: PASSED 5-0

PENDING AGENDA:

1. Ms. Merritt wanted a work session in October at 6:00 pm before the regular meeting to further develop the Board's smart goals and go into the district/school goals of where the Board wanted to go to provide extracts of their ideas. Mr. Glasen recommended Ms. Merritt go to visit Mr. Russin in advance of the work session if there was something specific she was looking to see or cover, since the Board would not direct the superintendent on Board goals.
2. Proposed new format of Board meeting minutes and recording options provided by Mr. Russin.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Ms. Trudeau wanted to know if she could have emailed the whole Board about her question or should she continue to communicate directly with the superintendent. She was informed about policy 9232 Communications of the Board, which could potentially become an illegal meeting when discussions between the board occurred in emails and not in a publicly noticed forum. Mr. Russin shared that he usually included all Board Members in his email response to an individual question when he had a sense that it might be relevant to the whole Board.

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- Mr. Hoepfner
 - Excited about the new grant the District secured and was excited to see the work that would come from that.
 - Thanked Ms. Linville for coaching 24 volleyball students.
 - Excited the new school year started out well.
- Mr. Kruithof had no comment.
- Ms. Merritt
 - Committed to having discussions at the Board table.
 - Thanked fellow Board Members for sharing their thoughts to help shape her perspective, as she felt everyone's voice and opinion mattered.
 - Appreciated having items from the last meeting placed on the agenda tonight to make progress.
 - Welcomed having information context provided ahead of time in the board packet and felt that expedited Board discussions.
 - Felt progress had been made on her goal for meeting accessibility.
 - Thanked Mr. Russin for his work.
- Mr. Glasen
 - Thanked Ms. Trudeau and Ms. Merritt for bringing really great questions to the Board and that he was impressed by the two new Board Members.
 - Noted this was the first time in twenty-two years he no longer had a student enrolled in the District.
 - Appreciated having the Admin reports and all the work done on the grant.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Kruithof moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Merritt seconded.

Discussion: None

Motion: PASSED 5-0

Meeting Adjourned at 9:32 pm.

ATTEST:

President

Clerk

Date

Date