



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

Minutes  
May 4, 2026  
4:30 PM

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

**District Administration present and presenting:** Superintendent Dr. Celine Wicks,

## **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 Leah Helme 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 Retirement Resignations

5.3 Resignations

5.4 Renewal of Administrators' Contracts for the 2026-27 School Year

5.5 Renewal of Directors' Contracts for the 2026-27 School Year

5.6 Acknowledge Dismissal of Classified Staff

5.7 Substitute Teacher 2025-26

5.8 Acknowledge Receipt of Quarterly Financials through March 31, 2026

5.9 Delegating Authority to District Attendance Officers Resolution 2026-05-01 Adoption

5.10 Approval of the Colorado School Medicaid Consortium 26-27 Service Agreement

*Kim Lemmer made a motion and Lara Craig seconded to approve consent agenda items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **6. Approval of Minutes- April 6, 2026 Business Meeting and Work Session and April 14 Special Meeting**

Background information is provided in Boardbook under item 6.

*Kevin Callahan made a motion and Lara Craig seconded to approve the minutes for the April 6, 2026 business meeting and work session, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Kevin Callahan made a motion and Leah Helme seconded to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2026 special meeting, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **7. Reports and Communication**

Background information is provided in Boardbook under Item 7.

### **Celebrations - Superintendent Dr. Celine Wicks**

- SSSD - Girls Track and Field won the 4A Western Slope League ; Girls and boys lacrosse teams and girls soccer all advanced to the state tournaments - games Thursday and Friday
- YVHS went to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science as a part of their final project-based learning (PBL) experience; especially grateful for 2 transportation departments working together to make this trip happen - SSSD was short drivers and SOROCO stepped in; Friday, students will present business plans Shark Tank style, to experts in the fields of astrophysics, engineering, and astronomy



- SSMS - Violet Bock, Sylvie Fenley, Willa Schell, and Felicity Davos participated in the Colorado Civics Bee and Violet and Sylvie will advance to the State finals at DU on July 24
- SGS - Celebrating our Educator of the Year - Elissa Chapman - her door is open before school, after school, and often packed with students from years past who just want to stop in and say hi; she serves on the SGS MTSS committee, Wellness Committee, and both the School and District Accountability Committees
- SPE - Pirates 2 - The Hidden Treasure - 5th grade class musical - second year in a row led by music teacher Corinne Sommerfeld, and artist-in-residence Lora Labaree; Thanks to Emily Beyer and the Equity in the Arts grant and the continued support of the PIC, the Rotary Club and the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, SPE has successfully integrated the performing arts into the curriculum for every student within the World Cultures and Music classrooms
- SCE Craft Market - as part of the first-grade economics unit taught by Ms. Barclay, Ms. Woodbridge, and Ms. Hopkins, students learned about community businesses and how citizens produce products to earn money by selling them; SCE Career Day - huge thank you to the wonderful counselors, Allison Feyen and Natalie Fisher for organizing Career Day for 3rd - 5th grade students

#### **Case Study of Vindängen School - Heather Overstake's Sabbatical presentation**

- Presentation included in Boardbook for review
- Early childhood development study
- Spent 7 weeks in school system that was mainly Swedish speaking
- Students start out learning Swedish and then Finnish and English are introduced in 3rd grade- by 6th grade all students can read, write and speak 3 languages; teachers are fluent in multiple languages
- Students participate in structured outside time for holistic development; art and story books are integrated into outdoor curriculum; provides hands-on exploration in nature
- Physical Activity & Rhythm - outside structural movement after every 45 minutes; physical activity is woven into daily routines; movement supports both physical and social development; structured breaks enhance learning; community building through shared activity
- Back to Basics Philosophy - high emphasis on handwriting - 3 year olds can write; use of pencil and paper; simple tools, powerful results
- Balanced Expectations - high expectations for all children; student well-being balanced with academic rigor; whole child approach; emotional and social development prioritized
- Creative Learning Environment - student-created displays which include descriptive writing boards, story timelines, character trait posters about friendship; student work used as teaching tools; displays encourage ongoing engagement
- Outdoor Learning - Action item for SSSD - integrate regular outdoor experiences across subjects; consider "forest school" time; hands-on exploration and nature-based lessons; move beyond traditional recess model; connect curriculum to outdoor experiences
- Oral Language - Action item for SSSD - strengthen speaking and listening skills; storytelling and discussions; verbal expression activities; oral language as literacy foundation; communication skills development
- Community Building - Action item for SSSD - older students support younger ones; foster school-wide connections; cross-age mentoring opportunities; build learning community; strengthen school culture through relationships
- Lara Craig - How can we incorporate some of these things that they do? What 3 things would you recommend? Heather - outside time is every 45 minutes; kids had to pull themselves together and get outside and get back in within the allotted time; make it a priority to actually do it
- Jane Toothaker - incredible experience that you had - can you come back in 6 months or a year and talk about what you did? How do they determine if kids are happy? Heather - They make sure that kids get what they need; social/emotional needs before academics; students eat lunch with teacher or para every day
- Dr. Wicks - if they have no screen time, what do they do for testing? Heather - paper and pencil, no computers
- Kevin Callahan - You can integrate these techniques to your colleagues just by talking about your experience; we all want our kids to be happy

#### **Staff Bargaining Negotiations Update - Superintendent Dr. Celine Wicks**

- Next Bargaining Meeting scheduled for May 7
- Expect to reach an agreement by the end of this meeting

*Jane Toothaker made a motion and Leah Helme seconded to acknowledge receipt of reports and communications as presented by the superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **8. Public Comment - 5:10 pm**



No one has signed up for public comment on non agenda items.

### **9. Board Member Updates/Comments/Debrief**

Leah Helme

- Attending CASB biweekly legislative meetings
- Attended MS PIC meeting

Jane Toothaker

- Leah is an excellent leader through her current role with CASB
- Met with Stephanie Juneau to review District finances
- Attended MS PIC meeting and track meet
- Plan to visit art shows and the SSSH SAC meeting

Kevin Callahan

- Completed contract negotiations with Kristin Drury
- Will attend the Housing Committee meeting this week at the District Office
- Looking for Board members availability to hold a retreat in June in place of the July 14 retreat - Kristin will be available to meet in June

### **10. Plan for future meetings**

- Lara Craig - would like to hear more about using District reserves for negotiations and would like to have a housing update
- Jane Toother - Interested in a report on the teacher survey results; Dr. Wicks - Will be able to report out to the Board on the TLCC survey results and the internal staff survey when available

### **Board Work Sessions**

- Looking for Board members availability to hold a retreat in June in place of the July 14 retreat - Kristin will be available to meet in June - send Kevin dates and he will work with Kristin and Deb to plan

### **11. Adjourn**

The Steamboat Springs School District RE-2 Board of Education business meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Board of Education Business Meeting minutes for May 4, 2026 are submitted by: Deb Ginesta, SSSD Administrative Assistant and Secretary to the Board of Education.

Minutes approved by the Board on May 18, 2026.

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Kevin Callahan, President