

Skamania School District #2
Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

Minutes

May 21, 2025

6:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m

Mrs. London's Classroom

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <http://meet.google.com/vxj-vadj-rmw>

In attendance:

Board Members: Donald Collins (Board Chair), Angus Anderson, Lisa Young, Martin "Rowdy" LaFevers

Staff: Milt Dennison - Superintendent, Katie Chavarria - Principal, Amber Warren- Office Manager

Call to Order - Regular Session

Donald Collins called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- Meeting was recorded as per RCW 42.30.035
- Donald announced that Cynthia Dominik Medlin is not in attendance due to a travel conflict. The board agreed that this constitutes an excused absence.

Flag Salute

Changes to the agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the April 16th Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the May 5th Special Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills and Payroll

Accounts payable general funds check numbers 30496 through 30517, totaling \$28,496.52

Payroll and benefits check numbers 30518 through 30527, totaling \$122,947.04

Lisa Young made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Rowdy LaFevers seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

Unfinished Business

- School Board Vacancy

Milt Dennison reported that the district received an application from a resident on May 20th. It is recommended that the board hold a special meeting prior to the June board meeting to provide an opportunity to interview the applicant. If desired, the board may then make a motion to appoint the applicant

during the regularly scheduled meeting on June 18th, with the Oath of Office to be administered at the July board meeting.

Milt also shared that Cynthia is undergoing some personal changes that may affect her role as a board director. While she will maintain residence within the district, and plans to travel during the winter months. Cynthia has expressed her intention to remain on the board and attend meetings remotely during those periods. Milt noted that the board may need to update its policy to accommodate this arrangement. Rowdy emphasized Cynthia's strong ties to the community and stated his full support for making an exception to retain her valuable contributions. Lisa concurred.

- HVAC Update

Milt shared that the district has been discussing the potential for a future lawsuit related to ongoing HVAC issues. After conducting research and consulting with legal counsel, it was noted that pursuing legal action could incur significant costs. Lisa provided her input, emphasizing that the district did not receive the quality of product that was paid for. In her opinion, the district is likely to continue experiencing problems with the current HVAC system. After some discussion, The board agreed that a meeting should be scheduled with ESD 112 - Construction Service Program (CSG).

- School Choice Policy

Katie Chavarria shared updates to Policy 3141, which now clarifies that all applications for nonresident attendance and home-based instruction will be evaluated based on established criteria, including student behavior. The revised policy also includes details about disciplinary records and specifies behaviors that may result in denial of applications. During the discussion, Angus requested clarification on the distinction between home-based instruction and homeschooling, while Lisa inquired whether staff children are given preference under the same criteria.

Angus made a motion to approve the first reading of the revised policy. Donald seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

New Business

- 2025-26 Budget Preparation

Chuck Hole presented a financial update to the board, covering several key budget topics. The ASB budget extension was reviewed, which involved reactivating a dormant ASB fund. The fund began with a balance of \$2,420, received \$1,020 in revenue from fundraising and interest, and had expenditures totaling \$3,440, resulting in an ending balance of zero.

Chuck also provided a cash flow projection, noting that the district expects to receive \$22,916 in Federal Forest revenue in May. An increase in transportation funding is anticipated due to rising enrollment, contributing to a projected ending fund balance of \$446,750—approximately 21.48% of projected expenditures.

In terms of legislative changes, Chuck outlined several updates. These include a one-time \$50 per Annual Average Full Time Equivalent (AAFTE) payment totaling \$5,076, an \$81 per student increase in MSOC funding, and potential reductions in special education funding based on changes to the funding formula. Additionally, starting in 2025-26, Federal Forest revenue will once again be treated as deductible, impacting apportionment. The levy lid will also see increases, with a \$500 per pupil rise in 2026 and continued CPI adjustments through 2030, reaching a base target of \$5,035 by 2031.

Lastly, Chuck noted that property and liability insurance rates are expected to rise by 28%. However, these increases will be partially offset by rebates from Workers' Compensation and Unemployment programs.

- Budget Extension Resolution - ASB

The board reviewed **Resolution No. 05-21-25**, which petitions OSPI to increase the 2024–25 Associated Student Body (ASB) Fund appropriation from \$0 to \$3,440. This adjustment reflects the planned reactivation and use of the ASB Fund for the upcoming school year.

Lisa made a motion to adopt Resolution Number 05-21-25 as written. Rowdy seconded and the motion passed with no further discussion.

- Personnel
 - Office Assistant - Katharine Greer

Rowdy made a motion to approve the contract for Kate Greer. Angus seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

- Teacher Resignation - Adam Pruitt

Donald made a motion to accept the resignation of Adam Pruitt. Lisa seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

- Superintendent/Principal Contract - Katherine Chavarria

Milt announced that this item will be discussed after the executive session.

Reports

- Superintendent's Report- Milt Dennison

Milt reported that the district has received approximately 21 applications for the open staff position. After reviewing the submissions and conducting interviews with seven candidates, Katie, Amber, and he narrowed the field to about 2–3 strong contenders. All reference checks have been positive, and there is strong potential among the finalists. We hope to bring a couple of candidates in for second interviews next week and have contracts ready to present next month.

Regarding salary comparisons, Milt has been working on a certificated salary report, which is expected to be presented in June. This will allow the board to take action on any recommended changes before contracts are approved in July. Milt also plans to begin work on classified salary comparisons in the coming week.

In regards to enrollment for the 2025-26 SY currently, the district has been able to accommodate all choice requests, including most of the new applications. There are plans to potentially split a couple of grade levels, and staff appear supportive of this approach. The projected enrollment for the next school year stands at 118 students, with more anticipated to enroll. There's also excitement for the Color Run, which Katie confirmed will begin at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

- Instructional Report - Katie Chavarria

Katie reported that state testing is about 40% complete with no issues so far. The storage portable is approximately two-thirds cleaned out and could be used as a classroom or intervention space next year. She also recapped the end-of-year activities planned for the final week, including Field Day, 8th Grade Promotion, Kindergarten Graduation, the End-of-Year Celebration, and the Last Day of School.

- Budget status report- Chairman Donald Collins

Donald reported that the budget status is more positive than anticipated. The General Fund was budgeted at \$262,578, with actuals coming in at \$300,147. Capital Projects had no budgeted funds but currently show an actual of \$5,372. ASB funds were budgeted at \$2,440, with actuals at \$2,633. Transportation Funds, also initially budgeted at \$0, now reflect \$138,550 in actuals. Overall, the district's financial position is looking strong.

Comments from Skamania Board of Directors

Rowdy announced that he has a work trip scheduled for early June and will be away until early July. As a result, he will not be able to attend the June board meeting.

Executive Session (RCW 42.30.110)

Donald announced that the Board would enter executive session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss the performance review of an employee, with plans to return at 8:25 p.m. At 8:22 p.m., the Board briefly returned from executive session and requested an additional five minutes.

The Board resumed regular session at 8:33 p.m. Donald announced that during the executive session, edits were made to the Principal/Superintendent contract for the 2025–26 school year. Lisa made a motion to approve the revised contract for Katie Chavarria, effective July 1, 2025. Angus seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with no further discussion.

Adjournment

Angus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Donald seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair, _____

Board Secretary, _____