

**Stony Creek Joint Unified School District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2025**

## 1. Call To Order

The Stony Creek Joint Unified School District Board of Education met in regular session on September 23, 2025 at Indian Valley Elementary, Stonyford, California.

President Martin called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

## Public Comment on Closed Session Items

a. There were no public comments on closed session items.

## **Closed Session**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:03 pm to discuss the following:

- a. Gov. Code 54957      Public Employee Discipline/ Dismissal/Release / Complaint, 1 matter
- b. Gov. Code 54957.6      Closed session regarding matters of negotiation with the CSEA and unrepresented groups with designated representative Superintendent Emily Pendell.
- c. Gov. Code 53956.9 (d)(1)      Conference with Legal Counsel- Existing Litigation PERB Case No. SA-CE-3194-E
- d. Gov. Code 54957(b)(1)      Public Employment: Athletic Director
- e. Gov. Code 54957      Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

The Board adjourned Closed Session at 5:59 pm.

## Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:03 pm.

## 2. Roll Call

Members of the board in attendance were: Ritta Martin, Cathie Bodeker, Krystal Craven, Diana Corkill, and Delana Martin.

- i. Others present: Superintendent Emily Pendell, CBO Dusty Thompson, Executive Assistant Dominique Buring, Frank Pendell, Edwin Pendell, Diana Felipe, Aaston Burrows, County Superintendent Ryan Bentz, Jan Cannon, Zoe Brandenburger, Erin Calahan, Kyle Bill, Natalie Bill, Charlene Burrows

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Martin.

### **4. Closed Session Report**

Gov. Code 54957  
investigation  
Gov. Code 54957.6

Direction was given to initiate an  
into a complaint.  
No Report.

*Other items not reached and to be completed after today's open session.*

### **5. Approval on Agenda**

Agenda for the meeting was approved as modified, move section A & B under New Business after section D. As well as change section K to Action from Information.

Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Krystal Craven.

Voting Result: 5-0.

### **6. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

No Comments

### **7. Comments on Agenda Items**

Consent Calendar - See public comments under agenda item.

New Business - See public comments under agenda item.

### **8. Consent Calendar**

Minutes - two sets of minutes: the regular meeting held on August 26, 2025 and the special meeting held on August 18, 2025.

- Clarification re: teaching assignments and credential waiver.
- Bills Warrants and Transfers
- Discussion on specific bills including clinician services (\$12,287, special ed), actuarial study for retirement liability (\$550), conference mileage claims,

U-Haul and materials purchases for district moves, and Native American book collection expenditures.

**New Hires/Resignations**

- **Resignations** - Dominique Buring (Executive Assistant)
- **Hires** - Tom Bryant (Athletic Director) (Stipend)
  - i. Motion to approve the consent calendar as presented
  - ii. Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
  - iii. Voting Results: 5-0,

**Public Comment: Zoe Brandenburger made a comment on New Hires.**

## **9. Reports**

### **Student Report**

- a. Student leader Serenity reported: FFA:First meeting held Sept 10; discussed "opening/closing ceremony" contest in November.
- b. Upcoming Events: Volleyball game: October 11, "Indian Taco" FFA Dinner: October 17 (tickets will be available/online). Halloween Carnival: October 24 (ASB-hosted, student volunteers sought).

### **GPAC Report**

- a. GPAC lead Aaston Burrows reported College & Career Day: December 11, 8am-noon at High School. GPAC Family Literacy Night (TBD), MMIW (Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women) presentation in May, and four-week series of cultural classes for summer in planning.

### **Board Members**

- a. Trustee Corkill reported on the Amani Choir Event. Several members attended; praised drum performance and student/staff engagement.
- b. President Martin reported on Back to School Night:Highly attended—over 240 hot dogs served, strong community support. Commended for tables/resources, and Elk Creek school spirit. Choir/Farm Day:Noted positive representation and student involvement.
- c. Trustee Craven echoed the sentiments about back to school night and really enjoyed the lemonade.
- d. Trustee Martin mentioned October will be busy with dances at various locations.
- e. President Martin added the Clay Target team had its first safety day and practice shoots. Booster/Parent-Teacher Club initiative is progressing with 14 volunteers.

### **CBO, Dusty Thompson**

- a. Nothing to report

### **Superintendent/Principal, Emily Pendell**

- a. Enrollment: Current: 52 (down from 61 end of last year; awaiting possible new add-ins). Breakdown since last year: 3 graduates, 14 moved away, 4 transferred out; 2 new TKs, 4 returnees, 7 new (5 interdistrict).
- b. Attendance: 96% district-wide, K-12 (exceptional).
- c. Staffing/Training: Kyle Bill to provide cultural awareness board training (~\$1,350; educator effectiveness/discretionary funds available). 70% Native American population noted as rationale.
- d. Events: Back to School Night: "Huge success." "Goodies with Grands" (Grandparents Event): Well attended, demand for future repeats. Farm Day reviewed; FFA and student volunteers praised.
- e. Volleyball: New varsity girls team created; schedule shared (first game Oct 11 in Marin, two consecutive home games Oct 13/14).
- f. Amani Children's Choir (from Uganda) performed; high student engagement.
- g. Calendar of upcoming events: Chico State visit (Sept 30); volleyball games (various dates in Oct); FFA Green Hand Conf (Oct 14); Glenn County Spelling Bee (Oct 22); Halloween Carnival (Oct 24).
- h. Called for ideas for future events with family-targeted alliterations ("Goodies with Grands," "Muffins with Moms," etc.).

## **10. New Business**

- a. Consideration of Filling the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Position
  - Moved under item D
  - Background: Position created/filled in January 2025 (initially based on 62-student enrollment); current incumbent resigned.
  - Discussed role as strategic necessity for district growth, family engagement, and operational support (grants, communication, events, compliance).
  - Concerns from Trustee Corkill: Enrollment now 52 (was 62); \$75,000 cost if left unfilled.
  - Trustee Craven wants to see where we are in 6 months. Trustee Bodeker agrees. President Martin voiced the need to take the risk and supports continuing the trial through the full budget year (already budgeted), then to re-evaluate impact.
  - **Public Comment: Aaston Burrows, Natalie Bill.**
    - Motion to via Roll Call Vote.
    - Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker

- Corkill: Nay, Craven: Aye, D. Martin: Aye, R. Martin: Aye, Bodeker: Aye
- Voting Results: 4-1. Motion Passes.

b. Appointment of Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

- Moved under item D
- Hiring Process: 36 applicants, 8 interviewed, broad-based hiring committee included.
- Recommended candidate: Ryan Friesen, 15 yrs labor relations, 7 in management, audio/visual/communications, legal and technical.
- **Public Comment: Jan Cannon.**
  - i. Motion to approve Mr. Friesen as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.
  - ii. Motion: Cathie Bodeker, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
  - iii. Voting Results: 5-0. Motion passes.

c. 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals

- Presentation by CBO Dusty Thompson: Summarized via PowerPoint, full SACS forms on file.
- Comparison: Second interim vs final: LCFF revenue closely aligned; federal revenue notably less (CSI grant delays, forest reserve underpayment; partial make-up coming in spring 2026).
- Local revenue: +\$80,000, mostly due to higher interest earnings.
- Carry Over/Deferrals: CSI funds (\$94k) and Title I carryover; will support teacher on special assignment this year.
- Expenditures: Lower than projected, largely due to unspent grant-related funds and lower cafeteria cost (smaller scale, commodities).
- Fund transfers in/out explained (retiree health insurance, cafeteria).
- Ongoing deficit ~ \$125,000 unrestricted; healthy multi-year reserve shown.
- Enrollment and Banding: Enrollment variable, but ADA bands/staffing still support current funding levels; high school currently meets high-ADA band (19.5 ADA threshold) for LCFF.
- Outlook: First Interim (deadline Oct 31) will update projections; positive trend expected.
- Fund balances: Fund 1: General fund, healthy. Fund 20: Post-employment benefits, sufficient for foreseeable retirees. Fund 40: ~\$102,000 for capital projects (including solar). State reserve requirement: 3% of expenditures; District typically maintains well above (15–25% recommended given district size).
  - Motion to approve as presented.
  - Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
  - Voting Results: 5-0. Motion passes.

d. GANN Limit Resolution 2024-2025

- Mandate: Annual board action required per 1979 state law to cap year-over-year government spending increases.
- Compliance: District within calculated GANN appropriations limit (total expenditures not more than \$703,000 over threshold).
  - Motion to approve as presented.
  - Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
  - Voting Results: 5-0. Motion passes.

e. SB 88 Compliance

- Overview: Effective July 1, 2025; applies to drivers providing >40 hrs/year of school transportation.
- District Preparedness: Agreements in place with CSEA and SCFT.
- Driver testing pool set up; no drivers over 40 hr threshold yet; proactive compliance measures being readied.
- Vehicle inspection contracts in process; all eligible vehicles will be brought into compliance.
- Discussion: Board sought clarity on readiness (training/testing not yet completed, but will precede >40hr usage).
- Difficulty in securing BAR-certified local vendors discussed (only J&J Lube currently).
- Commitment: Assurance that compliance will be obtained prior to any staff crossing the 40hr threshold.
- **Public Comment: Ryan Bentz, Zoe Brandenburger.**
  - i. This item was information only. No action taken.

f. District Website

- Observation: Trustee Cokill noted the website is outdated (schedules, route, FFA/athletics info, misleading about Indian Valley, etc.). Concern about accuracy and marketing value for prospective families.
- Superintendent Response: District in legal/ADA compliance; acknowledged platform (School Insights) is cumbersome. Some site updates completed; more are planned as time allows.
- Consideration of more user-friendly alternative platforms (Catapult, ParentSquare etc.); price and technical support to be explored.
- Next Steps: Superintendent to research alternatives, pursue further updates; consider improved communication via ParentSquare for interested community members.
- **Public Comment: Ryan Bentz.**
  - This item was information only. No action taken.

g. CSEA Reopener Sunshine Proposal for 2025-2026

- Proposal reviewed.
  - This item was information only. No action taken.

**h. SCJUSD Reopener Sunshine Proposal to CSEA for 2025-2026 Negotiations**

- Proposal reviewed.
  - Motion to approve proposal.
  - Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Delana Martin
  - Voting Results: 5-0. Motion passes.

**i. Memorandum of Understanding with CSEA Chapter 215-Emergency Van Driver Coverage**

- Background: Due to van driver departure Aug 11, interim MOU negotiated with CSEA for emergency coverage through Sept 30th.
- Status: Extension may be needed; to be discussed in upcoming CSEA negotiation.
  - Motion to approve MOU.
  - Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
  - Voting Results: 5-0. Motion passes.

**j. Memorandum of Understanding with Kno'Quoti Native Wellness, Inc.**

- Presentation by Kyle Bill. Partnership: Formalizes relationship for referral, cultural, academic, and social-emotional support for all students (not just Native populations).
- Ensures compliance with FERPA and HIPAA; strong focus on family consent and inclusion.
- Services: On-campus cultural classes; youth mentorship/ambassadors; counseling; university partnerships for wellness coach internships; supports funded largely via outside grants/MedCal.
- Upcoming Events: Sept 26: 58th Annual California Native American Day at State Capitol, Sacramento, 10am–2pm. Nov 6: District Native American Heritage Month event.
- Trustee Corkill clarified if all student would have access to services. Mr. Bill responded yes.
  - Motion to approve MOU.
  - Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Delana Martin
  - Voting Results: 5-0. Motion passes.

**k. Weekly Sync-Up Meeting with Superintendent**

- Proposal to hold regular (weekly) one-on-one meetings for updates/info.
- Concern: Brown Act (serial meetings), perception of transparency.
- Legal Review: Per attorney, such meetings permissible as long as the superintendent does not relay other trustees' comments/positions; must not build a quorum "through intermediaries."

- Board Discussion/Decision: Trustee Craven expressed preference for regular (e.g., weekly) written "Monday Memo" style updates emailed to all trustees to ensure shared information; Superintendent Pendell shared in-person/Zoom meetings optional and for additional or personal consultation.
- All voiced preference for transparency, equal access to info, and maintaining an open, collaborative environment.
  - Information item. No action taken.

## **12. Future Meeting Agenda Items**

- Website quotes
- November/December meeting dates

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 8:31 pm.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:56 pm.

### **Closed Session Report**

C. Gov. Code 53956.9 (d)(1)      No report

D. Gov. Code 54957(b)(1)      Stipend to Mr. Bryant

E. Gov. Code 54957      Accept resignation of Mrs. Buring

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by Superintendent Emily Pendell, Secretary to the Governing Board.



Ritta Martin  
Ritta Martin, President