

**Stony Creek Joint Unified School District
Board Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2025
3430 County Road 309, Elk Creek, CA 95979**

1. Call To Order

- a. The Stony Creek Joint Unified School District Board of Education met in regular session on August 26, 2025 at Elk Creek High School, Elk Creek, California.
- b. President Martin called the meeting to order at 5:03 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 Closed session regarding matters of public employees.

The Board adjourned Closed Session at 6:00 pm.

Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:07 pm.

2. Roll Call

- a. Members of the board in attendance were: Ritta Martin, Cathie Bodeker, Krystal Craven, Diana Corkill. Members of the board not in attendance were: Delana Martin.
 - Others present: Superintendent Emily Pendell, CBO Dusty Thompson, Executive Assistant Dominique Buring, Student ASB Representative Serenity Mahone, Kno'Qoti representative Kyle Bill, Natalie Burrows, Zoe Brandenburger, Aston Burrows, Abby Swearer, Ken Swearer, Edwin Pendell, Frank Pendell, Meagan Groteguth, Jan Cannon, and Diana Felipe.
 - Brief moment of remembrance held for former trustee and Elk Creek resident Jim Callahan (passed July 27, 2025 at age 96). His history of service and community impact highlighted.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Martin.

4. Closed Session Report

a. Gov. Code 54957:

No report at this time.

5. Approval on Agenda

Agenda for the meeting was approved with the changes of adding section 1.
Superintendent Goals: Under New Business - Information & Correction to the description of item 11A (credential waiver for Ms. Millen); short-term staffing permits

a. Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker.

b. Voting Result: 4-0, 1 absent.

6. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

a. No comments at this time

7. Comments on Agenda Items

a. Consent Calendar - No comments at this time.

b. Old Business - No comments at this time.

c. New Business - See public comments under agenda item.

8. Consent Calendar

a. Minutes - Two sets of minutes: Regular meeting July 30th, special meetings June 26th.

- July 30, 2025 Minutes

- Remove duplicated bullet, under Superintendent Report section d.

b. Bills Warrants and Transfers

- Budget Q&A.

- Final '24-'25 audit/actuals to be presented at next board meeting (September, specific date not given but implied annual cycle).
- GSMA insurance update: locked in until July 1, 2026, flexibility discussed for seeking alternative vendors.
- Capital Advisors: Final payments completed; no ongoing contractual obligation.

- Transparency in Minutes:

- The board aims to make minutes highly detailed for non-attending community members.

c. New Hires

- Resignations - Kayleen Swearenger - District Van Driver
- New Hire - Matthew Walter - Lead Custodian/Grounds/Maintenance

- Motion to approve the consent calendar with correction to July 30th minutes
- Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
- Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

9. Reports

Student Report - Serenity

- FFA chapter officer leadership conference: Aug 15–17, Nevada City; skills and collaborative activities highlighted.
- New AG pickup acquisition (funded by CTIG grant; to be school-branded).
- Aug 21: Back-to-school BBQ with student activities (volleyball, basketball).
- FFA's first meeting of the year: scheduled for September 10 at 2:00pm.

GPAC Report

- Regular meetings are set for the second Thursday of each month (10–11am).
- GPAC will have a table at Back 2 School Night; Distributing backpacks, supplies and excited about the presence of Knick Knack Lemonade.

Board Members

- Trustee Craven - Concerns raised about compliance with open meetings law regarding small group meetings ("serial meeting" issue); to be placed on future agenda.
- President Martin - Discussion of revising and reviving a parent-teacher/booster club; outreach to launch at Back to School Night.

CBO, Dusty Thompson

- Attended SRS (Secure Rural Schools) funding Zoom:
 - For '24-'25, received \$19,703 (10% of normal allocation).
- Next meeting: unaudited actuals for '24-'25 will be provided; will set year-end balances and guide the new year budget.
- Optimism that SB 356 (in U.S. House) will restore/forward-fund SRS for three years and back-pay for the prior year; expected resolution in September 2025.

Superintendent/Principal, Emily Pendell

- Back to School preparations:
 - Teacher in-service focused on using data to identify/support individual students.

- ii. All-district staff received cultural awareness training (Kno'Qoti Native Wellness facilitators).
- iii. Plans for further collaboration/MOU with Kno'Qoti.
- b. Campus:
 - i. Smooth transition for students; positive student and teacher feedback.
 - ii. New AG pickup, funded by CTIG grant (thanks to Ms. Farrell).
- c. Back to School Night scheduled for Thursday, August 29 at 6:00pm (BBQ, community organizations, attendance focus, and free Elks T-shirts for attendees).
- d. Upcoming:
 - i. Picture day set for September 17.
 - ii. All board members registered for virtual SSDA Board Governance Training.

10. Old Business

- a. Board Policy Updates- CSBA Policy Updates June 2025
 - Review and approval of June batch of policy updates; detailed discussion around several key areas, especially those involving non-discrimination, gender identity, athletics, and student/facility access:
 - a. Board Policy 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District programs and Activities
 - b. Board Policy 0440 - District Technology Plan
 - c. Board Policy 0441 - Artificial Intelligence
 - d. Board Policy 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan
 - o Option 2
 - e. Board Policy 1113 - District and School Websites
 - o Option 2
 - f. Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures
 - o Option 2
 - g. Administrative Regulations 3512 - Equipment
 - h. Administrative Regulation 3542 - School Bus Drivers
 - i. Board Policy 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment
 - j. Board Policy 4033 - Lactation Accommodations
 - k. Board Policy 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notification
 - l. Board Policy 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment
 - m. Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures
 - n. Board Policy 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information
 - o. Administrative Regulation 5131.41 - Use of Seclusion and Restraint
 - p. Board Policy 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment
 - o 1st 3 paragraphs in #3
 - o Acts in sexual nature
 - o Take out the examples
 - o Compliance Officer (Superintendent Pendell)

- Strike the shared bathroom and keep the last line of all gender bathrooms
 - Extended Discussion on Gender Identity, Non-Discrimination, and Facilities Access:
 - Concerns raised about state-required language regarding access to sex-segregated facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms).
 - After discussion, the board opted to strike explicit language permitting gender-identity-based access, while keeping a requirement for at least one all-gender restroom per site.
 - The board discussed implications for athletics, safety, student privacy, and state policy; noted that CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) strongly supports transgender student participation.
 - Flexibility maintained via policy language allowing case-by-case solutions but not mandating access inconsistent with biological sex.
 - Parallel changes made in related policies covering athletic competition.
- q. Board Policy 5145.6 - Parent/Guardian Notifications
- r. Board Policy 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment
 - Strike out unwelcome
- s. Board Policy 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students
- t. Board Policy 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction
- u. Board Policy 6145.2 - Athletic Competition
 - Strike out - Gender Identity in, and in regulation
- v. Administrative Regulation 6159.4 - Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students
 - i. Motion to approve the June CSBA updates with the changes discussed
 - ii. Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

11. New Business

- a. Verification of Requirements
 - Credential Waiver for Ms. Millen
 - Approval of short-term staff permit/credential waiver; candidate entering credential program in October.
 - i. Motion to approve Ms. Millen's short term staff permit
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Diana Corkill
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.
- b. Tentative Agreement with CSEA for the 2024-2025 year.
 - Year-late negotiations concluded in June.

- Agreement grants 1.5% classified salary increase, retroactive to July 1, 2024 and raises district contribution to health insurance by \$250 (\$14,052 to \$14,302).
- Updates clarified for new hire notification, orientations, and campus video use policy.
 - i. Motion to accept the CSEA 24/25 Agreement.
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

c. CSEA Salary Schedule

- New schedule incorporates above changes; note correction that item refers to “classified” (not “certificated”).
 - Motion to accept the CSEA Salary Schedule.
 - Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
 - Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

d. MOU with CSEA for the 2025-2026 year

- For this year only, 194-day employees increased to 195 days due to calendar configuration; made official, with return to standard next year.
 - i. Motion to approve the additional day MOU for 25/26.
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

e. SCFT Salary Schedule

- Now reflects the 1.5% increase and updated health cap approved at the July meeting.
 - i. Motion to approve the SCFT Salary Schedule.
 - ii. Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

f. Indian Valley Update

- Ongoing community concern over abandoned or dilapidated portable buildings.
- Discussion: Proposal to prioritize demolition (not repair) of unviable portable unit(s); bid process/costs to follow; may tie to Prop 2 facility upgrade funds/master plan.
- The superintendent recommends deferring large costs there until funding is confirmed, but agrees to include demolition in the facilities master plan (in progress, target: complete by December/Christmas).
 - i. Motion to approve the additional day MOU for 25/26.
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

g. Public Relations Campaign

- Context: Noted student enrollment has dropped (net reduction of 12, with 21 exiting and 9 entering; majority moved out of the area).
- Special meeting recap: Board and admin are balancing efforts to recruit new students and support/enrich experiences of those enrolled (approx. 47 currently).
- Multiple recruitment/branding avenues discussed:
 - Targeted mailers in Orland, South Orland, Willows.
 - Professional signage/highway banners.
 - PR presence at community/county events, “tabling” at fairs, Back to School Night, etc.
 - Production of promotional videos, brochures, outreach materials.
 - Streamlined online registration (Aeries enrollment).
 - Family-oriented open houses.
- Funding: Final \$80,000 “CSI” grant (expires September 30, 2025) designated for these outreach activities, with priority on lasting assets (canopies, advertising, video); approval to proceed.
- Board consensus: PR/advertising campaign to go forward immediately (report back in September), with ongoing balance between enhancing current students’ experience and outreach.
 - i. No Action Needed.

Public Comment: Kyle Bill commented on the PR Campaign.

Public Comment: Aston Burrows commented on the PR Campaign.

Public Comment: Frank Pendell commented on the PR Campaign.

Public Comment: Edwin Pedell commented on the PR Campaign.

h. Live Streaming Regular Board Meetings

- Proposal: Begin streaming board meetings via district's YouTube channel to boost transparency and involvement for far-flung families.
- Discussion: Desire for improved audio; possible funding for AV upgrades via CSI grant.
- Online comment participation could be enabled in the future (logistical/ legal considerations noted—recorded meetings suffice for now).
- Policy review: No new formal policy needed; public meetings already recordable.
 - i. Motion to approve the livestreaming of Regular Board Meetings on the district youtube channel.
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

i. Superintendent Goals

- Focus for 2025–26:
- Attendance: Combat 48% chronic absenteeism (defined as ≥18 days missed/year).
- Development of a Shared Vision: To be revisited as part of ongoing training and engagement, and stressed as central to the district's mission.
- Instructional Leadership: Foster school culture where strong attendance supports academic gains.
- Facilities Management: Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan to prepare for state Prop 2 funds.
- Family/Community Engagement: Launch PR campaign showcasing student/staff achievements and district strengths.

12. Future Meeting Agenda Items

- Unaudited actuals for '24-'25
- Cultural awareness board training
- 30 minutes meeting with Superintendent Pendell

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ritta Martin", is written over a horizontal line.

Ritta Martin, President