

Stony Creek Joint Unified School District
Board Meeting Minutes
June 24, 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 June 24, 2025 at Elk Creek High School, Elk Creek, California.
- b. President Martin called the meeting to order at 5:05 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 5:05 pm to discuss the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| a. Gov. Code 54957.6 | Closed session regarding matters of negotiation with the SCFT, CSEA and unrepresented groups with designated representative Superintendent Emily Pendell. |
| b. Gov. Code 54957(b)(1) | Public Employment: Girls Volleyball Coach |
| c. Gov. Code 54957.6 | Closed session regarding matters of negotiation for Superintendent Contract. |

The Board adjourned Closed Session at 5:55 pm.

Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:01 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.
 - i. Others present: Superintendent Emily Pendell, CBO Dusty Thompson, Executive Assistant Dominique Buring, Zoe Brandenburger.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Closed Session Report

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| a. Gov. Code 54957.6: | No report at this time. |
| b. Gov. Code 54957(b)(1) | Public Employment: Diana Felipe selected for Girls Volleyball coach for the coming year with stipend. |
| c. Gov. Code 54957.6 | No report at this time. |

5. Approval on Agenda +

- Agenda for the meeting was approved.
- a. Motion: Cathie Bodeker, Seconded by: Krystal Craven.
 - 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 - See public comments under agenda item.
- b. Old Business - No comments at this time.
- c. New Business - No comments at this time.

8. Consent Calendar

- a. Minutes - Three sets of minutes: Regular meeting May 27th, special meetings May 1st and May 12th.
 - May 1, 2025 Minutes
 - Pulled for errors - Pulled for separate consideration.
 - Motion to pull minutes for separate consideration on May 1st Minutes
 - Motion: Ritta Martin, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
 - Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.
 - Correction to May 1st Minutes - Keep the itemized list of public comments under the public comment section, but move the comment above the voting results in the reported section.
 - Motion to approve with corrections on May 1st Minutes
 - Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - Voting Results: 3-0, 1 absent, Trustee Craven abstaining.

Public Comment: Zoe Brandenburger made a comment about minutes format.

b. Bills Warrants and Transfers

- A concern was raised over high legal expenses for the year.
 - As of May, legal fees billed and paid total \$97,000 (up to May), with additional payments expected in June.
 - No legal fees were paid in May.
 - Discussion clarified lag time in bill payments and reviewed budget packet pages to trace expenditures.
- Questions about expenditure duplications (specifically, repeated amounts for generators from Pride Electric), clarified as due to three different generator services and reissued checks after check fraud was detected and remedied.
- Discussion over travel expenses:
 - \$16,491 spent under "Educator Effectiveness Travel" by staff and board members (including conferences).
- Discussion about a recent large (\$35,000) PG&E payment, verified as an annual "true up." Cumbersome new PG&E account system discussed.

Public Comment: Zoe Brandenburger made a comment about legal fees.

c. New Hires

- New Hire - Diana Felipe - Girls Volleyball Coach.
 - i. Motion to approve the consent calendar with May 12th and May 27th minutes only, Item b (Bills, Warrants and Transfers) and item c (New Hires).
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

9. Reports

Student Report

- a. There was no Student Report at this time.

GPAC Report

- a. There was no GPAC Report at this time.

Board Members

- a. Trustee Craven - Had high praise for the recent graduations.
b. Trustee Bodeker - Shared the same sentiments.

- c. President Martin - Agreed that the graduation ceremonies were very nice.

CBO, Dusty Thompson

- a. Awaiting state budget adoption; reached agreement on June 24.
- b. Expecting discretionary block grant, likely ADA-based, to provide supplemental funds.
- c. 2024-25 enrollment closed at approximately 62-63 students, higher than census day due to student mobility.
- d. Financial update procedures outlined; noted impact of census day on unduplicated counts and LCFF calculations.

Superintendent/Principal, Emily Pendell

- a. End-of-Year Events:
 - i. Successful field trips, seamless kindergarten, 8th grade, and high school graduations (live-streamed/recorded).
 - ii. Elk Creek Elementary "Water Day": including bounce house/water slide, games, and snack bar.
- b. Summer Program:
 - i. Active summer school, combining elementary and high school students.
 - ii. High schoolers working on credit recovery, piloting "Bright Thinker" standards-based program (considered a significant instructional improvement over past packet-based credit recovery).
- c. Facilities Maintenance:
 - i. Deep cleaning, landscaping, ball wall renovation, repainting of Elk mural, library and conference room reorganization, and stage prep for future musicals/plays.
- d. Professional Development:
 - i. Ag teachers attending CATA; early childhood education conference; superintendent attending SSDA's new superintendent training.
 - ii. Perkins Grant: Awarded, providing extra funds for FFA travel after regaining appropriately credentialed staff.

10. Old Business

- a. Board Policy Updates - Graduation Requirements
 - Approved removal of "Computer Applications" as a graduation requirement; added five credits in Ethnic Studies and five credits in Financial Literacy, both now mandated by the state.
 - Ethnic Studies and Financial Literacy to be piloted with identified curricula in 2025-26; full adoption in subsequent year following pilot.

- These will be primarily senior-level courses due to scheduling constraints.
 - i. Motion to approve the Graduation Requirements
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodecker
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.
- b. Board Policy Updates - Mental Health
 - Board members expressed concern over policy provisions allowing students age 12+ to consent to mental health services.
 - Consensus: Table the item for additional review in a future meeting.
 - Deadline: Plan to be in place by January 31, 2026.
 - i. Motion to table for future meeting
 - ii. Motion: Ritta Martin, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.
- c. Board Policy Updates - Student Board Member
 - Debate over adopting a formal student board member position (would grant elective credit but not stipend/pay).
 - Considered conflict or redundancy with the current ASB student reporter position (which receives stipend and reports on all campuses).
 - No clear demand from students for a formal board member role.
 - i. Motion: Not to implement the student board member policy at this time; will continue with the paid ASB student reporter model, and review guidelines for future clarity.
 - ii. Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

11. New Business

- a. Presentation: Impactor Pathway
 - Presenter:
 - Danny, Co-CEO of Impactor Pathway.
 - Program Overview:
 - Based on Harvard's Making Caring Common framework (eight key attributes: curiosity, perspective taking, purpose, self-control, grit, growth mindset, compassion, gratitude).
 - Combines curriculum and technology: short, highly engaging lessons use social media content; students record video/audio reflections; platform uses machine learning to assess and report student growth on SEL traits.
 - Also offers a behavioral health screener developed with San Diego County Office of Education, with potential for Medi-Cal reimbursement (via CYBHI) if used for Tier 2 or 3 support.
 - Modules:

- Designed for 4th–12th grade; 6 courses (1 semester each); highly modular (about 15 mins/session; adaptable for advisory, counseling, or asynchronous).
 - Funding Streams Identified: Perkins, Golden State Pathways, Medi-Cal (CYBHI), other grants.
 - Q&A:
 - Data aligns to strategic planning, LCAP, and accountability reporting.
 - Pilot availability for curriculum; pricing/packages to be tailored for small districts.
 - Next Steps:
 - Superintendent will review the sample curriculum.
 - Board to revisit package options and grant opportunities for funding.
 - Follow-up:
 - Schedule item for next meeting after gathering price points.
- b. California Department of Education - Consolidated Application for Funding
- Application for Title I, II, and SRSA annually; choice between qualifying funds (REAP vs. RLIS), always opting for higher.
 - i. Motion to accept the ConApp.
 - ii. Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.
- c. FFA Superior Region Ag COLC
- At the board meeting, approval was requested for Ms. Farrell to accompany the FFA Officer Team to the California Officer Leadership Conference (COLC), scheduled to take place at Diamond Arrow Camp in Nevada City from August 15 to August 17, 2025. This conference, organized by the Superior Region, provides leadership training and development opportunities for chapter officers within agricultural education programs. The total estimated cost for the trip, which includes expenses for Ms. Farrell and one chaperone—a board member attending to fulfill supervision requirements for a male student—is approximately \$1,400. Funding for the conference will be fully covered through the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG).
 - Motion to approve the FFA Leadership Conference.
 - Motion: Cathie Bodeker, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
 - Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.
- d. FFA Officer Retreat
- During the board meeting, a request was presented for approval of an overnight retreat for five Elk Creek High School FFA officers and two adult chaperones. The retreat is scheduled for the week of July 21, 2025, and will

be held at The Creek House in Stonyford over a span of three days and two nights. This event is intended to foster leadership skills, strengthen team dynamics, and assist students in planning for the upcoming 2025–2026 school year. The cost for the house rental is \$300, with additional expenses for food, which the students will plan and prepare themselves as part of the retreat experience. All costs will be funded through the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG).

- i. Motion to approve FFA Officer Retreat.
- ii. Motion: Ritta Martin, Seconded by: Diana Corkill
- iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

The meeting recessed at 7:36 pm.

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:41 pm.

e. Public Hearing - 2025-2026 LCAP

- Open Hearing: 7:41 pm
- Goals and Measures:
 - Progress tracked on 5 main goals: school climate/culture & attendance, academic achievement (ELA, math, science), access to A-G/CTE/college readiness, credit recovery & graduation, and learning recovery interventions.
- Key Metrics:
 - Chronic absenteeism decreased; attendance up; Connectedness higher; but ELA and math achievement a concern (especially ELA in upper grades).
 - District graduation at 100% for the most recent year; CTE and A-G completion metrics delayed but improving.
 - New credit recovery efforts underway.
- Spending:
 - Small classes, intervention specialists, behavioral supports, ParentSquare attendance module, and more.
 - All additional/concentration funds (over 10.67% requirement) directed as required; detailed breakdown of expenditures/contributions included.
- Action:
 - Public hearing held; no public comment. LCAP approval scheduled for June 26 special meeting.
- Closed Hearing: 8:11 pm

f. Public Hearing - 2025-2026 Budget

- Open Hearing: 8:12 pm

- Deficit Spending: Projected \$190,000 deficit for 2025–26 due largely to the phase-out of COVID-era funds (ESSER III, CSI, Title I fluctuations, GSPP grant).
- Declining Enrollment:
 - LCFF funding will drop as three-year ADA “stair step” effects roll in (from 88 to 70 ADA, future 61, with actual enrollment currently in low 60s).
- Reserves:
 - Ending fund balance projected at \$2.1M as of July 2024, shrinking to under \$1M by end of 3-year projection (conservative estimates).
 - Minimum required reserve ~\$145,000.
- Fund Transfers/Use:
 - Ongoing transfers to cafeteria and capital reserve (Fund 40).
 - Fund 40 contributions (\$10,000/year) discussed; option to cease transfer if savings required.
 - Special Reserve Fund 20 for retirees’ post-employment benefits (only one current retiree; no anticipated additional needs).
- Interest Income:
 - Recent higher rates have boosted revenue, but future projections are conservative.
 - Comprehensive Budget Book reviewed (series of forms, fund statements, multi-year projections), credentialed employee status, and other required fiscal standards.
- Action:
 - Public hearing held; no public comment. Budget approval scheduled for June 26 special meeting.
- Closed Hearing: 8:35 pm

g. Resolution Approving Withdrawal from GSRMA

- To potentially pursue better rates on property/liability and workers compensation with Tri-County Schools Insurance Group (TCSIG).
- Resolution gives required 1-year notice; maintains flexibility.
- Action: Resolution adopted by roll call vote.
 - i. Motion to sign the resolution.
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Diana Corkill
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.
 - Ayes: Diana Corkill, Cathie Bodeker, Krystal Craven, Ritta Martin

h. Student ASB Representative Stipend

- Retroactive Stipend: \$150 to Kaleb Reagan, who served as ASB student rep, attended ≥75% meetings, and fulfilled reporting roles.

- Board to develop clearer process/policy and written job description for future positions.
 - i. Motion to approve award stipend and send certificate with the check.
 - ii. Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker.
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.
- i. Board Policy for Students Clubs
 - Current Student Groups: Club Live, Friday Night Live, Med Ed Club, and in-progress Native American Leadership Club (Kno'Quoti partnership).
 - Policy AR 6145.5:
 - The district maintains a "limited open forum"—any student may initiate a club, provides info & bylaws to principal, non-discrimination, staff may observe but not lead.
 - Off-campus presenters must be background-checked if supervising unsupervised minors.
 - Clarified procedures and consistent with legal requirements for equal access.
- j. July Board Meeting
 - July is problematic for full attendance due to vacations.
 - Decision: July 30, 2025, 2:00 pm closed session, 3:00 pm open session, at Indian Valley.
 - i. Motion to approve the revised date of the July meeting.
 - ii. Motion: Ritta Martin, Seconded by: Diana Corkill.
 - iii. Voting Results: 4-0, 1 absent.

12. Future Meeting Agenda Items

- ASB Student Representative Policy
- Native American Policy
- Mental Health Policy
- CSBA June Policy Updates - August meeting
- Impacter Pathways Update

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

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



Ritta Martin, President