

**Stony Creek Joint Unified School District
Board Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2025
Elk Creek High School Library
3430 Co. Rd. 309, Elk Creek, Ca. 95939**

1. Call To Order

- a. The Stony Creek Joint Unified School District Board of Education met in regular session on April 22, 2025 at Elk Creek High School, Elk Creek, California.
- b. President Martin called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

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

Closed Session

The Board recessed into Closed Session at 5:46 pm to discuss the following:

- a. Gov. Code 54957.6 Closed session regarding matters of negotiation with the SCFT and CSEA with designated representative Superintendent Emily Pendell

Open Session

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 6:07 pm.

2. Roll Call

- a. Members of the board in attendance were: Ritta Martin, Delana Martin, Cathie Bodecker, Krystal Craven, Diana Corkill.
 - i. Others present: Superintendent Emily Pendell, CBO Dusty Thompson, Executive Assistant Dominique Buring.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Closed Session Report

- a. Gov. Code 54957.6: No report at this time.

5. Approval on Agenda

Agenda for the meeting was approved.

- a. Motion: Delana Martin, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker.
- b. Voting Result: Unanimously approved.

6. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- a. Mr. Reagan gave the Athletic Director Report.

7. Comments on Agenda Items

- a. Consent Calendar - See public comments under agenda item.
- b. 4-Day Week Update - See public comments under agenda item.

8. Consent Calendar

- a. Minutes - Two sets of minutes: Regular meeting March 31st, Special meetings March 10th.
 - Concerns raised by Trustee Corkill about the layout of the minutes. Asked to have the header only on page 1.
 - Motion to approve the Consent Calendar excluding the March 31st minutes.
 - Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - Voting Results: Unanimously approved.
 - March 31st Minutes
 - Add Previous in front of Board under New Business for the district boundaries
 - Superintendent Report - Add (i.) Board Comment and (ii.) Superintendent Pendell's reply; after Superintendents Pendell's discussion about LCAP goals. Add LCAP in front of all goal comments. On i. Change Trustee Craven to President Martin.
 - Motion to approved with the corrected updates on March 31st minutes
 - Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
 - Voting Results: Unanimously approved.
- b. Bills Warrants and Transfers
 - Discussion on financial report types

- Trustee Corkill inquired about the transaction report.
- i. Motion to approve the consent calendar with March 10th minutes only and Item b (Bills, Warrants and Transfers).
- ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
- iii. Voting Results: Unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Consent Calendar - Zoe Brandenberger made a comment on minutes.

9. Reports

Student Report

- a. Kaleb Regean, ASB Student Representative, shared updates on the cancellation of the flag football tournament fundraiser due to low sign ups, and the upcoming Sports Banquet.

GPAC Report

- a. Aston Burrows shared about the positive collaboration on Native American policies with the District.
- b. Development of graduation sashes and necklaces for Native American students.
- c. Upcoming budget work for next year.
- d. Distribution of Native American books from Family Literacy Night.

Board Members

- a. Trustee Corkill - Spoke with Colusa and Glenn County about the boundaries. The boundaries are set the way they are because Grindstone is only showing 162 eligible people. Trustee Corkill suggested strong outreach to the area to get Grindstone residents registered correctly.
- b. Trustee Craven - Expressed her gratitude and enjoyment with attending the small schools conference and shared that she learned a lot in the breakout sessions.
- c. Trustee Bodeker - Expressed her delight in the amount of good comments she witnessed about Superintendent Pendell at the small schools conference.
- d. President Martin - Talked about the few lectures she sat in on and the knowledge that she gained from the small schools conference.

CBO

- a. CBO Dusty Thompson, relayed that April 15th, the deadline for P2 funding has passed. The numbers for the funding are taken the last full month of attendance

prior to April 15th. GCOE will finalize the report and be able to see what it means for funding for the district.

- b. They are looking forward to the Governor's May revision which is May 14, 2025. The Governor will need to present his projected budget for 25-26 prior to the adaptation in June. Once GCOE receives those numbers they will update the budget for 2025 and project for 2026. Upcoming elections and budget adoption meetings will need to be scheduled for June.

Superintendent/Principal

- a. Current Enrollment:

Superintendent Pendell reported current district-wide enrollment as of today:

- i. Elk Creek Elementary: 38 students
- ii. Elk Creek High School: 22 students
- iii. Total Enrollment: 60 students

- b. Small School Districts Association (SSDA) Conference:

Superintendent Pendell thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the SSDA State Conference. She emphasized the value of networking with other small school district leaders across California and engaging in discussions that address the unique challenges faced by rural districts like SCJUSD. A conference highlight was the keynote presentation by Dr. Joe Sanfilippo, who focused on school culture and the importance of "telling your story." Inspired by his message, Superintendent Pendell is currently pursuing small projects to strengthen school pride, including seeking funding and donor support.

- c. Legislative Action Day Participation:

Following the conference, Superintendent Pendell participated in the first-ever SSDA Legislative Action Day. She joined a small group meeting with the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) to advocate for small school districts. Key topics included the difficulties rural districts face in accessing state facility funds, particularly concerning the \$200,000 cost of a facilities master plan. Discussions centered around how small districts can navigate these barriers, especially with the upcoming Prop 2 funding and its 11% carve-out for small districts. OPSC representatives expressed interest in SCJUSD's challenges and indicated they plan to visit the district, including Indian Valley, to gain firsthand insight. They are currently in the process of drafting the rules for Prop 2 funding access, and Superintendent Pendell remains hopeful that the district's narrative will positively influence that process.

- d. Student Programs & College Readiness:

- i. The FFA program continues to grow. Four students attended the FFA State Conference at the Golden 1 Center and represented the district

proudly. Thanks were extended to Ms. Farrell and Trustee Bodeker for chaperoning.

- ii. The Med Ed Club, in partnership with Princeton High School, visited UC Davis to explore medical careers. Thank you to Ms. Michael for coordinating.
 - iii. 9th and 10th grade students toured Shasta College.
 - iv. Seniors participated in Butte College's Reg2Go program to register for college courses. Appreciation was extended to Mr. Bryant for facilitating both trips.
- e. State Testing:
State testing is underway. Student morale is reported as strong, especially at the elementary level, with encouraging early feedback.

10. Old Business

- a. 4-Day Week Update
 - President Martin read the document (attached) into the record.

Public Comment

4-Day Week Update - Diana Felipe, Aston Burrows, Cynthia and Daniel Reagan made comments.

11. New Business

- a. Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints
Superintendent Pendell notated that there were no complaints.
 - i. Motion to accept the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints.
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Delana Martin
 - iii. Voting Results: Unanimously approved.
- b. Conference Attendance Request – Cassidy Millen
 - Superintendent Pendell presented a request on behalf of Miss Millen, the district's TK/Kindergarten teacher, to attend the Frog Street Curriculum Conference in Texas during the summer. This conference directly supports the curriculum she currently uses in her classroom. The estimated cost for registration, lodging, and related expenses is \$1,723. Additional costs are expected for airfare (approximately \$300) and meals, though food costs are anticipated to be minimal as the venue is an all-inclusive resort. The total expense is estimated to be slightly over \$2,000. Funding for this professional development opportunity would come from the Educator Effectiveness Grant.

- Superintendent Pendell expressed strong support for the request, noting her enthusiasm when teachers choose to use their personal time to grow professionally and improve their instructional practice. President Ritta Martin and Trustee Diana Corkill, expressed appreciation for Miss Millen's dedication and affirmed the importance of early education. They discussed the positive impact of strong foundational programs and noted that Miss Millen plays a crucial role in fostering student engagement from the start of their educational journey.
- It was confirmed that the Educator Effectiveness Grant account has a current balance of approximately \$18,500, and this request would represent a modest and appropriate use of those funds. The Board expressed support for the request and the value it brings to the district and its students.
- i. Motion to approve Miss Millen's request to attend the Frog Street Curriculum Conference
- ii. Motion: Delana Martin, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
- iii. Voting Results: Unanimously approved.

c. District Legal Counsel

- Trustee Craven shared information about a legal services option presented during a breakout session at the Small School Districts Association (SSDA) conference. The attorney, affiliated with the law firm McDougal, Boehmer, Foley, Lyon, Mitchell & Erickson, offers a legal support program tailored for small school districts. The plan includes unlimited telephone consultations for \$1.50 per ADA, which would total approximately \$90 annually for SCJUSD. This fee covers unlimited legal questions by phone, with any extended legal services beyond consultation billed at the firm's standard hourly rate.
- Trustee Craven noted that this service could offer the district timely and cost-effective legal guidance for routine matters such as agenda preparation, meeting procedures, or Brown Act compliance—issues that currently result in higher costs through hourly billing with existing firms.
- She clarified that this service would not be in addition to current firms, but a potential replacement for Kingsley Bogard, citing delays in responsiveness from that firm. There was discussion among board members about the value of this new offering, the firm's reputation, and its alignment with the needs of a small district. Several board members expressed interest in the concept but requested further information.
- The Board asked Trustee Craven to reach out to other districts currently using this legal support service to gather feedback on their experiences.

There was no action taken at this time; the item will be revisited once additional information is collected. Board members agreed it would be helpful to understand the scope of legal services provided through this model and how it compares in practice to current providers.

- It was also suggested that the Board consider whether F3 Law, another current provider, could serve as sole counsel if broader legal services are needed. The discussion included the possibility of using F3 for extended matters while using the Erickson firm for ongoing advisory support.
- The conversation concluded with general agreement to continue exploring options that better support the district's legal needs in a timely and cost-efficient manner.
- i. Motion to have Trustee Craven to gather more information to bring to the board
- ii. Motion: Diana Corkill, Seconded by: Cathie Bodeker
- iii. Voting Results: Unanimously approved.

d. Impactor Pathway

- Trustee Craven introduced a potential new educational platform called Impactor Pathway, which leverages artificial intelligence to assess and support student development across non-academic traits such as compassion, grit, purpose, and determination. The platform integrates with existing systems, including IREADY, and provides real-time scoring and feedback through voice analysis and AI-based assessments. It is designed to elevate student voice, build self-awareness, and foster growth in areas aligned with future career pathways.
- The program allows prompts to be recorded by respected community voices (e.g., GPAT representatives), with students then responding through recorded reflections. These responses are analyzed by AI, offering both students and educators insight into character development in addition to academic growth. The platform also supports daily practice activities, career-aligned prompts, and self-directed goal setting. Trustee Craven emphasized the potential for the program to foster student ownership and accountability in their learning journeys.
- Funding options were also discussed. Trustee Craven noted that while the platform may appear costly, specific grants are available, especially for small districts like SCJUSD. She confirmed that no costs would be drawn from the general fund.
- The board expressed interest in learning more and supported the idea of scheduling a full presentation. It was recommended that teachers be invited to attend, as they would be the primary users of the system. There

was also discussion connecting this platform to initiatives like the “Portrait of a Graduate.”

- i. Motion to have Superintendent Pendell reach out to Impater Pathways for a presentation.
- ii. Motion: Ritta Martin, Seconded by: Krystal Craven
- iii. Voting Results: Unanimously approved.

e. 2025-2026 District Calendar

- Superintendent Pendell presented the 25-26 District calendar and explained that, in accordance with education code, the district is required to offer at least 180 instructional days. The proposed calendar includes 181 instructional days, with no flex days, to avoid confusion and scheduling issues experienced in the previous year.
 - Staff were presented with three calendar options and asked to vote; the selected calendar received the most votes. The first day of school will be August 13, 2025, and the last day will be May 29, 2026.
 - The spring break will occur during the week of March 16, providing a balanced break between Christmas and the end of the school year. In addition, the calendar includes a day off following Easter Sunday, which falls on April 5, 2026, making Monday, April 6 a non-attendance day.
 - Board members discussed the movement of Easter each year and expressed appreciation that the calendar considered staff and student needs. The inclusion of the post-Easter day off was also well-received, given past feedback about student fatigue after the holiday.
 - The board acknowledged the democratic process used to gather staff input and confirmed that the calendar meets all legal requirements.
- i. Motion to approve 25-26 District Calendar as presented
 - ii. Motion: Krystal Craven, Seconded by: Delana Martin
 - iii. Voting Results: Unanimously approved.

f. Board Policy Updates - March 2025

- President Martin and Superintendent Pendell made the first read of the March 2025 update packet. Board requested Superintendent Pendell share the guide sheet.

12. Board consideration for future agenda items

- ECE Walkthrough
- Office Manager Salary Schedule
- Native American Policies

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ritta Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ritta Martin, President