

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION – DECEMBER 4, 2025

The Board of Education of the Aspen Peaks School District met in a study session on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 8:40 AM. The study session took place in the boardroom at the Alpine School District office.

Board members present: Board President Diane Knight, Vice President Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, Jason Hart, and Jason Theler. Present via phone: Steven Sparti.

Also present: There were approximately 0 others in attendance.

Superintendent Search Criteria

Board member Jason Theler and committee reviewed the brochures provided by USBA and used one as a template to draft an initial version of the superintendent brochure. He presented the progress made so far, and the Board expressed support for the current language. The Board also worked on identifying search criteria, including the characteristics and qualities they are seeking in a superintendent.

Board Benefits

President Knight discussed aligning benefits with ASD by making them available to everyone. The option of offering a stipend in lieu of benefits was raised; however, there are logistical challenges. Individuals have a 30-day window to accept or decline coverage, and any changes would require a public hearing. It is too late to add this item to next week's board meeting agenda, so the earliest opportunity for action would be the January board meeting. It was noted that insurance cannot be added and later dropped unless there is a qualifying life event or it is during open enrollment. If an individual already knows they prefer the stipend, they should decline the insurance.

Vice President Bonner reinforced that insurance cannot be added and then dropped outside of the open enrollment period or without a qualifying life event. The Board reviewed two (2) options for issuing a stipend: monthly or as a one-time annual payment. Vice President Bonner recommended a single annual payment due to potential delays caused by holiday schedules. Individuals who know they prefer the stipend may decline insurance now, and the stipend can be issued in January once approved. The proposed stipend amount would align with the cost of a single-coverage insurance premium, estimated at roughly \$10,000.00, which would result in significant savings for the district. When the policy is formally discussed, these details can be confirmed. This information provides the context needed for Board members to make their decisions.

Additional Board Business

President Knight advised the Board's training meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th at 9:00am at Alpine School District, District Office. Board members should have received an email confirmation of their hotel reservations for the USBA conference in January, and conference registration has already been submitted.

For the December 11th Study Session, potential agenda items include a presentation from Eric Woodhouse pertaining to an expanded boundary study or a review of capital needs. Following Saturday's training, board members will send an email containing their top three (3) choices for committee assignments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 AM.