

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 15, 2026

The Board of Education of the Aspen Peaks School District met in a board meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 6:03 PM. The board meeting took place in the boardroom at the Alpine School District office.

Board members present: President Diane Knight, Vice President Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, Jason Hart, and Steve Sparti. Absent: Jason Theler.

Also present: There were approximately 8 others in attendance.

President Diane Knight conducted the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board member Jason Hart.

Reverence

Reverence was given by Board member Nicki Brammer.

Vice President Bonner made the motion to adjourn from the board meeting to go into the public hearing and Board member Burrows seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

OPENED BOARD MEETING AT 6:17 PM.

Board member Sparti made the motion to reopen the board meeting and it was seconded by Board member Burrows. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

There were no community comments.

MINUTES

President Knight recommended the approval of the December board meeting minutes. Vice President Bonner made the motion to approve the December board meeting minutes, and it was seconded by Board member Brammer. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS

President Knight recommended that the Board accept the December Claims report. Board member Sparti made the motion to accept the December Claims report, and it was seconded by Vice President Bonner. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Board Compensation

Board member Brammer reviewed SB188 as it relates to the Board compensation policy. She discussed the provision allowing board members who already have health insurance coverage to receive a stipend in lieu of district-provided insurance. The proposed stipend would be equivalent to the cost of a single-party health insurance plan, resulting in a lower overall expense for the district and savings for taxpayers.

Board member Hart motioned to change Board member compensation to the offer Board members the option to receive District Plan A health insurance at no cost or a stipend equal to the monthly

cost of the District Plan A health plan for a single party, retroactive to the first offered month of coverage, and it was seconded by Vice President Bonner.

Vice President Bonner expressed support for the proposal, noting that it saves the district money while still providing a benefit to board members, and stated she was satisfied with the tradeoff.

Board member Brammer added that she consulted with other city councils and elected officials, many of whom offer a similar stipend at a lower cost as a means of saving taxpayer dollars, emphasizing that this approach is well established and an effective way to provide compensation.

The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Policy #9092 – School Calendar Adoption

Board member Sparti read the Policy Statement, which outlined the purpose of the policy, Board expectations, and the process for creating and submitting school calendars.

Board member Sparti motioned to approved Policy# 9092, and it was seconded by Vice President Bonner.

Vice President Bonner sought clarification on whether the policy permits the Board to adopt more than one school-year calendar at a time, noting that Alpine School District policy currently allows adoption of only a single calendar. **Board member Sparti** confirmed that the proposed policy does allow for adopting multiple school-year calendars.

Board member Sparti also shared that significant feedback had been received from teachers regarding the additional day during winter break and noted that the Board reviewed the calendar across future years, explaining that scheduling can be challenging depending on when Christmas falls.

President Knight further clarified that the policy under consideration authorizes the Board to adopt more than one school-year calendar at a time.

The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approve the APSD Calendars for 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30 (From ASD Calendars)

President Knight explained that the Board was voting on the adoption of three recommended calendars from the Alpine School District. She stated that a Calendar Committee had been formed and emphasized that developing the calendars is a complex process that incorporates input from teachers, parents, and students. She noted that the most frequently requested item was to designate the first day back in January as a Teacher Work Day, and that there was strong interest in continuing this practice in future years. However, she explained that due to the timing of Christmas in the 2028–2029 and 2029–2030 school years, it was not possible to schedule a Teacher Work Day in January. As a result, the committee chose to schedule the Teacher Work Day on the last day before Winter Break, with the understanding that it would serve as a flexible work day.

Vice President Bonner made a motion to adopt the 2027-2028, 2028-2029, and 2029-2030 school year calendars that Alpine School District previously approved, with the caveat that the second and third years, that Teacher Work Day be a flexible work day to be used over the break rather than a specific day, and it was seconded by Board member Burrows.

Vice President Bonner discussed the school calendars and noted that many teachers strongly supported having a Teacher Work Day in January and wanted to continue that practice. She observed that two of the proposed calendars did not include this feature. Alternative options were discussed, including placing the work day on the Friday before school begins; however, this would eliminate a full weekend. She noted that Alpine had already planned for flexibility in scheduling the work day, expressed enthusiasm for the approach, and stated that providing teachers with this flexibility is a positive and innovative solution.

Board member Burrows shared feedback from a teacher she encountered during the break, who expressed appreciation for the January Teacher Work Day. Board member Burrows noted that she reviewed the calendars closely, including considerations such as daylight-saving time, which the district

has off this year and which can be challenging for students, as well as Halloween, which will fall on a Sunday. She indicated these were among the factors she considered prior to approving the calendars.

Board member Brammer shared that she has received significant teacher feedback supporting the additional day in January and would like to continue supporting that change, noting it has not been reflected in the last two years' calendars. However, she has also heard substantial feedback from parents expressing concern about starting school in the second week of August, with many feeling that summer is shortened and preferring a start date no earlier than August 20th. Board Member Brammer proposed making an alternative motion: she is comfortable approving the 2027–2028 calendar but would like the Board to address these concerns in the 2028–2029 and 2029–2030 calendars. She also encouraged community and teacher input on future calendar planning.

Board member Brammer motioned to amend the current motion to approve the 2027-2028 calendar and table the 2028-2029 and 2029-2030 calendars to gather more feedback from the community, and it was seconded by Board member Hart.

Vice President Bonner stated she will be voting against the proposal. She reflected on her experience with older children in school, noting that when the second term ended 10 days into January, it felt like the break was not truly a break for either teachers or students. Assignments were due before Christmas, requiring teachers to grade over the break or students to study for tests immediately upon returning. Based on a survey conducted, parents indicated a preference for an earlier start date. She explained that if the first and second semesters are to be equal in length, the school must either start earlier in August or allow the term to extend beyond Christmas break. Many teachers and parents, she noted, prefer the term to end before Christmas. While not opposed to community feedback, she expressed concern about starting later in August, noting that adjusting the calendar could affect the balance of instructional days between terms and potentially reduce student instructional time.

Board member Hart shared that, as a teacher, he would have appreciated having the Teacher Day in January and values the flexibility of that day in the future. He indicated he agreed with Board Member Brammer on approving the 2027–2028 calendar, but emphasized the importance of surveying the community to determine if additional adjustments are needed. He acknowledged that the proposed calendar may create misalignment with other districts and suggested reviewing the 2028–2029 and 2029–2030 calendars before approving them.

Board member Brammer commented that it was a great discussion and emphasized the intention to approach the calendar thoughtfully. She noted that for the 2028–2029 and 2029–2030 calendars, only three (3) student days would need to be adjusted to move the start date to after August 20th. She stated a preference for not starting before August 20th and recommended taking additional time to survey the community and further review the calendars.

The Board members who voted in favor were Board member Brammer, Board member Sparti, and Board member Hart, and those who voted against were Board member Burrows, Vice President Bonner, and Board President Knight.

The Board agreed to table the conversation until they can bring it to the next Board meeting after further review.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Board member Burrows reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. She provided an update on the district logo contest, noting that it has opened and four (4) submissions have been received so far. She mentioned that there have been numerous questions, particularly regarding AI-generated submissions, clarifying that anything created using AI cannot be trademarked. She noted the contest will close at the end of the month and expressed excitement about the initiative and commented that staff engagement has generated enthusiasm for the new district. Board member Burrows announced a community night on January 28th at the District Office with

the final Superintendent applicants, emphasizing the importance of community participation. Community members are encouraged to submit questions via email to burrows4schoolboard@gmail.com; all questions will be reviewed. The event will include a Q&A session during the first hour, followed by a meet-and-greet in the second hour.

Vice President Bonner provided an update on the Superintendent Search Committee and expressed excitement about the progress that has been made. She stated that USBA's Richard Stowell's expertise was utilized in developing the application, and that Board members contributed significant effort to its creation. She noted that the application period closed last Friday with approximately 20 submissions received. Vice President Bonner reported that over the past three days, about 75 community members have reviewed the applications and provided feedback regarding which candidates they would like to see interviewed. She explained that each Board member also had the opportunity to nominate individuals from their area, including city leaders, state board members, and Alpine Board members, resulting in a strong and diverse pool of candidates. She expressed appreciation for the work of the community and Board members, noting that their participation and feedback has been invaluable. Vice President Bonner stated that the Board will deliberate and begin interviews, with finalists participating in the upcoming community meeting. She added that the Superintendent announcement is expected around the first week of February.

Board member Brammer provided an update on the Business Administrator (BA) Search Committee, noting that the process officially opened last week. She stated that significant time was spent over the Christmas break developing the application. She explained that the BA role is distinct from the Superintendent position, requiring a different knowledge base focused on areas beyond teaching and learning. The application was intentionally crafted to attract candidates with Chief Financial Officer experience and startup skills. Board Member Brammer reported that she reviewed other BA announcements from neighboring districts and expressed satisfaction with how the application turned out. She noted that the position is now posted on the USBA website, which has received 57 page views so far, and has also been shared through the website "Handshake." The KSL job posting went live yesterday and has received 110 views, with one application submitted to date. She stated that the posting will remain open until February 13th, after which the hiring process will proceed in collaboration with the new Superintendent. Board Member Brammer expressed enthusiasm about involving the new Superintendent's expertise and feedback in the selection process.

President Knight remarked on the numerous exciting developments taking place as the Aspen Peaks School District launches. She stated that she is enthusiastic about being part of these efforts and looks forward to the opportunities ahead.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Board member Burrows and seconded by Board member Sparti, the meeting adjourned into a closed session to discuss personnel issues at 6:52 PM. The Board Members who voted in favor were President Diane Knight, Vice President Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, Jason Hart, and Steven Sparti.

MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION – JANUARY 15, 2026

The Board of Education of the Aspen Peaks School District met in a closed session on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 7:15 PM. The meeting was held in the administrative conference room at the Alpine School District office.

Board members present: President Diane Knight, Vice President Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, Jason Hart, and Steve Sparti. Remote: Jason Theler at 7:34 PM.

The purpose of the closed session was to discuss personnel, property, litigation, and collective bargaining.

ADJORNMENT

On motion by Board member Burrows and seconded by Board member Hart, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

APPROVED