**Region 9 Education Cooperative**
**Coordinating Council**
**April 1, 2026**

**Minutes of the budget work session of the Region 9 Coordinating Council**

Chair Lee called the budget work session to order at 9:00 am with in person attendees were Mr. Lee, Mr. Patterson, Ms. Ferguson, and Ms. Gillespie; attending via Zoom: Dr. Serrano and Ms. Montoya, who joined at 9:11 am, not in attendance was Ms. Encinias.

Ms. Lindsay gave an overview of the budget using the same format she had presented in previous years, which shows anticipated revenues, expenditures, and budget. Ms. Lindsay informed the council that Region 9 was increasing the operating line item this year due to building ownership and forecasting for maintenance, insurance, and related costs.

During the presentation, Ms. Lindsay highlighted a one-time funding application that Head Start submitted for $4 million. These funds, if awarded, will only pay for construction costs from the date of the award, but will roll over and may be used for additional work at the Head Start location, formerly the City Bank building. These funds have not been included in the budget, but we will look forward to a positive response to our application. Region 9 had been previously awarded funds through this process, but it was not transferable to the new Early Childhood Center project, so a reapplication was needed. In this current fiscal year, Region 9 is committed to $2.2 million to begin the construction at the old Seasons Nursery, and will be encumbering $3.8 million for FY27. Mr. Dooley mentioned that Region 9 has been successful in securing a $500,000 request through Representative Stansbury's office, a $1 million appropriation from Senator Ben Ray Lujan's office, and legislative capital outlay in the amount of $450,000, for close to $2 million in supplemental funds to support the Early Head Start Project.

Ms. Lindsay also noted that each year Region 9 is very conservative when budgeting for contract work with the NM PED. That usually, 50% of existing contracts we feel confident about renewing is used to prepare the budget. Mr. Dooley indicated we are already hearing about work for FY27, which gives us confidence the work will come. As an example of contract work that is beneficial to Region 9's funding, he discussed the GPA pilot program. This contract will expand statewide next year, which could also increase our indirect as well. Mr. Dooley explained how the funding and criteria for the project work. The funding is designed to assist students experiencing homelessness. Liaisons who are employees of the districts will collaborate with the students to make sure they are meeting the requirements. The liaisons will then give the PED team a list of students to collect data and pass it on to Region 9. Region 9 will then receive an affidavit notarized by the school to confirm their enrollment. Once enrollment is confirmed, Region 9 will receive a certified bank letter or voided check from the student to transfer $500 to their account with PED authorization. The GPA program is a $4.9 million IGA that Region 9 runs on its behalf. There are currently 32 districts participating, and to be eligible, students must be enrolled in school and meet the attendance and GPA requirements.

Ms. Lindsay continued to explain the remaining budget, which included the Related services budget, the Technology budget, which includes a proposed Cyber Security position. Region 9 books the Region services we charge on contracts as revenue to the Finance Dept. She discussed the Executive Director and Internal Supports budget. School Based Health (SBHC) under Ms. McEwen's directorship has done a nice job in finding supplemental funds, which helps offset the costs Region 9 incurs and does not pass on to our members.

Overall, we are looking at 2.9 million to cover the startup deficit, which is the lowest number we have had in the last 9 years.. The budget includes increased costs for building repair, accounts for a 1% salary increase in the salary schedule, and also includes moving to a 80/20 model for benefits for employees. Mr. Dooley mentioned that updated salary schedules will be presented at the next meeting. The Region 9 salary schedules have multiple issues ranging from compaction to lines being deleted, to inconsistent percentages between steps. Additionally, he noted that the membership fee has been removed. Mr. Dooley reiterated that the NM PEd continues to like working with Region 9, and we have a lot of confidence that the work will continue. Mr. Dooley stated that this is a reasonable budget and will bring it back to the next meeting with additional updates are we are made aware so the Coordinating Council can review a final time and possibly approve for submission.

Ms. Ferguson requested a list of increments and their purposes. Mr. Dooley said he would be happy to meet with any superintendents after the meeting to share the documents they would like to see regarding salaries and increments. Ms. Lindsay mentioned that the current cash balance is $9 million, plus an additional $2 million for a certificate of deposit (CD).

The budget meeting workshop ended at 9:24 a.m.

## Minutes of the Region 9 Coordinating Council meeting

**4/1/2026**

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m. with in-person attendees: Mr. Lee, Mr. Patterson, Ms. Ferguson, and Ms. Gillespie, attending via Zoom: Dr. Serrano and Ms. Montoya. Not in attendance was Ms. Encinias.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Order and Content of Agenda. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Ferguson. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Monotoya-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

**Approval items:**
Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the previous minutes for February 2026. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Ferguson. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the previous month's vouchers for February 2026. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Ferguson. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Budget Adjustment Requests (BARS). Ms. Ferguson made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Gillespie. A roll call vote ensued; Ms. Ferguson-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

**Discussion Items**

Ms. Encinias joined the meeting at 9:33 am

*Region 9 Early Childhood Buildings Update - Infrastructure As A Service (IAAS) Mr. Phipps*

Mr. Phipps gave an update on the Region 9 Early Head Start Construction Project Phase II. He reported that Gallegos Trucking has demolished the old car wash off the East side of the building, and Insight Construction has cut back the portico at the front entrance. Gallegos Trucking has completed the overexcavation of soil for the addition and has begun placing the soil back in lifts.

*Region 9 Head Start Fire Alarm*:

The fire alarm has been completed. Inspections by the State Fire Marshal and Construction Industries Division are done. CID issued our Certificate of Occupancy. J & G Electric provided training for the staff regarding how to conduct a fire drill and operate the panel in the event the system has a trouble code. The system is being monitored by Western States Fire Protection.

*Region 9 Head Start Cameras*

Indoor cables and cameras have been installed. The project is about 50% complete. The Region 9 techs will continue to complete the project.

**Director's Status Report**

Mr. Dooley reported that the budget development process is currently underway with all Region 9 departments. The Home Visiting program currently has 103 individuals enrolled and is now serving the communities of Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs, Carrizozo, Nogal, Hondo, San Patricio, Mescalero, and Tularosa. Superintendent Ferguson asked how the Region 9 Childfind numbers were, and that Ruidoso had a light turnout. She was curious if Region 9 had seen changes. Mr. Dooley indicated that he will reach out to Ms. Smith, our Child Find Coordinator, to obtain more information.

He also noted that the Educational Services team is working on the All District Planning. Jonathan Alsheimer will be the keynote speaker. Ms. Lindsay and her team are working on the agenda, vendor participation, and catering for the event. Mr. Dooley noted that a copy of the March newsletter from Educational Services was provided to those in person and that those attending via Zoom can access the newsletter through the hyperlink in the status report.

He also provided updates on various departments. The Technology Department continues to handle support requests effectively. The Internal Supports team is excited to welcome Rachel Bray, Sandra Coleman, and Emilee Lindsay as the new Project Coordinators. Additionally, Amy Duncan has been appointed as the new Internal Supports Director.

In Human Resources, new hires for the Internal Supports and Home Visiting programs were announced. The resignations of Roy Lumberera and Olivia Herrera have also been accepted. Ms. Ferguson inquired about the Head Start Deputy Director position that MS. Hernandez had recently taken. Mr. Dooley shared that Region 9 created this role while consolidating positions after attrition. Due to declining enrollment and classroom closures, attrition had created an opportunity to reorganize roles and responsibilities.

Mr. Dooley said that he has limited updates regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) and will provide more information at the next meeting. Mr. Patterson suggested that a good contact for SRO related inquires is the SRO in Hondo. Additionally, Ms. Gillespie noted that there is a grant available for law enforcement, and she will send Mr. Dooley the details about the grant.

Chair Lee requested a motion to convene the Coordinating Council into closed session at 10:35 a.m. to discuss limited personnel matters pursuant to section NMSA 1978, 10-15-1 (H)(2), concerning the evaluation of the Executive Director of Region 9. No action will be taken in the Executive Session. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Gillespie. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Patterson -yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Mr. Lee-yes, and Ms Encinias-yes. With all members voting in favor, the Coordinating Council retired to Closed Session.

Chair Lee requested a motion to reconvene from executive session at 11:32 a.m., stating that no action was taken in the executive session, and only the items listed were discussed. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call vote ensued: Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, and Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the Coordinating Council returned to Open Session.

Items for the next meeting will include salary schedules, the election of a chairperson, a closed session on limited personnel matters, and an update on the School Resource Officer (SRO).

Chair Lee requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call vote ensued: Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. The meeting adjourned.

Jocelyn Driscoll-Gillespie

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| Jocelyn Gillespie, Chair | 4-22-2026<br>Date |