Region 9 Education Cooperative

2002 Sudderth Dr.
Ruidoso, NM 88345
Also available by Zoom - Join Zoom Meeting
Date & Time April 22, 2026 9:00 AM

Minutes of the Region 9 Coordinating Council Budget work session and regular meeting on 4/22/2026

Budget Work Session for FY 2027

Chair Lee opened the budget workshop at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Lindsey presented the Budget Schedule for the Region and then invited questions. With no questions raised, she provided an overview of the budget and its considerations. There were not many changes since last month's discussion; however, she noted that updates to revenue could occur based on new information, and those updates would be added prior to adoption. Mr. Dooley shared that at this point, Region 9 is very confident in our budget and revenue projections.

Ms. Encinias sought clarification regarding the operating member fee. Mr. Dooley stated that there was no membership fee charged this year. Ms. Lindsey explained that the budget item associated with this fee covers expenses for the Executive Director, building maintenance, and other support services essential for operating Region 9. This budget is necessary to keep Region 9 functional. With no further questions, the budget workshop concluded at 9:07 a.m.

Regular Meeting

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Followed by the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. Members physically present: Chair Lee, Mr. Patterson, and Ms. Gillespie. Present on Zoom: Ms. Ferguson, Dr. Serrano, and Ms. Encinias. Absent: Ms. Montoya.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Gillespie. A roll call ensued: Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes for April 1, 2026. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Gillespie. A roll call ensued: Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the vouchers for March 2026. Mr. Dooley explained that there is a significant volume of stipends for Ed Fellows and Hard-to-Staff IGAs. Ms. Encinias inquired about the CTE Admin and the BIE, to which Ms. Lindsey clarified that these are associated with the IGA for College and Career and Readiness. Ms. Encinias also requested a breakdown of the stipends to gain a better understanding of their purposes. Ms. Lindsey said she will present the stipends to the board, including object codes or vendor information for review in the future. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and Mr. Patterson seconded it. A roll call vote followed: Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, and Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

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

Mr. Dooley indicated that Superintendent Gormley of Socorro Schools had expressed interest in becoming a member of the Region 9 Education Cooperative. Following a thorough discussion and a review of the membership application process, the members concluded that, at this time, they must decline Socorro Schools' request for membership in Region 9.

Ms. Shelli Monotya is present at 9:23 a.m. via Zoom.

Mr. Dooley reported that there is currently no information to provide concerning the SRO-related services. Following a discussion among the board members, it was determined that all districts are presently covered by law enforcement and the shared SRO position was no longer needed.

Region 9 Status Report

Mr. Dooley mentioned that he has changed the format of the status report and moved the finance report to the beginning. He asked if they could discuss what might be beneficial for the Council each month. He mentioned that the expenditure and revenue reports are linked at the bottom of the agenda each month. Mr. Dooley noted that Ms. Lindsey could provide an overview of the reports each month and asked for feedback on whether that would be helpful or if the current format of linking them at the bottom is sufficient. He inquired if anyone would prefer Region 9 to present on these reports each month to better track the status of budget additions and subtractions, encumbrances, and remaining balances. Ms. Gillespie suggested holding a workshop to ensure everyone is on the same page and has a clear understanding of the reports before deciding if a monthly review is necessary. Mr. Dooley then asked if anyone had anything else to add.

He then reported that Human Resources has hired Shaline Lopez for the fiscal department, as well as Maria Navarro and Genevieve Benes as EHS/HS substitutes. There was one termination, Taylor Carpenter. Region 9's Internal transfers, Corina Morales has taken on a new position as EHS Program Assistant/Family Coordinator, and Shane Villado will be reinstated as R9 Technology Support as he returns from military leave. Mr. Dooley then mentioned the job postings for Region 9.

Ms. Freed reported that the Executive Team, which consists of Bryan Dooely, Dahn Freed, Jeanette Lindsey, and Miriam Mendoza, meets every Wednesday. The Directors meet on the second Friday of each month, and the Leadership Team also convenes on the same day. Currently, the Executive Team is collaborating with Walsh Gallegos to update processes and forms to ensure that employees are fully informed about their status, classification (licensed, unlicensed, exempt, non-exempt, etc.), and their responsibilities under those classifications. They are also working on a contract template, verification of employment, rehire letters, and addenda for various classifications (exempt, non-exempt, part-time with benefits, part-time without benefits, and pending PED license for 90 days). Additionally, they have spent the past four months conducting a surrounding salary analysis. The team has also begun exploring incremental options for staff, starting with the National Board Certification and investigating what other states offer for NBC.

The Directors' Team has started to review job descriptions to ensure that employees are correctly classified as Exempt or Non-Exempt. Additionally, the Leadership Team has developed a new job description template to ensure consistency across departments and to include key components.

The Leadership Team has also formed a workgroup to transition from calculating work hours based on days per year to hours per year. This shift will allow employees more flexibility in scheduling their work hours throughout the week, particularly in alignment with varying district schedules. Furthermore, they are working on establishing a new system and policy for determining duty stations to reduce travel costs, and they will present to the Executive Team on Friday. Mr. Dooley then pointed out the R9 Newsletter. He provided the link to professional development opportunities available to member districts. Information on the Maze of Life was also included in the newsletter, along with information on Child Find screenings.

Mr. Dooley then introduced Ms. Mouttett, who gave a presentation on LETRS and encouraged districts to participate. He announced that on July 30th is the All Staff Professional Development Day. He also noted that other professional development days have been scheduled for March and April. He also shared a list of teachers for the Region 9 member schools that are receiving mentorship training. This is now being funded by OSE. HE highlighted a list of sessions attended by teachers from Region 9 member districts over the past month, highlighting the benefits these districts received from the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) at the state level, with a reminder that both the mentor and mentee receive a $500 stipend in the fall and spring. The fee is covered out of the IGA that Region 9 holds with the Office of Special Education.

Mr. Dooley reminded everyone that School-Based Health has a nurse practitioner available to provide services. He emphasized the RHS Health Fair taking place on April 29 and shared data regarding services offered by local districts.

He mentioned that LCJJB applied for a grant from JJAC. They are finishing the first year of the application process, and the grant application was submitted last month. The ask of the grant is $258,092.78. With this grant, new programs will be implemented. Some of the programs that will be implemented are MRT Anger Management, Resource Specialist, Seeking Safety, 7 Challenges, Strengthening Families, Botvin Life Skills, and Boys & Girls Council. The Boys & Girls Council will continue, but they are no longer classified as evidence-based. The JPO wanted to keep these programs because of their historical success. They have not be utilized extensively due to the low referral rates. The new programs proposed will be able to address some of the more pressing needs of vaping, bullying, and violence that were being reported at the schools. LCJJB is excited that CYFD liked the application and will be looking for a notice of approval for our grant application.

Mr. Dooley noted the technology team continues to support the districts and Region 9. They do software, infrastructure, device support, and are also doing some cybersecurity support. Region 9 is hopeful we will be able to create a full-time position for cybersecurity. At the El Paso Road building, the tech staff is also working on getting the camera system installed, AV support in the upstairs conference room, and the server room at Region 9. The team is also working with HR on cameras, and at the new Region 9 EHS building are identifying camera locations for security protocols.

The Home Visiting program, now proudly serving all communities for all 7 member districts, has been successful with their baby bundles and continues to provide support to families. Other programs mentioned include PIECE and ECECD. The ECECD update is that they are really looking at the Early Childhood efforts, as Ms. Lindsey mentioned, they are funded through June 30, 2026. They have not released the new RFP for next year. Mr. Dooley said that our understanding is that they will have residual funds of about $1 million available, and Region 9 is hopeful to be one of the organizations approved. Universal childcare has become a primary focus coming out of ECECD. PIECE continues to invite member districts to participate and to volunteer as well as provide feedback.

For facilities, Jason Brillante has been hired as maintenance coordinator. A ticket system has been created for any Region 9 maintenance needs.

Mr. Phipps provided updates on the Field Observation Report, which included photos of the ongoing work on El Paso Road. Due to the relocation of drainage systems, the project must undergo Planning and Zoning approval. Additionally, there is a need to reroute sewer lines from the Catholic Church. However, this will not affect the project schedule. The team is also working with Allied Key to obtain an estimate for the door hardware needed for the project. Mr. Dooley noted that the EHS building mentioned by Mr. Phipps involves both a remodel and an addition.

Mr. Dooley stated that we have received supplemental funds totaling $2,071,000, which includes $500,000 from Melanie Stansbury's office, $1 million in congressional appropriations from Ben Ray Luján, and $450,000 from the New Mexico Capital Outlay Office. Additionally, we previously received $171,000 specifically designated for security. Region 9 is excited about these supplemental funds, as they will support our efforts that have already been allocated from our operating budget.

Mr. Dooley continued with information about the Office of Head Start. Noting that Region 9 has officially submitted the request for a 1 time funding application called a 1303 for $4 million. Mr. Dooley expressed that Region 9 expects a positive outcome since this request had previously been approved, and the team from the Federal Office of Head Start that was involved in the original approval is still in place and supportive of the project. This gives Region 9 confidence that we may receive additional funding to support the building. If the request is approved, Region 9 will be able to address some maintenance and significant repair items needed for the old City Bank building. Regarding the Seasons Property, once funding is received, we can promptly begin those projects at the City Bank building. If the funding arrives late, as discussed in our last meeting, any available funds at the time of the award will be applicable to the project, but they cannot be retroactive. Any remaining funds will be carried into the next project involving the City Bank building.

Region 9 main office is now ready to move forward and begin solicitation of an architectural firm. We have finished phased plans for nine phases to the main office: These include demolitions, construction, and design. The initial focus will be on the downstairs area, which includes the main entrance, bathrooms that will be ADA-compliant, and the office. Additionally, a kitchen and break room will be added. Region 9 has been collaborating with Modular Solutions on the design. The company is based out of Phoenix, and we need to move on the project soon, so Region 9 will go out to bid for an architect to develop a more detailed and responsive design, using the plans we have at this stage. After that, Region 9 will solicit a contractor to carry out the work. Region 9 has been successful in securing funding from the New Mexico Legislative Capital Outlay, which includes $121,000 allocated for exterior walkway improvement, $250,000 for the downstairs remodel and ADA bathrooms, $75,000 specifically for ADA bathrooms, and $450,000 for an elevator installation.

The Internal Supports department has 34 Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) and employs six project coordinators, three event planners, and one individual focused on graphics and marketing. A flowchart was presented that outlines the employees and the contracts each person is working on. There is also in-kind support for Region 9 member districts, which includes the academic competition, with Superintendent Lee facilitating its inclusion in the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA).

Mr. Dooley shared that an advisory committee has been established, consisting of Mr. Dooley, Ms. Freed, Ms. Wadley, Ms. Lindsey, Ms. Duncan and Ms. Santamaria, that meets to discuss new contract work for Region 9. When an offer is received, the team will convene to discuss it before making a decision. A list of accepted IGAs was also presented. In conclusion of the status report, Mr. Dooely asked for questions or comments.

At 11:10am, Chair Lee requested a motion to move into closed session pursuant to section NMSA 1978, 10-15-1 (H)(2). The Council will discuss limited personnel matters concerning the salaries of the following:

i. Review of the PDP requested of the Executive Director
ii. The contract and salary for the Executive Director of Region 9.
iii. Salary Schedules for Region 9 employees

Chair Lee noted that no action will be taken in closed session. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Encinias. A roll call vote ensued; Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. There was no response from Ms. Montoya. With a majority of members voting in favor, the Council moved into closed session.
Chair Lee requested a motion to reconvene from closed session at 12:04 p.m., stating that no action was taken in closed session and only the items listed were discussed. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call ensued: Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. Ms. Ferguson was not present to vote and did not return for the remainder of the meeting. With a majority of members present voting in favor, the motion passed.

Action items:
Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the proposal from CES to facilitate a strategic plan for Region 9. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Encinias. A roll call ensued: Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the contract and salary for the Region 9 Executive Director. Mr. Patterson made the motion to extend the Executive Directors contract to June of 2028, with a 1% raise, and a second was provided by Ms. Encinias. A roll call ensued: Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Region 9 FY27 Salary Schedules. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call ensued, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Region 9 FY27 Increment Schedules. The board had a discussion
and would like to table the increment schedules for the May meeting. Ms. Gillespie made the motion to table the
increment schedule to the next meeting, and Mr. Patterson provided a second. A roll call ensued: Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Region 9 FY27 Operating Budget. After some discussion, the board would like to table the Operating Budget until the May meeting. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Encinias. A roll call ensued: Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Dr.Serrano-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Lee stated he would begin entertain nominations for the Coordinating Council officer elections, beginning with the Chair. Ms. Encinias nominated Ms. Gillespie for Chair. Ms. Encinias then made the motion for Ms. Gillespie to be the Chair of the Coordinating Council, a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call vote ensued; Ms. Encinias-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Montoy-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed. Chair Lee then requested a nomination for Vice-Chair. Ms. Encinias nominated Mr. Patterson for Vice-Chair.

Chair Lee asked for a motion for Mr. Patterson to be Vice Chair. Ms. Encinias made the motion to nominate Mr.Patterson as Vice-Chair, and a second was provided by Ms. Gillespie. A roll call vote ensued; Ms. Encinias-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.

Chair Lee then requested a nomination for Secretary. Ms. Gillespie nominated Ms. Encinias for Secretary. Chair Lee asked for a motion for Ms. Encinias to be the newly appointed Secretary for the Coordinating Council. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call vote ensued, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Mr. Lee-yes.

Newly elected officers for 2026-2027:
Chair: Ms. Gillespie
Co-Chair: Mr. Patterson
Secretary: Ms. Encinias

Chair Lee requested items for the next meeting.
1. Increment Schedules and Budget
2. A discussion regarding having Walsh Gallegos provide their bullying presentation

Chair Lee requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Gillespie made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Encinias. A roll call vote ensued; Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Jocelyn Driscoll-Gillespie
Jocelyn Gillespie, Chair May 20, 2026