

Region 9 Education Cooperative

2002 Sudderth Dr.

Ruidoso, NM 88345

Date & Time February 18, 2026 9:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

Region 9 Coordinating Council

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members Present: Mr. Patterson (via Zoom), Dr. Serrano (via Zoom), Ms. Montoya (via Zoom), Ms. Gillespie (via Zoom), Ms. Ferguson (via Zoom), Mr. Lee (via Zoom).

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

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the minutes for January 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, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed. It is noted that the agenda references January 2025, but the call for motion was for January 2026 per the recording of the meeting.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the previous Month's vouchers for January 2026. 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, Ms. Montoya-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Ms. Encinias is present at 9:04 a.m via Zoom.

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

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Region 9 Early Head Start 1303 Facilities Application Narrative. Mr. Dooley explained the funding process for Head Start. Ms. Ferguson inquired about the alternative funding sources Region 9 would utilize in the event that Head Start does not secure approval for funding. In response, Mr. Dooley affirmed that Head Start has received congressional appropriations totaling \$1.5 million, which will be allocated to support the program and that Region 9 would use operational funds to support the rest of the project. Dr. Serrano made the motion, a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call vote ensued, Dr. Serrano-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Lee-yes.

As Chair Lee moved on to the next discussion item, Ms. Montoya asked to recognize that she had been missed in the roll call vote, but that her vote was yes. Chair Lee indicated that since a majority of the council had approved the motion, the motion still passed.

Discussion and possible approval of moving the March 2026 Coordinating Council meeting. After considering various alternative dates, Chair Lee requested a motion to move the March 18, 2026, meeting to April 1, 2026. Dr. Serrano made the motion, and a second was provided by Ms. Encinias. A roll call vote ensued: Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion Items

1. Region 9 Early Childhood Buildings Update - Infrastructure As A Service (IAAS)

Mr. Phipps mentioned that they are currently working on three projects: The EHS project-Phase II, the Fire Alarm Project at the Head Start building, and the Camera installation also at the Head Start Building. The first project discussed was the R9 Early Head Start Project, which is currently in Phase II of construction. The timeline for this project is from March 2, 2026, to February 2027, during which they will also obtain a certificate of occupancy for the building.

Angel Chavez General Construction has removed the fence line on El Paso Road, as well as the fences on the east, west, and south sides, removed trees and stumps to clean up those sides of the property and to allow for the installation of the required temporary construction fence by Wilscot.

The second project currently in progress is the installation of the Fire Alarm by J & G Electric, which is expected to be completed in ten days. During spring break, J & G Electric will conduct testing of the fire alarm. After staff return from spring break, training will be provided on the fire alarm system.

The third project involves the camera installation conducted by the technicians from Region 9, specifically Josh Wadley and Jared King. At this stage, the project is 50% complete. This afternoon, Mr. Phipps will meet with the technicians to obtain a progress update.

Mr. Dooley then provided a summary of the Director's Status report. The Region 9 Fiscal and Administrative team is currently in Albuquerque participating in the New Mexico Association of School Business Officials (NMASBO) conference this week. This event presents a significant opportunity for the team to convene, evaluate, update, and strategize for ongoing initiatives, staffing considerations, and support efforts. Mr. Dooley also reported that the administrative team met with Representative Vincent and Senator Wilson at the legislature to ask for support with funding for the Early Childhood Building and renovations at the Region 9 Main office. The following departments are thriving: Home Visiting is now serving Otero and Lincoln County, and we are excited to expand services to families in both counties. PIECE is actively finding ways to support children and families by establishing book centers throughout the community. Mr. Dooley asked Ms. April Lindsey to discuss the all-district survey for the five schools. Region 9 has started planning to seek different spaces to meet the needs of the districts. It was mentioned that there is a hyperlink in the Status Report for the Region 9 Newsletter. The Technology staff have been busy. Cybersecurity incidents

have increased, and they have detected more phishing attempts. Mr. Dooley encourages staff to stay vigilant. Mr. Dooley asked Ms. McEwen to summarize activities related to the School-Based Health Center (SBHC). She shared that SBHC staff have reached out to school districts to provide sports physicals for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Additionally, the SBHC delivered a presentation on mental health to Tularosa Schools. The Maze of Life event is scheduled for March 5-6 in Lincoln County. Furthermore, Ms. Jackson continues to offer the Botvin Life Skills program at Ruidoso Schools. Mr. Dooley then summarized the Human Resources section and noted that Region 9 is excited to have a facilities position filled, as well as a Head Start Teacher. Mr. Dooley recognized Ms. Stacy Rush, Internal Supports Director, for her leadership and work for Region 9 and wished her luck as she has resigned and will be the Assistant Superintendent for Tularosa Schools. Several job openings are currently posted on the Region 9 website. Mr. Dooley shared that there has been no movement or success in having further conversations with law enforcement about offering services for School Resource Officers as a related Service.

Chair Lee then asked to move the Closed Session to the next Council meeting. He indicated he would be sending the evaluation form to superintendents prior to that meeting. It was suggested to have the evaluation at the next meeting and the contract and salary discussion at the meeting following that one.

Mr. Lee asked for any additional requests for the next meeting, and it was noted that items would include the Evaluation of the Executive Director and a continued discussion of SRO as a shared service.

Chair Lee requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 a.m. Mr. Patterson made the motion, a second was provided by Dr. Serrano. A roll call vote ensued, Mr. Patterson-yes, Dr. Serrano-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. The meeting was adjourned.



April 1, 2026