

# Region 9 Education Cooperative

## Coordinating Council Meeting

Date & Time September 17, 2025 9:00 AM

### Minutes

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present: Mr. Clough, Mr. Lindsay, Ms. Ferguson, Mr. Patterson, Ms. Gillespie (Zoom). Absent: Dr. Serrano.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Order and Content of the agenda. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and Mr. Clough provided a second. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Patterson-yes, Mr. Clough-yes, Mr. Lindsay-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed. Ms. Gillespie was having difficulty with her Zoom audio and was not responsive.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the previous minutes for August 20, 2025. Mr. Lindsay made the motion, and Mr. Patterson provided a second. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Lindsay-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Mr. Clough-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed. Ms. Gillespie was having difficulty with her Zoom audio and was not responsive.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the previous month's vouchers (August 2025). Mr. Clough made the motion, and Mr. Lindsay provided a second. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Clough-yes, Mr. Lindsay-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed. Ms. Gillespie was having difficulty with her Zoom audio and was not responsive.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Budget Adjustments Requests (BARS). Mr. Dooley reviewed the Maintenance BARS for OPAL, HeadStart, and LHB -NMIS with board members. Mr. Lindsay made the motion, and Mr. Clough provided a second. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Lindsay-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Mr. Clough-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed. Ms. Gillespie was having difficulty with her Zoom audio and was not responsive.

Chair Lee requested a motion to approve the Region 9 Head Start/EHS Continuation Application with documents. Ms. Goeller stated that she wrote the budget as presented. Ms. Ferguson then asked about the reasoning behind employee salaries, considering the school wasn't currently in session. Ms. Goeller clarified that the salaries were based on their contracted workdays, which included preparing classrooms for the students' return. Mr. Lindsay made the motion to approve items: R9 Head Start/EHS application and documents. Budget & Budget Justification, ii. Cost Allocation Plan, iii. T/TA Plan, and iv. Annual Report. Mr. Clough provided a second. A roll call vote ensued: Mr. Lindsay-yes, Mr. Clough-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr Patterson-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes, Mr. Lee-yes. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

### **Discussion Items**

Erica Bearman from Just Right Reader delivered her presentation via Zoom on the Science of Reading Phonics Program and Decodable Libraries. Just Right Reader is a supplemental decodable reading program available in both English and Spanish, designed to support literacy development aligned with the Science of Reading. Key features include an extensive library with over 600 titles, ranging from baby board books to support early literacy, explicit phonics instruction, and family engagement. The program offers two main products: classroom libraries and literacy packs. There are customized resources tailored to meet district needs and align with Martinez/Yazzie's educational equity. Additionally, community opportunities are available, allowing partnerships with Regional Education Cooperatives (RECs). The program has demonstrated significant impact, with data showing overall growth among students using Just Right Reader, and 62% meeting end-of-year growth targets. Schools that applied for the five-year grant will have access to the program, and districts that have not yet applied will have another opportunity when the grant reopens. In closing, Just Right Reader's vision is to ensure children learn letters and sounds through explicit, systematic phonics instruction, enabling them to become confident, independent readers.

### **Discuss a date for next year for a Region 9, all-school, all-staff professional development day.**

Board members discussed possible dates for the All Staff Professional Development day for SY 26-27. Board members would like to continue the discussion at the October meeting.

## **Director Status Report**

Bryan Dooley introduced Thadd Phipps, who provided an update on the buildings at 135 El Paso Road and 315 Sudderth Drive. They received a new proposal this morning from Consolidated Builders. Mike Chambers collaborated with the contractor to address non-compliance issues, resulting in a cost reduction. The revised total, including taxes, is \$701,129. A final internal review with Mr. Dooley and staff is scheduled for this morning to ensure due diligence before proceeding. The demolition timeline has been delayed by three weeks from the original schedule. The new proposed demolition start date is September 29th, with completion by November 14th, allowing a two-week buffer before construction begins. Designs have been received, and a coordination meeting with Exerplay is scheduled for tomorrow. The target date for construction completion is October 20, 2025.

Mr. Dooley then provided an update on the ongoing issues with the Educational Retirement Board (ERB) regarding Return to Work (RTW) denials for individuals requesting contractor status. Discussions with Stan Rounds, David Archuleta, and David Chavez to explore a productive path forward have not yielded a positive outcome. CES is likely prepared to proceed with litigation. Additionally, the RECA supports a legislative initiative in collaboration with NMCEL and the superintendents.

Home Visiting is fully staffed and serving 119 individuals. Mr. Dooley then introduced Allison Mouttet, who gave an update on the structured literacy LETRS training for Educational Services that will take place on September 24th at Region 9. Fourteen participants are currently registered. Additionally, on October 10th, Region 9 will host training sessions for educational assistants. Training will be given by Mari Ricon and Jennifer Bossow. CPI training dates were also presented in the director's report.

Mr. Dooley informed the board of a grant opportunity through PED called the GTIA grant. The GTIA grant awards grants to non-profits and schools that use or need technology to improve lives, with a focus on under-resourced communities locally and globally. The grant can provide funding to support smart, scalable solutions that tackle real-world challenges, from broadband access to AI-powered learning tools. Grant range is \$25,000-\$50,000, with potential for larger-scale grants.

School-Based Health Center has hired Alex Genty, CNP, and Robert Gutierrez, CNP. They will be at SBHC on Tuesdays and Thursdays. An anti-vaping contest for Middle and High School students is scheduled for October. Ms. McEwen will send information as it becomes available.

LCJJB Director, Chelsea Jackson, will complete the needs assessment by the end of this month and will then begin work on the strategic plan. A few of the schools are looking into the Botvin Life Skills program and how to implement it. Free curriculum through the University of Colorado.

Human Resources has listed the new hires and resignations of Region 9 staff.

**Items for the next meeting**

Agenda Item for the October meeting will be the All Staff Prof Development Day for discussion.

**Adjournment**

Chair Lee requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. Mr. Patterson made the motion, and Mr. Lindsay provided a second. A roll call vote ensued, Mr. Patterson-yes, Mr. Lindsay-yes, Ms. Ferguson-yes, Mr. Clough-yes, and Ms. Gillespie-yes. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Lee", written in a cursive style.

10/22/2025