



RESCUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.rescueusd.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. Open Session
Rescue District Office Board Room

The Public's health and well-being are the top priority for the Rescue Union School District Board of Trustees and all are urged to take all appropriate health safety precautions. To facilitate this process, there were two options to view and/or participate in this open session meeting in person or via Zoom.

DISTRICT MISSION

Rescue Union School District, in partnership with families and the community, is dedicated to the success of every student by providing a challenging, comprehensive and quality education in a safe environment in which all individuals are respected, valued, connected and supported.

PLEASE NOTE:

These are provided as summary minutes. The audio recording of the meeting is available for review at:
<http://www.rescueusd.org/School-Board/Agendas-Minutes/index.html>

CALL TO ORDER: Board president called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- ✓ Michael Gordon, President
- ✓ Kim White, Vice President
- ✓ Michelle Bebout, Clerk
- ✓ Jamie Hunter, Member
- Michael Flaherty, Member
- ✓ Jim Shoemake, Superintendent and Board Secretary

OPEN SESSION:

Convened closed session in the Boardroom at 5:35 p.m.

Welcome - Board president provided an introduction to Board meeting proceedings.

Flag Salute - Board president led the flag salute.

Roll Call - Board president took roll call.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(Consideration for Action)

Trustee White moved and Trustee Bebout seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION:

Closed Session Report - The Board president stated there was a report from Closed Session. The Board voted 4-0 to establish the duration of the Stipulated Expulsion for Student #25-26A through August of 2026. This

report was in follow up from November's Closed Session in which the stipulated expulsion was approved, as Board discussion of this matter carried over to be continued and was scheduled for finalization at this meeting.

There were no public comments.

Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent provided a district related presentation with highlights on the District's Culture of Excellence with mention and celebration of the following: middle school athletic championships in multiple sports - volleyball, cross country and flag football, student and staff support shown on spirit days and during events, professional trainings and workshops for all employees, flourishing community partnerships with local organizations, and fiscal accountability and facilities management. Photos of Veterans Day were shown, with thanks expressed by both Superintendent Shoemake and Trustee Hunter to the numerous veterans who were present and participated in the school happenings across the District.

There were no public comments.

Celebrating Excellence - Lake Forest Elementary Principal Renee Mallot delivered a report on the school site's welcome of new staff, new goals put into place such as stronger student support procedures through MTSS and revamped PBIS methodology to address socioemotional needs, as well as continuing to develop inclusive practices and meaningful engagement among students and classes. Reading and math interventions are going well in grades 1-5. Enrichment activity opportunities are diverse. Student leadership is promoted as individuals and groups are encouraged to contribute to as much as possible to plan, host and fundraise.

There were no public comments.

GENERAL:

2. Garden Report Presentation

Lead Garden Coordinator Gina Johnston presented a report on the Districtwide garden program. Student participation at RUSD schools has increased dramatically. Middle school growth has been very beneficial at MVMS and PGMS. In total, 804 students participate districtwide each week. Improvement projects on these outdoor spaces are taking place at Green Valley, Jackson, MVMS and there is a new completed Eagle Scout stage area with convertible bench-tables at Lake Forest. A former RUSD student has succeeded in establishing community high school Oak Ridge's first campus garden. Farm to School brings vegetables to RUSD school kitchens. The program's new slogan is "Waste Less, Grow More." Project Luma collaborator Lora Watts also spoke about Art in the Garden at district elementary schools, which enables kids to initiate and add design to create and change the environments by making suggestions like painting a riverwalk and installing decor. The pair will be at the upcoming Sacramento Home and Garden Expo with supplies provided by Home Depot.

There were no public comments.

3. Annual Organization Meeting - Board Officers Selection

(Consideration for Action)

Each December the Board is required to nominate and approve its officers. EC 35143, BB 9100 Organization.

There were no public comments.

Board Bylaw 9121 - Select President

Trustee Bebout moved and Trustee White seconded nominating and approving Michael Gordon for Board President. The motion passed 4-0.

Board Bylaw 9100 - Select Vice President

Trustee Hunter moved and Trustee Gordon seconded nominating and approving Kim White for Board Vice President. The motion passed 4-0.

Board Bylaw 9123 - Select Clerk

Trustee White moved and Trustee Gordon seconded nominating and approving Michelle Bebout for Board Clerk. The motion passed 4-0.

Board Bylaw 9122 - Confirm Superintendent to serve as Secretary to the Board

Trustee Bebout moved and Trustee White seconded nominating and approving Superintendent Shoemake as Secretary to the Board. The motion passed 4-0.

4. Board Appointment to the El Dorado County School Boards Association (Consideration for Action)

Each December, per Board Bylaws 9130 and 9140 the Board may appoint any of its members to serve as representatives on District Committees or advisory committees of other public agencies or organizations.

There were no public comments.

Trustee White moved and Trustee Hunter seconded to nominate and approve Michelle Bebout as the RUSD Representative to El Dorado County School Boards Association (EDCSBA). The motion passed 4-0. Trustee Bebout motioned and Trustee White seconded to name Trustee Michael Flaherty passed 4-0.

5. Board Appointment to the El Dorado Schools Financing Authority (Consideration for Action)

Each December, per Board Bylaws 9130 and 9140 the Board may appoint any of its members to serve as representatives on District Committees or advisory committees of other public agencies or organizations.

There were no public comments.

Trustee White moved and Trustee Bebout seconded to approve Jamie Hunter as the RUSD Representative to The El Dorado Schools Financing Authority (EDSFA). The motion passed 4-0. The Board elected to name an alternate representative for this role. Trustee White moved and Trustee Bebout seconded to approve Michael Flaherty as the alternate representative to the El Dorado School Financing Authority. The motion passed 4-0.

6. Certification of District Signatures (Consideration for Action)

Pursuant to Education Code 35143, 42632, 42633 and Board Bylaw 9100, the District must certify the Signatures of members of the governing board and verify signatures of the person or persons authorized to sign notices of employment, contracts and orders drawn on the funds of the District. Superintendent Shoemake recommended the Board approve the Certification of Signatures.

There were no public comments.

Trustee Bebout moved and Trustee Hunter seconded to approve the RUSD Certification of Signatures. The motion passed 4-0.

7. Board Bylaw 9250 and Board Remuneration (Consideration for Action)

On an annual basis the Board may increase the compensation of Board members beyond the limit delineated in delineated in Education Code 34120 in an amount not to exceed five (5) percent based on the present monthly rate of compensation. The Superintendent recommended the Board of Trustees approve Board Bylaw 9250 and a 1% increase to the Board Stipend for 2026.

There were no public comments.

Trustee White moved and Trustee Hunter seconded to approve Board Bylaw 9250 Board Remuneration. Motion passed 4-0.

8. 2025 California School Board Association Annual Education Conference (CSBA AEC) Board Discussion
(Information Only)

The Superintendent recommended the Board share key learnings and reflections from the 2025 California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference and Trade Show.

Superintendent Shoemake summarized the three-day event and invited the Board's comments. He shared his impression of the value of the educational offerings. Trustee Hunter stated she liked sessions on middle school alignment and AI. She also stated that she is proud to be on the RUSD Board, which takes their work seriously and practices respect. Trustee Bebout detailed her interest in bond and financial sessions she attended, and said she was glad to report RUSD has demonstrated good fiscal sense. Trustee White mentioned the importance of functional and positive Board relationships and spending time as a team. In particular, she enjoyed the session on parental rights with attorneys present to discuss CSBA policy and regulation samples. Trustee Gordon said the gubernatorial forum was accountability-focused and that he believes RUSD emulates this within the District from the administrators and schools to department teams and individuals.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

9. RUFT Negotiation Reopeners

(Information Only)

The Superintendent recommended the Board allow public comment regarding the RUFT Contract Reopeners. The public notice was posted for the appropriate 10-day period. Assistant Superintendent Haley introduced the RUFT Negotiation Reopeners.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: 7:57 p.m.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: 7:58 p.m.

There were no public comments.

BUSINESS AND FACILITIES:

10. First Interim Budget Report/Positive Certification

(Consideration for Action)

The Board is required by law to receive updated financial reports during the fiscal year. After reviewing the report, the Board considered certification of the financial condition of the District. The Superintendent recommended approval of the positive certification for the 2024-2025 First Interim Report. Assistant Superintendent Donaldson presented the First Interim Budget Report with a positive certification.

There were no public comments.

Trustee Bebout moved and Trustee White seconded to approve the positive certification of the 2024-2025 First Interim Report. The motion passed 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine or sufficiently supported by prior or accompanying reference materials and information as to not require additional discussion. A motion as referenced below enacts all items. The Board President called for public comment on any of the items on the

consent agenda. There were no public comments. The Board President then stated the Board would pull Consent Item #19 for a separate vote to stipulate that the January 13, 2026 Study Session would be added back to the 2026 Board Calendar upon approval of the new draft. Trustee White moved and Trustee Bebout seconded to approve all Consent Items with exception of #19. Motion passed 4-0. Trustee Bebout and Trustee White seconded to approve Consent Item #19 as stipulated on the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 4-0.

11. Board Meeting Minutes - November 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (Materials Provided)
12. Human Resources - the District's long-range goal is to recruit a diverse, high quality staff with student focused goals and philosophies. Staffing changes occur periodically due to need for additional positions, resignations or leaves of absence. All positions listed are within current budget allocations (Materials Provided)
13. District Expenditures - Warrants must regularly be presented to the Board of Trustees for ratification. Detailed warrant order listings are available at the District Office. The included supplement reflects expenditures from Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 (Materials Provided)
14. District Purchase Orders - Purchase orders must regularly be presented to the Board of Trustees for ratification. The supplement reflects expenditures from Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 (Materials Provided)
15. Board Policy 3540: Transportation (Materials Provided)
16. Board Policy 3541.2: Transportation for Students with Disabilities (Materials Provided)
17. National School Board Recognition Month Proclamation - Rescue Union School District recognizes the month of January as National School Board Month (Materials Provided)
18. Waterford HOA-RUSD MOU (Materials Provided)
19. Revised Rescue Union School District 2026 Board Meeting Calendar (Materials Provided)
20. Overnight Field Trip Request - May 2026 MVMS Band Field Trip to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, CA (Materials Provided)

ADJOURNMENT:


Trustee White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.



Michelle Bebout, Clerk

1/27/26

Date



Michael Gordon, President

1/27/26

Date