



RESCUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

2390 Bass Lake Road Rescue, CA 95672 (530) 677-4461 / FAX (530) 677-0719

www.rescueusd.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 18, 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 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(Closed session agenda items only)

There were no comments concerning items on the Closed Session agenda.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session to discuss matters of personnel, security, negotiations, student discipline, litigation, or other matters as authorized by Government Code Sections 3549.1, 54956.9, 54956.8, 54957, and 54957.6 and Education Code Sections 35146 and 48918.

Conference with Labor Negotiator - Discussion with the District's Superintendent, Jim Shoemake, and/or labor negotiators, Lisa Donaldson and Dustin Haley, regarding directions and issues in negotiations with Rescue Union Federation of Teachers (RUFT), California School Employees Association (CSEA), Confidential Staff, and Administrative Management.

OPEN SESSION:

Convened open session in the Boardroom at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome - The Board President provided an introduction to Board meeting proceedings.

Flag Salute - Board President led the flag salute and took roll call.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(Consideration for Action)

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

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION:

Report from Closed Session - Board President reported no action taken in closed session.

Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent stated that he would not make an official report due to the Board Meeting's planned presentations covering items he would have otherwise spoken on.

There were the following two public comments from Lakeview parents in attendance:

Kate Carroll-Yazdani shared her support of RUSD teachers, and stated her view that unnecessary monies are spent on technological devices for very young students. Mrs. Carroll-Yazdani also stated that social interaction, reading retention and higher levels of in-person engagement and skillbuilding are being sacrificed to chromebook use. She expressed concern over possible screen dependency and data collection. Mrs. Carroll-Yazdani advocated for removing devices for classrooms up to 2nd grade.

Andie Martinez Watrous spoke about her family's low-tech household. As a nurse, she is aware that a one-hour screen limit is recommended for young children by pediatricians. Mrs. Martinez Watrous commented that no-tech or low-tech classrooms are best for the very young. She shared that her kindergarten student and others deserve healthy growth and development growth without use of devices or videos. Mrs. Martinez Watrous is interested in additional learning options for her kindergarten student.

The Board president thanked the speakers for their remarks and indicated that the Superintendent would be able to follow up with each who completed a comment card.

Assistant Superintendents Lisa Donaldson and Dustin Haley spoke at this time to inform the Board and attendees that the audio for tonight's meeting wasn't working.

GENERAL:

2. Board Member Vacancy

(Consideration for Action)

Under Education Code Section 5091 (a), when a vacancy occurs four or more months before the end of a Board member's term the Board has 60 days from the date of the vacancy to either order a special election or make a provisional appointment. The Superintendent recommended the Board fill this vacancy using the provisional appointment process.

There were no public comments.

Trustee Hunter motioned and Trustee Bebout seconded to approve filling the Board vacancy with a provisional appointment. Motion passed 4-0.

3. LCAP - Educational Partners Survey

(Information Only)

The Superintendent recommended the Board receive an update on the 2026 LCAP Educational Partners Survey Results, and delivered a slide presentation covering wide-ranging feedback about the district from department services to classroom supports to facilities, from families and parents.

There were no public comments.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

4. Preparation for the 2026-2027 School Year

(Information Only)

The Superintendent recommended the Board receive a report on the district's preparation for the 2026-2027 school year. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dustin Haley presented a slideshow on the RISE Summer School Program, the Extended School Year (ESY) Program, Professional Development Day held the prior week, the District's Annual Leadership Retreat, and New Employee Orientation and Onboarding. Also summarized with photo slides were school site introduction and welcoming connection events for students, from TK/K orientations to the return of middle school activities.

There were no public comments.

BUSINESS AND FACILITIES:

5. Facilities Summer Projects Update

(Information Only)

The Superintendent recommended the Board hear a report on the District's facilities summer projects. The RUSD Director of Facilities, Jeremiah Patterson, provided the report. The Director opened with remarks on custodial staff and several new employees who are being trained now, as the M&O Department works to organize and streamline processes to improve overall department performance. He went on to show slides of the districtwide solar installations happening now, as well as other facilities undertakings such as new fencing at Jackson, new kitchen work at various sites such as Marina Village and Green Valley, and field and court improvements at Pleasant Grove.

Attending community member and Lakeview parent Andie Martinez-Watrous asked about the funding sources for the RUSD solar project, and the availability of the power source. Assistant Superintendent Lisa Donaldson answered that a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with a low rate was Board approved in 2023, and stated the public has usage access for a fee.

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. Trustee Bebout motioned and Trustee Hunter seconded to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 4-0.

6. Board Meeting Minutes - Minutes of the April 14, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (Materials Provided)

7. Study Session Minutes - Minutes of the April 28, 2026 Study Session (Materials Provided)

8. Board Meeting Minutes - Minutes of the May 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (Materials Provided)

9. Study Session Minutes - Minutes of the May 19, 2026 Study Session (Materials Provided)

10. Board Meeting Minutes - Minutes of the June 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (Materials Provided)

11. Board Meeting Minutes - Minutes of the June 16, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (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. Periodically, changes in staffing occur due to need for additional positions, resignations, or leaves of absence. All positions listed are within current budget allocations

(Materials Provided)

13. District Expenditure - Warrants must be regularly presented to the Board for ratification. Detailed warrant order listings are available at the District Office. The supplement reflects expenditures from June 1, 2026 - July 31, 2026 (Materials Provided)

14. District Purchase Orders - Purchase orders must be regularly presented to the Board for ratification. The supplement reflects expenditures from June 1, 2026 - July 31, 2026 (Materials Provided)

15. Williams Quarterly Report - The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Williams Act Quarterly Report for the period of 4/1/26 - 6/30/26 (Materials Provided)

16. AR/BP 1240: Volunteer Assistance (Materials Provided)

17. AR/BP 4118/4218: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action (Materials Provided)

18. BP Exhibit 4119.21: Professional Standards (Materials Provided)

19. AR/BP 4161/4261/4361: Leaves (Materials Provided)

20. AR 4161.1/4261.1/4361.1: Personal Illness/Injury Leave (Materials Provided)

21. BP 4219.24/4319.24: Maintaining Appropriate Adult-Student Interactions (Materials Provided)

22. AR/BP 5141.4: Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting (Materials Provided)

23. AR 6170.2: Transitional Kindergarten (TK) (Materials Provided)

24. Board Bylaw - BB: 9223: Filling Vacancies (Materials Provided)

25. EDCOE/RUSD Extended Day Program Services MOU (Materials Provided)

26. 2025-26 California Department of Education (CDE) Certification of Assurances (Materials Provided)

27. Library Surplus Report (Materials Provided)

28. Technology Department Surplus Report (Materials Provided)

29. Revised 2026 Board Calendar (Added: September 22, 2026 Special Meeting/Cancelled: September 29, 2026 Study Session (Materials Provided)

30. National IT Professionals Day Proclamation - Rescue Union School District recognizes Tuesday, September 15, 2026 as National IT Professionals Day. (Materials Provided)

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board may reconvene to closed session as authorized by Government Code Sections 3549.1, 54956.9, 54956.8, 54957, and 54957.6 and Education Code Sections 35146 and 48918.

OPEN SESSION:

Reconvene open session.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:

The Board president will report any action taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Michelle Bebout, Clerk

Date



Michael Gordon, President

9/15/26

Date