



Rogue River School District 35

Minutes

RRSD35 Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday August 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

Rogue River School District - District Office
1898 E Evans Creek Road
Rogue River, OR 97537
Directions available [HERE](#)

This Executive Session was held in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2)(a) to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

Representatives of the news media and designated staff shall be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience are asked to leave the room.

Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on or otherwise disclose any of the deliberations or anything said about these subjects during the executive session.

The open session began at 6:01 p.m., immediately following the Executive Session.

Directors Present

B. Sund, E. Poston, H. Friend, J. Chick, M. Jacob

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

A. James, C. Schloegl, D. Sweeney, J. Parks, T. Kirkpatrick, W. Bogard

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

H. Friend called a meeting of the board of directors of Rogue River School District 35 to order on Tuesday Aug 19, 2025 at 6:01 PM.

H. Friend lead in the flag salute.

II. Action from Executive Session

A. Hire - RRSD IT Director

M. Jacob made a motion to approve the hire of C. Simants as the RRSD IT Director, effective August 1, 2025.

B. Sund seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Resignation - RRSD EL Coordinator

J. Chick made a motion to accept the resignation of K. Hodge as the RRSD EL Coordinator, effective July 21, 2025, as presented.

E. Poston seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Hire - EL Coordinator

B. Sund made a motion to approve the hire of K. Wall as the RRSD EL Coordinator, effective August 19, 2025.

M. Jacob seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Hire - Technical Drama Director

M. Jacob made a motion to approve the hire of N. Radant as the Technical Drama Director for the 25-26 school year, as presented.

B. Sund seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Hire - HS Assistant Football Coach

J. Chick made a motion to approve the hire of D. Nelson as the HS Assistant Football Coach for the 25-26 season, as presented.

E. Poston seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Hire - HS Boys Head Soccer Coach

M. Jacob made a motion to approve the hire of Rob Isom as the HS Boys Head Soccer Coach for the 25-26 season, as presented.

E. Poston seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. Hire - HS Boys Assistant Soccer Coach

The item was not brought before the Board.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Reports

E. Poston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, A and B, as presented.

J. Chick seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Approve Meeting Minutes of Prior Meeting 7.15.2025

E. Poston made a motion to approve the minutes from RRSD Annual Organizational Meeting on 07-15-25.

J. Chick seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A. Superintendent Report

P. Lee reviewed the plans for the grand opening of 225 Oak Street, scheduled for September 16, 2025. He will be speaking at the event, along with representatives from Head Start and La Clinica. P. Lee invited the board, and the majority of members are expected to be present.

Regarding the four large oak trees on the property, P. Lee reviewed one tree that is leaning and may need to be removed. He is seeking a third opinion on its condition. It appears that the trees may be past their prime, and there could be a risk of them falling into the Wellness Center. At least one of the trees has internal rot. P. Lee also contacted the Tree City organization to maintain a good community partnership and inform them that the trees may need to be removed for safety reasons. It is likely that new trees will be planted to replace them. P. Lee reminisced about playing under those trees 40 years ago.

H. Friend asked whether the trees had been previously assessed. P. Lee responded that past reviews focused on drainage and exploring options for minimizing impact to the trees.

He also noted that the lean in the tree has always been present. The nearly 20-inch cavity is older and has barked over.

P. Lee invited the board to the Annual Inservice Welcome Back Breakfast on the 26th at 7:30 a.m.

H. Friend asked about Head Start enrollment. P. Lee confirmed that enrollment has started.

B. RRJSHS Report

T. Kirkpatrick shared that the new Jr./Sr. building is fully operational. An open house will be held in the new building on the 28th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., providing an opportunity for the public to tour the facility. The new secure vestibule project is nearing completion. They were informed today that the doors will not be in place on the first day but will be installed within the first week. Painting is currently being finished.

T. Kirkpatrick and P. Lee noted that the contractors have been outstanding. The building will be mostly complete, and they will be ready to serve students. Fencing is nearly finished, and gates are being installed today. Teachers return on Monday. At the open house, there will be food, schedules, teachers, La Clinica, and more available to families.

C. RRES Report

A. James shared her *Be a Marigold, Find a Marigold* report.

She also discussed the upcoming Meet and Greet Open House, scheduled for August 28th from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. This is a combined event featuring 19 confirmed community partners set up on the East Campus blacktop. The event will include dinner, information sessions, welcome folders, and family surveys.

A. James added that they have coordinated with a literacy and writing coach for this school year.

For SEL, the team is excited about providing targeted instruction. She also reviewed the School Improvement Plan.

J. Chick asked about the writing component. A. James explained that it is comprehensive, not necessarily focused on penmanship, but rather on grammar, sentence structure, content, and related skills.

D. SVA Report

Summer School

J. Parks shared an update on supporting and wrapping up summer school. She described the program as amazing. The funding, a two-year grant, was announced last minute in the spring. A total of 154 students, grades K–12, registered for the program, which operated on two campuses. At the high school level, actual credit-bearing courses were offered. More details can be found at secure.smores.com/n/42p9sg-rrsd-summer-school-2025.

J. Parks noted that the students were ready to learn and participated in highly engaging, interactive, and fun learning experiences. She highlighted the excellent work of the two program coordinators, C. Meier and S. Wicks.

SVA (Southern Valley Academy)

J. Parks mentioned that she has been producing a newsletter and invited the board to the SVA Back-to-School Bash on August 27 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The event will feature an open house, BBQ, community partners, and a grand reopening celebration.

P. Lee thanked J. Parks for stepping into a leadership role with summer school. He added that the SVA space has transformed significantly over the past year, it now feels more welcoming to students and more professional overall. "It's a different place," he said.

E. Special Programs Report

No report this month.

F. REACH Report

W. Bogard shared that their teachers are back, and everyone is missing their science teacher. Student enrollment is still ongoing. Their enrollment cap is 230 students, and they are currently at approximately 225.

They have a Sno-Cone Social coming up. This year is starting off a bit slower than usual, with the first day of school scheduled for September 8th.

P. Lee noted that this is a contract negotiation year for both RRSD and REACH.

G. RREA - Union Representative to the Board

H. RRACE - Union Representative to the Board

V. Reports

A. Board Reports

J. Chick reported that the Summer Board Conference was great. Although it was a smaller group than usual, it was enriching. There was significant discussion around the

cell phone ban, as well as updates on policy changes. Because of the smaller group size, he was able to engage in more meaningful conversations.

J. Chick also noted that D. Watson, from Phoenix-Talent, will be taking over as president of OSBA next year. This will create an opening on the OSBA board for Southern Oregon representation.

E. Poston addressed two situations at the high school that have raised concerns within the community. She reviewed the rationale behind the board's actions, both in public settings and in communications. She also made herself available via email to discuss what is legally permissible.

H. Friend added comments regarding student freedom of speech. She expressed the desire for the district to re-evaluate its policies around student artwork, particularly as it relates to balancing freedom of expression, age-appropriateness for younger children, and community standards. H. Friend has been researching case law and presented the foundation of some ideas. She believes RRSD should develop more specific guidelines, especially in light of the large number of emails received on the topic.

VI. Business / Fiscal Services

A. Monthly Financial Update

D. Sweeney reported that there is not much to report as insurance has not been finalized yet. In October, D. Sweeney will have more specifics.

VII. Board/Administration

A. Adoption - Policy and AR

M. Jacob made a motion to adopt Policy IIA and IIA-AR (1-6), to include deletions, as presented.

B. Sund seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. First Reading - Policy and AR

M. Jacob made a motion to waive the First Reading of Policy JFCEB and JFCEB-AR, as presented.

B. Sund seconded the motion.

Policy Process and Background

- E. Poston inquired about the policy.
- P. Lee reviewed the first reading and adoption process.

Conference Feedback and National Trends

- H. Friend asked J. Chick about comments heard at a conference.
- "On or Off Campus" and the open campus model were discussed.
- J. Chick shared that many said, "It's about time," noting Oregon is 34th nationally as an adopter.
- The impact on student learning was reviewed.

Current "Off and Away" Practices

- B. Sund asked about the duration of the "off and away" phone policy.
- It has been RRSD practice for 3 years.
- T. Kirkpatrick said junior/senior high is compliant, but high school is more challenging due to smartwatches, earbuds, etc.
- J. Parks noted SVA implemented the policy for one year.
- A. James stated elementary schools already enforce it all day, including for smartwatches.

Off-Campus Policy Concerns

- J. Chick asked about enforcement of the off-campus portion.
- P. Lee clarified it cannot be enforced when students are off campus.

Concerns About Overreach and Enforcement

- T. Kirkpatrick worried that a strict bell-to-bell ban might push students off campus to use phones.
- J. Parks expressed concern that more students might opt to work from home if phones are restricted during lunch/breaks.
- T. Kirkpatrick added adults aren't restricted at lunch, so it's hard to justify this to students.

Mental Health, Rights, and Practical Issues

H. Friend raised mental health and legal concerns:

- Warned about the implications of a broad executive order, which typically stems from a state of emergency.
- Highlighted phones' role in reporting abuse, using SafeOregon, and contacting parents.
- Worried about staff burden, student rights (especially 18+), and confiscation risks.
- Suggested edits to allow communication with parents/legal guardians.

Executive Order vs. Statute Debate

- P. Lee said the policy aligns with the executive order.
- H. Friend countered that there's no ORS to support it and repeated the emergency context concern.

Support for Local Decision-Making

- M. Jacob and E. Poston supported district autonomy, citing concerns about students being cut off from family.
- B. Sund emphasized the need for communication about coaching and busing.
- E. Poston also flagged the office staff burden and the risk of missed communication.
- M. Jacob supported letting administrators decide what works.

Policy Intent vs. Flexibility

- H. Friend said current practices work well and an executive order is unnecessary.
- J. Chick stated executive orders don't require emergencies and that the governor has legal authority.
- He supports phone limits during instructional time but wants clear definitions for "instructional time" and "emergency."

Policy Language and Guidance

- P. Lee reviewed OSBA recommendations and customizable elements.
- Shared that other districts found a loophole allowing phone use during lunch and breaks, not the law's intent, but currently possible.
- He hasn't received clear guidance from ODE.

Board Consensus and Direction

- J. Chick, H. Friend, B. Sund, M. Jacob, and E. Poston agreed to try and manage locally.
- M. Jacob asked how other states are handling it; P. Lee said it's generally well received, though it's unclear if bans during breaks/lunch are part of that feedback.

Final Points and Options

- P. Lee said the policy doesn't need changes if the board is satisfied.

- H. Friend asked about age-appropriate enforcement, especially in elementary schools.
- P. Lee confirmed that schools can go beyond the minimum.
- He also noted the district can delay implementation until Jan 1, 2026.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Schloegl

-
- 1) The administration endeavors to anticipate all items that will be dealt with by the Board on the agenda. However, from time to time the Board may add other issues to the agenda during the course of the meeting.
 - 2) Consent Agenda are matters of routine nature. However, from time to time items may be moved out of the consent agenda and placed on the action agenda.
 - 3) Discussion and Report mean the Board intends to discuss or hear a matter. It is not known whether or not a motion will be placed on the table.
 - 4) Approval and Adoption mean the Board intends to take action on the issue. However, from time to time action items may be deferred or tabled.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION