# GUNNISON WATERSHED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Regular Meeting/Amended Agenda

**This meeting was conducted in person and by distance using the video conferencing platform Zoom**

**February 23, 2026**

**Gunnison Lake School**

**Gunnison, CO**

The Gunnison Watershed School District RE1J Board of Education met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026

## Regular Meeting Call to Order

Board President, Mrs. Anne Brookhart, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

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| Members present: | Mrs. Anne Brookhart | President |
| | Dr. Jody Coleman | Vice President |
| | Mrs. Katya Schloesser | Secretary |
| | Mr. Mark VanderVeer | Treasurer |
| | Dr. Jennie Reithel | Director |

Also present: Dr. Leslie Nichols, Superintendent and Mrs. Kim Fuller, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Recording Secretary to the Board.

## Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Nichols led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Approval of Agenda

Dr. Coleman moved to approve the proposed agenda as presented. Mrs. Schloesser seconded. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote of 5-0.

## Commendations and Celebrations

Dr. Nichols read commendations from District administrators.

## Public Comment

None at this time.

**Consent Grouping:**

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| Minutes: | January 26, 2026 | Regular Meeting/Amended Agenda |
| | February 10, 2026 | Special Meeting with Executive Session |
| | February 11, 2026 | Special Meeting with Executive Session |
| | February 13, 2206 | Special Meeting |

Finance: Approval for payment as presented by the Director of Finance, warrants from January 2026.

Personnel:

- MJ Harris - Lunch Supervision/Tutor, GMS
- Emily Kowal - retirement - Gifted/Talented Program Coordinator, GES (end of 2025-2026 school year)
- Emmalee Walker - resignation - Science, CBSS (end of 2025-2026 school year)
- Stephanie Fischer - retirement - Kindergarten, CBES (end of 2025-2026 school year)

Mr. VanderVeer expressed that any personnel added to an amended agenda should be reserved for the agenda at the following board meeting. Those personnel will instead appear on the March 9 agenda.

Mrs. Schloesser moved to approve the Consent Grouping as presented. Dr. Reithel seconded. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote 5-0.

**Items for information, discussion, and action**

***Facilities Improvement Program Update***

Artaic Group-Matt Prinster and John Usery (via Zoom) presented their monthly update on the school improvements project.
The Artaic team presented to the board their budget summary and construction updates. The total budget for this project is $121,604,785.00. Mr. Usery shared graphs explaining the cash flow and contingency use by district and by each school. Gunnison Schools are closing out construction contracts and funds are being reconciled. The evaporative cooling system for GCS is still in planning stages with design and pricing. If approved, it will cost around 2 million dollars. Mr. VanderVeer expressed his frustration and concern for spending contingency money on a system that cannot be guaranteed to address the cooling issues at GCS. He does not want to burden the next Superintendent with lack of funds for unexpected issues once the project is closed out. Mr. Usery explained that if any issues arise there are safety nets in place to help cover those costs. Mr. Prinster reiterated the GCS cooling system was in the original design package. Mr. VanderVeer said he would like to not have any money released from the

contingency fund in Crested Butte until the project is complete. Based on lengthy discussions and majority in agreement, Dr. Reithel will continue with the understanding that the Executive Committee will make final decisions on the cooling system. Mrs. Schloesser shared she is thankful for the amazing work being done and would like to do as much with the money now as possible but is also thankful for the solid stewardship Mr. VanderVeer is providing. Dr. Nichols shared she is pleased with the work of Artaic, FCI and Trainor and believes the work is meeting the expectations asked for by the voters. Dr. Coleman expressed she has full confidence with the decisions the Executive Committee is providing. Mrs. Brookhart would like to continue having the Executive Committee bring major contingency fund decisions, such as the evaporative cooling system and the Crested Butte roundabout, back to the board.

***Second Quarter Financial Update***

Mrs. Tia Mills, GWSD Director of Finance, updated the Board and fielded questions.

***Pathways Program Presentation***

Mr. Chad Terry, Pathways Director, shared the mission and vision of this district program which houses CTE and non-traditional programming. Pathways currently offers over 100 course options and programs.

***Policy Updates Second Reading***

KLG - Relations with Law Enforcement and State Agencies
After Board discussion, Mrs. Schloesser moved to adopt policy KLG as presented. Mr. VanderVeer seconded. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.
KLG-R - Relations with Federal Immigration Officials
Mrs. Schloesser moved to adopt policy KLG-R with potential updates regarding warrants, masks and badges. Dr. Coleman seconded. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.
KLG-E - Response to ICE or Other Federal Agents
Mrs. Schloesser moved to adopt KLG-E with potential revisions stated in KLG-R. Mr. VanderVeer seconded. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

***Policy Updates First Reading***

The Board discussed at length three policies.
JICJ - Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Technology Devices
JLCD - Administering Medication to Students
CFE - School Climate

***Other Administrative Report Items***

None at this time.

**Items introduced by Board Members**

Dr. Coleman shared a touching story she witnessed amongst staff members and expressed how grateful she is for our incredible staff.

## Board Committee Reports

Mrs. Brookhart and Dr. Coleman shared the upcoming SAC and Fund 26 meetings.

## Forthcoming Agendas/Meeting Dates and Times

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| March 9, 2026 | Regular Meeting, 5:30pm, CB |
| March 23, 2026 | Work Session, 5:30pm, GUN |
| April 6, 2026 | Regular Meeting, 5:30pm, GUN |
| April 20, 2026 | Work Session, 5:30pm, CB |

## Adjournment

Dr. Coleman moved to adjourn and Mrs. Schloesser seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:27pm. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Board President

Board Secretary