Jefferson County School District 509J
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2025-2026 BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Jefferson County School District 509-J

Monday, March 9, 2026

Hybrid: In-person and Electronic via Zoom available for both meetings

ACCESS ZOOM MEETING HERE

Phone: 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 884 3329 7682 Passcode: 091692

MEETING LOCATION:

JCSD 509J – Warm Spring K-8 Academy (Library)
50 Chukar Road, Warm Springs, OR 97761

2025-2026 Board of Directors:

Chair Jacob Struck, Vice Chair Regina Mitchell, Kevin Richards, Laurie Danzuka and Courtney Snead

REGULAR SESSION @6:30PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE: Chair Jacob Struck, Laurie Danzuka, Courtney Snead and Kevin Richards

ABSENT: Vice Chair Regina Mitchell

1. **CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**
   Board Chair Jacob Struck called the meeting to order at 6:30pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Secretary noted board member attendance for the record.

2. ~~**WELCOME CEREMONY/NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER/SONG**~~
   Superintendent Jay Mathisen informed Board Chair Jacob Struck there was not an opening ceremony / Native American prayer/song this evening. Board Chair Jacob Struck proceeded to the next agenda item.

3. **AGENDA ADOPTION**
   Board Chair Jacob Struck asked if there are questions or changes to the agenda and called for a motion.

   Superintendent Jay Mathisen informed the board of two corrections to the agenda - Item 6.3 should read, appoint two board members for the 2025-2026 Promise scholarship process – only a change in

the year that is reflected, and the personnel sheet has been updated. The board secretary handed out the newly update personnel sheet for board review and consideration.

Courtney Snead made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended; a vote was taken and passed unanimously – **APPROVED 4/0** (1 Absent).

Board Member:	Jacob Struck	Regina Mitchell	Laurie Danzuka	Kevin Richards	Courtney Snead
Vote:	Y	Absent	Y	Y	Y

4. INFORMATION / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS / COMMUNICATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1. **Classified Employee Appreciation Proclamation** (March 2-6, 2026)
Superintendent Jay Mathisen directed board members to page 3 of the board packet and read the Classified Employee Appreciation Proclamation for 2026.

4.2. **JCSD 509J Student Representative (Chloe Carillo) Report**
Student Representative Chloe Carillo reported that spring sports have begun, including softball, baseball, tennis, track and field, and golf, with increased student participation in tryouts this year. Both boys' and girls' basketball teams reached the playoffs, and the boys' team will advance to the state tournament.

Spirit Week had strong student participation. Winter Formal was held January 31 with a Cinderella Ball theme and was well attended. Prom is scheduled for May at the fairgrounds with a Gatsby Party theme.

Leadership students are planning activities for Spring Fling, a spring sports assembly, and will be attending an upcoming three-day leadership field trip.

The choir is preparing for an upcoming festival in town, and may advance to state depending on their performance. The theater department is considering hosting a games-based activity in the commons.

Several clubs are planning activities over spring break, including a potential skiing trip for the Outdoor Club and trips for the Art and Graphics clubs.

Student Representative Chloe Carillo reported that overall student morale is positive and students are excited about upcoming events.

Board Chair Jacob Struck thanked Chloe for the student report and proceeded to the next agenda item.

4.3. **Enrollment Report**
Superintendent Jay Mathisen directed board members to page 6 of the board packet and explained, if they look at the bottom right portion of the page, they will see that our enrollment increased by nine students from February 3 to March 2, 2026. He explained that month over month, we did see a gain of nine students, which is important for us. They may remember that he mentioned in our last board meeting that from the start of the semester in early February through the end of the school year last year, we actually recovered some of the enrollment decline we were experiencing at the midpoint. A month ago, we talked about

hoping to see a similar trend this year, so we're hopeful that this gain of nine students is the beginning of that recovery over the next couple of months.

He further explained, year over year we are still down 67 students—from early March of last year to early March of this year. Based on our deeper dive into the enrollment data, the level of concern remains about the same as what we discussed previously.

Board Chair Jacob Struck asked if he knew how many were added last year at the time we reached our lowest point. Superintendent Jay Mathisen said he does not, but he will find out.

4.4. **Promise Scholarship Planning Ahead - Appoint 2 Board Members** - Action Item
Superintendent Jay Mathisen explained that we are at that time of year again – we are asking for two board members to volunteer to review the Promise Scholarship applications and recommend the awards on behalf of the 509J Board.

Board Chair Jacob Struck expressed interest and asked if anyone would like to team up with him. Kevin Richards expressed that he would join Jacob.

Board Chair Jacob Struck confirmed that the budget for the Promise Scholarships this year is $3,000. Superintendent Jay Mathisen confirmed the amount is correct ($3,000) and directed board members to page 7 of the board packet and explained that the board secretary created a nice one pager with timelines to follow with some of the details. They can take action on this item later in the meeting.

4.5. **2027-2028 JCSD 509J School Calendar** *(for Information Only)*
Superintendent Jay Mathisen presented the proposed 2027–2028 major dates calendar for informational purposes. He reminded the Board that the 2026–2027 calendar was approved earlier this year in accordance with district policy. The 2027–2028 calendar provides a two-year planning outlook and will return next year for formal approval following the district's review process.

Superintendent Mathisen noted that the calendar continues the practice of starting school after Labor Day, with the first student day scheduled for the Wednesday of that week in September. This would represent the fourth year of that schedule pattern. No significant changes are proposed.

Board Chair Jacob Struck asked whether there were any changes to student days or contract days. Superintendent Mathisen confirmed there are no changes; contract days would require bargaining if adjustments were proposed.

No additional questions or comments were raised. The calendar was presented for information only. Board Chair Jacob Struck proceeded to the next agenda item.

4.6. **Financial Report / Budget Update**
Superintendent Jay Mathisen said he asked CFO Brad Henry to join them this evening - typically, the financial report is included in the consent agenda, which allows it to be approved along with the rest of the items. However, tonight they pulled it from the consent agenda so they can spend a little more time on it. He said that he asked Brad to walk them through the

key details of the report, particularly as they prepare for the first budget workshop in April, which will not be the official budget meeting, but it will be the first opportunity to begin those discussions.

He further explained, with budget season approaching, he wanted to give CFO Brad Henry a little extra time to present the information and allow for additional time to ask questions about the financial report. He thanked Brad for coming this evening.

CFO Brad Henry directed board members to pages 9-10 of the board packet to explain the financial report, which compare adopted budget amounts, projected year-end totals, and variances. He explained, the most significant month-over-month change is a slight increase in projected State School Fund revenue based on updated estimates. Property tax collections are now projected to be slightly below budget. Overall, total resources are projected to increase by approximately $60,000.

Expenditures have changed minimally, with salaries projected to be about $40,000 lower and benefits about $60,000 lower than previously estimated. Total expenditures are projected to decrease by approximately $20,000.

The projected General Fund ending balance has increased by about $40,000 from last month and is currently estimated at approximately $5.3 million. The adopted budget included a planned transfer from the Stabilization Fund to the General Fund; however, current projections indicate the district will not need to use those funds this year. The district originally budgeted to use $4.4 million in reserves but is now projected to use approximately $3.2 million.

CFO Brad Henry concluded by informing the board that district leadership continues to implement a multi-year financial plan to align expenditures with revenues. The 2026–27 budget is expected to include the use of approximately $2.5–$3 million in reserves, with a goal of returning the budget to structural balance by the 2027–28 fiscal year, depending on factors such as state funding and enrollment trends.

CFO Brad Henry invited questions from the board.

Board Chair Jacob Struck mentioned that the district had previously received an unexpected and significant update from PERS and inquired about the typical timeframe for receiving such notifications.

CFO Brad Henry noted that PERS sets rates every two years, and this fiscal year marked the first year of the new rates, which initially included a significant increase of approximately 11 percentage points. Subsequently, additional funds were made available at the last minute, reducing the rates by just under two percentage points. The next rate cycle will begin in fiscal year 2027–28.

The primary factor affecting these rates is investment earnings, which are based on data from two calendar years prior. While some variables, including the maturation of certain purge bonds, could influence future rates, preliminary analysis suggests the next cycle may see a

modest increase of one to two percentage points. However, favorable investment performance in 2025 is expected to mitigate a significant rise.

Courtney Snead noted the $795,000 one-time increase in the State School Fund and asked CFO Brad Henry how they can speak about that, to clarify that this is not indicative of future recurring revenue, while continuing efforts to reduce reliance on reserves.

CFO Brad Henry confirmed that the board received an update on the components of the State School Fund and the recent $795,000 increase. He explained that a portion reflects prior-year adjustments and a smaller portion the current year. The increase is primarily driven by statewide enrollment and property tax factors, with final reconciliation for the previous fiscal year expected in approximately one month.

Courtney Snead inquired about the current balance in the stabilization fund. CFO Brad Henry shared that the fund balance is approximately $4.3 million.

It was asked if the fund will be used in next year's budget and CFO Brad Henry explained, even if the full amount is not used, the budget will reflect a similar approach to the current year. A transfer from the stabilization fund to the general fund will be budgeted to help balance next year's budget.

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson added to the discussion on budget projections and risk management – he noted that many districts are making mid-year budget corrections due to revenue projections being inaccurate, and recognized that under Brad's leadership, financial planning looks both in the past and multiple years ahead, positioning the district for stability while remaining fiscally conservative.

Superintendent Jay Mathisen added, to Shay's point - current district budget pressures, several districts are currently negotiating furlough days to complete the school year, resulting in the reduction of school days in various regions. For example, one district in our region is implementing five furlough days this year. Additionally, some districts are considering mid-year layoffs, including potential staff reductions over Spring Break, due to challenges in covering the remainder of the school year.

These circumstances highlight the significant financial pressures facing districts. Our district is considered well-positioned to manage these challenges. With the recent notice of funding from State Fund 740, we are able to limit the use of reserves to $3.2 million this year, compared to the $4.5 million budgeted, assuming operations proceed according to plan. Brad has proposed a plan to further reduce reserve use.

He concluded, while a more immediate reduction could have been implemented two years ago, such action would have adversely affected both students and staff. The current approach allows additional time to implement changes thoughtfully, with the hope of improved funding outcomes in the next legislative session. Some positions maintained during this period may be preserved on a long-term basis, depending on future developments.

The board appreciated that the district's projections are conservative, mitigating potential mid-year shortfalls.

With no further questions or comments, Board Chair Jacob Struck proceeded to the next agenda item.

4.7. **Interim Assessment Update**

Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson and Curriculum Director Billie White explained that the state has introduced new K–8 accountability metrics, including attendance and math assessments for 5th and 8th grades. Starting next fall, all districts must administer interim ELA and math assessments three times per year. Our district will continue using MAP Growth for secondary math and ELA, add MAP Growth ELA for elementary K–5 (alongside DIBELS), and use the data to guide instruction rather than simply meet state requirements.

They concluded that teacher training on effective use of assessment data will occur in September, and the board will receive ongoing updates on outcomes and accountability changes.

5. HEARING OF CITIZENS / DELEGATIONS / PUBLIC COMMENT [2-OPTIONS]

OPTION 1: Each person wishing to speak will have signed in at the beginning of the meeting to be recognized. The 509-J Board of Directors reserves this time for citizens to share comments or concerns. Because time is limited, as a standard practice, as a courtesy to others, and to maintain our meeting schedule, guests will be allotted three minutes to speak. If you have a group attending regarding the same topic, you will need to appoint one speaker. The Chair has authority to keep order and impose any reasonable restrictions necessary to conduct an efficient meeting. The Board reserves the right to delay discussion on any item presented until later in the meeting or at a subsequent meeting. Objective criticism of operations and programs may be heard, but no complaints concerning specific personnel, the visitor will be directed to the appropriate means for filing complaints as necessary.

OPTION 2: Jefferson County School District 509-J will accept public comment in writing prior to the meeting. Written comments must be received online (via the comment link on the agenda) by 1:00 pm [the date of the board meeting] and may be read during the public comment section of the meeting. Comments or complaints regarding specific people or personnel WILL NOT be accepted, please refer to the district complaint policy.

John Ang signed up to speak.

[In-person from sign-in sheet - no notes or formal written comment was submitted to the board secretary; therefore, the following is a brief summary of the topic shared as a public comment during the meeting.]

John Ang introduced himself, noting his previous role with AmeriCorps in reestablishing elementary music programs in the district. He mentioned teaching children of current community members, and maintaining contact with the district's music programs after leaving in 2024. He expressed concern over a trend of music teacher positions being cut or teachers being split between multiple schools.

John emphasized the cognitive and physical benefits of music education, noting its unique role in connecting different areas of students' brains. He offered to volunteer for any music position at risk of being cut and urged the district to avoid further reductions in music staffing. He highlighted the expertise and accomplishments of current music teachers, including composing for professional platforms, and shared that many teachers feel "hopeless" about the current situation. He cautioned that losing the music program would remove an essential educational resource, noting that previous

support programs like Ethos and rural outreach have been defunded. He compared the district's situation to another where a single music teacher was spread across three schools totaling 1,400 students, a workload not typically expected of other educators.

John concluded by urging the district to recognize the importance of music education, stressing that continued reductions and overextension of teachers would result in the program's disappearance. He acknowledged budgeting constraints but emphasized that music remains a critical component of the district's educational system.

Board Chair Jacob Struck thanked John for his contributions to the district, acknowledging his work with students and his positive impact on those he interacts with. Chair Struck noted that John's efforts are greatly appreciated. Kevin Richards also thanked John for attending the meeting, highlighting that his ongoing commitment to the community has earned respect from both students and parents.

Board Chair Jacob Struck proceeded to the action items on the agenda.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1.1. Approval of Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes of **February 9, 2026**
6.1.2. Personnel Action
6.1.3. Resolution **#26-09**, Misc. Grants & Donations ($10,000)

Board Chair Jacob Struck asked if there are questions or comments on the consent agenda.

Laurie Danzuka asked about the facility donation of funds and related concrete reflected on Resolution 26-09. Superintendent Jay Mathisen and Director of Operations Simon White addressed the question to the board's satisfaction.

Board Chair Struck called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Laurie Danzuka made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; a vote was taken and passed unanimously – **APPROVED 4/0** (1 Absent).

Board Member:	Jacob Struck	Regina Mitchell	Laurie Danzuka	Kevin Richards	Courtney Snead
Vote:	Y	Absent	Y	Y	Y

6.2 JCSD 509J RENEWALS & EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS

Superintendent Jay Mathisen directed board members to pages 21-26 of the board packet and explained this is the time of year when we renew and extend contracts. We renew contracts for employees in their first, second, or third year of employment, which falls within their probationary period. For employees beyond their third year, we extend their contracts. You'll see this reflected in the documents starting on page 21, where probationary employees are listed. The term "probationary" doesn't imply that these employees have performed poorly; it simply indicates they are in their first three years with us. On this list, are employees categorized as first-year probationary, second-year probationary, and third-year probationary.

In the board vote tonight, the first-year probationary employees will be renewed as second-year probationary employees for next year, and similarly, second-year employees will move to third-year probationary status. After that, third-year probationary employees will transition to contract status.

He further explained that they will see contracts being extended. At the end of the list (page 26), they will find licensed administrators. There are also a few temporary teaching assignments mentioned on the same page. Since these are temporary, they end at the conclusion of the year. The district can choose whether to repost those positions for the following year, but they're listed for their information.

Superintendent Mathisen concluded, by statute, we are required to notify our licensed educators of the board action by March 15 each year. That is why they often see this discussion in a March board meeting. In some cases, if the March meeting falls too close to the 15th, we may take this action in February. But since tonight is the 9th, we have plenty of time before the deadline.

Board Chair Jacob Struck asked if there are comments or questions; with none presented, he called for a motion.

Kevin Richards made a motion to approve the JCSD 509J Renewals & Extension of Contracts as presented, a vote was taken and approved unanimously – **APPROVED 4/0** (1 Absent).

Board Member:	Jacob Struck	Regina Mitchell	Laurie Danzuka	Kevin Richards	Courtney Snead
Vote:	Y	Absent	Y	Y	Y

6.3 APPOINT 2 BOARD MEMBERS FOR ~~2024-2025~~ 2025-2026 PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS

Courtney Snead made a motion to appoint Kevin Richards and Jacob Struck to represent the board for the 2025-2026 Promise Scholarship Process, a vote was taken and approved unanimously – **APPROVED 4/0** (1 Absent).

Board Member:	Jacob Struck	Regina Mitchell	Laurie Danzuka	Kevin Richards	Courtney Snead
Vote:	Y	Absent	Y	Y	Y

7. BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Board Chair Jacob Struck - Great news—our Battle of the Books team took first place out of 21 teams and is heading to the state competition in April. The team read sixteen chapter-books each, and a special thanks to librarian Ryan for all his hard work!
- Courtney Snead - Shoutout to a MAC student who placed 6th at the state competition. He already has his sights set on nationals next year!
- Kevin Richards - The wrestling teams had an outstanding month, especially the middle school boys and girls, with their best performance in years. It's great to see the program thriving!
- Laurie Danzuka - Girls' basketball had a great season, with several players earning first and second-team honors. I'm excited to see what's next for them.

- Superintendent Jay Mathisen - We're on track to have more students earn the Seal of Biliteracy this year than ever before—16 have already earned it, and if all 26 students pass their English competency, we could have 42 students achieving this honor.
- Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson - Despite challenges, we continue to live out our values and focus on student success. It's a tough season with the budget process, but I'm proud of our community for staying engaged. Assistant Superintendent Shay Mikalson requested that MHS Principal Tony Summers who was attending in the audience to share an update on the powerlifting team.
    - MHS Principal Tony Summers - Our powerlifting team had an incredible showing, winning best overall team at the Oregon High School Championship. We'll compete again in April, and the team is growing with more students signing up.

8. REMINDERS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Board Leadership – **Monday, April 7, 2026 @8am** (Jacob & Regina)
- Next JCSD 509J 2025-2026 Board Meeting – **Monday, April 13, 2026** [Budget Workshop]

Important Note*: Dates, times and locations of the events listed are subject to change with little or no notice, please check the JCSD 509J website for school board, individual school and performing arts center information on the various events scheduled throughout our district: https://www.jcsd.k12.or.us/*

9. MEETING CLOSURE/ADJOURNED

With no further business, Board Chair Jacob Struck adjourned the meeting at 7:24**pm**.

Draft to Board for approval at next meeting,

Monday, April 13, 2026

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Tessa Bailey, Executive Assistant

_____ _____

Board Chair Jacob Struck Superintendent Jay Mathisen

_____ _____

Date Date