

**Advisory Committee on Efficiency (ACE)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 2, 2026**  
**Location: Eddington School Gym/Cafeteria**

**Members Present:** Jake Burtchell, Krista Vining-Means, Chip Haskell, Scott Walton, Audra Leland, Becca Jordan, Deanie Burnell, Brenda DeRoche, Julianna Prentiss, David McKluskey, Karen Quimby, Trish Eldridge

**Members Absent:** James Spencer, Jade Oakman, Thomas Smith

**Others Present:** Scott Walton, RSU63 School Board Chair, Sheila Caldwell RSU63 Superintendent

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chip Haskell called the meeting to order at 5:32. As Jade Oakman was absent, Krista Vining-Means agreed to take notes.

### **Flag Salute**

### **Review of ACE Committee Meeting minutes from December 8, 2025.**

It was motioned by Brenda DeRoche and seconded by Becca Jordan to approve the December 8, 2025 minutes as written. There was no discussion. The team voted unanimously to approve.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. **Operational Costs:** Karen Quimby made a motion to send the report to the School Board. This was seconded by Julianna Prentiss.  
Discussion: Scott Walton asked a question as to why the summer help at Eddington is higher than the other 2 schools and maintenance. Ryan explained the difference is higher due to the working hours.  
There has been less budgeted due to possible consolidation.  
**Motion Passed: Unanimous**
  
- b. **Transportation:** It was motioned by Audra Leland and seconded by David McKluskey to send the report to the School Board. James Spencer was unable to attend the meeting, but sent along a report. Both subcommittee's and Superintendent's reports are in the provided packet. It was motioned by Julianaa Prentiss and seconded by Jake Burtchell to approve.  
Discussion: There was permission asked to speak to Transportation Director Zac Chenier-Holcomb. Permission was granted. Zac was questioned regarding drivers. Zac explained that part of the issue is that people who are applying do not have their bus license. The district would need to pay overtime in order to train. It costs \$7,000 to send someone to bus driving school. Zac and Keith have the ability to train. It's usually about 45 hours and this is much cheaper. The suggestion was made to make the budget so that it would be enticing for people to apply to our district. Zac said we are currently comparative to Cyr Bus Company. Summer training can happen. Currently there are 3 trainings. It was asked if the district holds a driver to a contract once trained. Zac said

they sign a 1 year contract or pay back a tank of gas and training hours. It was discussed that kids are spending lots of time on the bus. We do have an extra bus that we could use if we had a driver.

**Motion Passed: Unanimous**

**c. Facilities:** It was motioned by Jake Burtchell and seconded by Julianna Prentiss to pass the facilities report to the school board as written.

Discussion: The Facilities subcommittee looked at existing spaces, capital expenditures (roofing, sewer, boilers, etc). There are significant savings in capital expenditures. There could be a possibility of saving over \$500,000 if the district were to close the Eddington School. There would be a shift in classes, spaces, play spaces, etc. Karen Quimby asked if generators are a requirement or recommendation. It is a recommendation. She asked at what point can we make it with 2 schools or even 1 school. After reviewing the conclusions and recommendations and the given numbers this is the responsible thing to do. David McKluskey asked if there had been a cost analysis to see if one of the schools can accommodate both schools without any type of construction. This can be found on the last page of the packet. Eddington would have to add a bathroom. Becca Jordan stated that she didn't feel you could get grades 2, 3, 4 into 2 classrooms per grade level now. There would be no interventionist space. Brenda DeRoche asked about space needed once the school takes over CDS. Special Education Director, Krista Vining-Means, explained that no extra space would be needed for 2026-2027 but that she could not speak to the following school year as of yet. David then asked if we don't do improvements on the facility to be closed, how would this affect the sale. He asked for information on recommendations on next steps after the school closed. Julianna Prentiss explained that the district owns the school. David asked if the district is responsible for repairs. The answer is yes. If we keep Eddington open we need to spend approximately 1 million dollars. The board doesn't know what's on the docket for repairs. Jake Burtchell shared that if there were legal questions related to the sale process that they could be found online. There are too many what ifs related to potential repairs needed for a sale to an unknown end user. It is a school board issue. This is a facility report and they are unable to put factual numbers on hypothetical situations. Becca stated again that 3 classrooms per grade level will not fit. Julianna said that there are currently empty classrooms. Becca disagreed. She said some grade levels can't go down to two classes. Chip said sending this back to the committee won't help. It's not meant to be an "end all, be all." The floor plans provided are intended to show that consolidation is possible, not to dictate final floor plans. Brenda said that currently the Kindergarten has been without a bathroom for 2-3 weeks and they have had to go down the hallway. She explained that that is very difficult.

David would like to recommend that updates and expenditures be added to the report. Chip responded that amending the report to include hypothetical improvements would be counter to the goal of providing a factual comparison.

Karen Quimby made a motion to amend and add that these are possible layouts, not definitive and that we make a notation that there could be incurred costs with closing a building that are yet to be determined. Jake Burtchell seconded the motion.

**Motion to amend was unanimous Motion to send to the school board was 6 in favor, 5 opposed; motion passes**

**Composition Update:** Scott Walton explained to the committee that the school board mostly appoints the committee. With the recent change in board members, it was suggested that Amy Hartt will resign as the Holden School board member and Chip Haskell will take over. Julianna Prentiss currently sits on the committee as a representative of the PTG. Karen Quimby stated that Eddington and Clifton should be represented as well. Scott will be asking them at tonight's school board meeting. Scott also thanked Amy for her time spent on the committee. **No action taken.**

Brenda DeRoche asked if the school board votes to close one of the schools, would it be closing this year. Scott said that he would not be in favor of it happening until the projected timeline of 2027, not 2026. It is a school board decision and then will have to go to referendum.

Audra Leland made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Brenda DeRoche.

**Motion to adjourn was unanimous.**

**Approved by Committee 03/02/2026**

**Accepted by Board 04/27/2026**