



**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES (via Zoom)
Mead School District Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 12, 2026**

The Board of Directors held a Special Board Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, August 12, 2026. The meeting began at 12:30pm. Directors Cannon, Gray and Woodworth were present. Directors Nolan and Killman were excused. Superintendent Travis Hanson was also present.

I. Agenda Presented

Director Gray began the meeting and the presented agenda was followed.

II. Resolution 26-05

Emergency Declaration for the Spokane Complex Fire

Superintendent Hanson shared that the district is currently taking proactive steps to ensure all Mead's schools are safe for occupants following the three significant wildfires that burned within and around our community. While none of Mead's school buildings sustained direct structural damage, several facilities were in close proximity to the fires. Smoke, ash, and other wildfire particulates have the potential to negatively impact indoor air quality and also settle on surfaces, carpets, and building systems and equipment. For that reason, the district has engaged qualified professionals to conduct air-quality testing, evaluate the condition of our facilities, and suggest the remediation steps necessary to provide the safest possible environments for students and staff. The services of these professionals comes at a not insignificant cost.

Superintendent Hanson stated this Emergency Resolution is primarily intended to allow the district to respond quickly. Normal competitive bidding and procurement processes exist for a reason, but can take significant time. The urgency of the work around evaluation, remediation, and preparation of affected schools for the start of the school year means that traditional procurement timelines could become a barrier to an on-time start. This Resolution allows the district to expedite that work and engage qualified contractors and service providers when necessary.

Additionally, this Resolution also helps position the district to pursue available emergency funding and reimbursement going forward. It authorizes district staff to get the remediation processes started and take actions necessary to support the district's response and recovery, while not losing out on monies available to us to help offset costs. It is not about bypassing appropriate safeguards, rather it's about giving the district the flexibility to respond to an unprecedented situation with the speed necessary while documenting the work, using qualified professionals, and pursuing every available avenue for reimbursement and emergency assistance. The Resolution is recognition that the district is dealing with an extraordinary circumstance that requires an extraordinary level of responsiveness.

Superintendent Hanson took a moment to recognize the hard work of two of the district's leaders, Travis Bown, Director of Maintenance and Operations, and Ned Wendle, Director of Facilities and Custodial Services, in conjunction with their staff. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help with a rapid and comprehensive response.

Superintendent Hanson said that the district does not yet know the full financial impact of the wildfire response and there is work ahead in determining what may be

eligible for reimbursement or financial assistance through state, federal, insurance or other emergency-recovery resources. Adopting this Resolution puts the district in the best possible position to pursue available state emergency funding, including resources that may be available through the state's emergency funding pool, rather than limiting the district's ability to recover eligible costs down the road.

Lastly, this Resolution also ratifies actions already taken in response to the fires beginning August 1, recognizing the district could not wait for a formal declaration before taking reasonable steps to protect our facilities and prepare our schools.

In summary, the board's authorization of this Emergency Resolution is in support of two primary objectives: providing the safest possible learning environments for students and staff and protecting the district's financial interests. Superintendent Hanson recommended the board adopt Resolution 26-05.

Director Cannon commended Mr. Bown on his hard work and thanked Todd Zeidler, Public Information Officer, for all the work he did in communicating with staff, families and the community. Director Gray commented that Mead came together like Mead always does and the board is committed to continuing to do the work necessary to meet the needs of the community.

Director Cannon made a motion to approve Resolution 26-05, Emergency Declaration for the Spokane Complex Fire, as presented. Director Woodworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No individuals signed up to comment on agenda items.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41pm.

President

Secretary



RESOLUTION 26-05
Emergency Declaration for the Spokane Complex Fire

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Mead School District No. 354, Spokane County, Washington, declaring an emergency due to an imminent health, safety, and property hazard at Mead School District; waiving competitive bidding requirements for necessary emergency remediation and repair work; ratifying prior actions; and providing for related matters.

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2026, the Governor of the state of Washington declared a state of emergency with respect to dangerous wildfire conditions across Central and Eastern Washington, including the greater Spokane area affected by certain fires collectively referred to as the Spokane Complex Fire, for the purposes of implementing plans and procedures in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, implementing a temporary outdoor burn ban, and authorizing members of the Washington National Guard and the Washington State Guard to serve as needed, all in response to such dangerous wildfire conditions; and

WHEREAS, each of the large wildfires in the greater Spokane region (the “Fairview” fire, the “Old Trails” fire, and the “Autumn Lane” fires) spread across and into Mead School District boundaries, consuming significant acreage inside the district, with potential damage to and unsafe conditions in school district facilities.

WHEREAS, reputable contractors and service providers have been or will be identified by the District or all purposes necessary to evaluate, remediate and otherwise prepare the impacted schools for occupancy by the start of the 2026-27 school year; and

WHEREAS, time constraints for the evaluation, remediation and other necessary work on the Impacted Schools will not allow for the work to be awarded through a bidding or other competitive process; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Spokane Complex Fire, an emergency in the District exists and a declaration of emergency is necessary (under RCW 28A.335.190(6) and RCW 39.04.280) to protect, evaluate, remediate and otherwise make ready the impacted schools in preparation for the start of the 2026-27 school year in a timely manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Mead School District No. 354 that an emergency situation exists, that the District shall waive competitive bid and other requirements for the award of the goods, services, and public works contracts referenced above, and that the award of these contracts are hereby approved and ratified in an effort to minimize the damage and adverse impacts caused by the Spokane Complex Fire to the Impacted Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all appropriate District staff are authorized to request waivers from the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and other state agencies, enter

into contracts for funding, and take any other actions determined necessary in support of the response to the effects of the Spokane Complex Fire and related recovery efforts; and

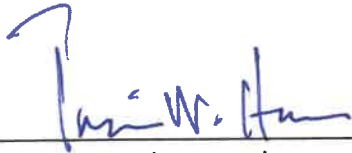
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution takes effect from and applies to all actions taken in response to the Spokane Complex fire since the fires started, as of August 1, 2026, and all actions taken prior to the effective date of this resolution in furtherance of and not inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are ratified and confirmed in all respects.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Mead School District #354, Spokane County, Washington, at a special meeting held this 12th day of August, 2026.

Dated this 12th day of August 2026.

Attest:

Mead School District No. 354
Board of Directors



Secretary to the Board

