

RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 307
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. – DISTRICT OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT - Jerry Sprouffske, Rebecca Stillings. Amanda Siemandel and Dana Spivey. Edgar Ooms had an excused absence.

STAFF MEMBERS, STUDENTS & PUBLIC PRESENT – Bryon Bahr, LeAnn Bennett, Rita Meldrum, Justin Gurnsey, Kristin Robinson, Rob Henry, Kathy Gallwas, John Gallwas, Amanda Ensele and Autumn Rowland.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Director Sprouffske called the board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHANGES TO AGENDA – No changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Director Siemandel made a motion to approve the July 22, 2026 Budget Hearing Minutes and the July 22, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Director Stillings seconded. Motion passed 4/0.

PAYROLL/VOUCHERS - Director Stillings made a motion to approve the voucher amounts as listed and Director Spivey seconded. Motion passed 4/0.

	<i>Warrants & Direct Deposits</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Estimates</i>
<i>Payroll & Benefits</i>	900025152-900025299	1,091,970.25	1,100,000.00
<i>General Fund</i>	74117956-74117980	147,128.18	150,000.00
<i>ASB Fund</i>	74403365-74403365	317.06	317.06
<i>Capital Projects</i>	74200238-74200239	1,320,400.87	1,320,400.87

AUDIENCE INPUT/PUBLIC COMMENT – Community member Kathy Gallwas made a public comment speaking against the Blue Fern Development Project. She stated she would like to see the land annexed into the Yelm School District.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS - **New Hires:** Wyatt Dean - RMS ELA Teacher; Rachel Cox – Kindergarten Teacher (one year only); **Recalled (all 5 Paraeducators, one year only):** Brian Hackethal – Paraeducator; Rachel Aue – Paraeducator; Autumn Rowland – Paraeducator; Bethany Camera-Schley – Paraeducator; Mazzie Archaga – Paraeducator. **Resignation:** Kelly Hill – High School Special Education Resource Teacher. Director Stillings made a motion to approve the new hires as listed and Director Siemandel seconded. Motion passed 4/0. The Board also recognized the recalls and resignation as listed on the agenda.

2026-2027 CERTIFICATED & CLASSIFIED STAFF LIST - Director Siemandel made a motion to approve the 2026-27 Certificated & Classified Staff Lists and Director Stillings seconded. Motion passed 4/0.

2026-2027 FALL COACHING CONTRACTS – Director Spivey made a motion to approve the 2026-27 Fall Coaching Contracts and Director Siemandel seconded. Motion passed 4/0.

2026-2027 OVERNIGHT STAY APPROVAL – Director Stillings made a motion to approve overnight stay for the entire 26/27 school year including the Band. Director Spivey seconded the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

WSSDA GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORK SESSION DATE – The Board set a date of Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. to gather and discuss the WSSDA Legislative Positions and Bylaws.

2026-2027 RAINIER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CALENDAR – No action necessary.

MODERNIZATION CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – Superintendent Bahr provided an update on the modernization projects happening in the District in the absence of Bob Marney, Director of District Operations. He explained all of the projects are wrapping up nicely. Bob Marney did a walk through punch list today, August 19th and everything was good. The Elementary and Middle School are complete and staff are allowed back into classrooms. The High School is near completion. Some of the major improvements completed this Summer include:

- New windows and doors at the High School
- New energy-efficient lighting in all three school buildings
- New electronic reader boards at the High School and Elementary School and reader board training is scheduled for August 27th

DISCUSSION ON BLUE FERN DEVELOPMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

- Superintendent Bahr gave a report on several topics regarding the Blue Fern Development Project including:

- **Financial Analysis** - We are working with the K-12 Team from Piper Sandler to develop a financial analysis for the Board. We have asked them to examine existing and future levies, bonding capacity, potential bond scenarios, capital facility needs, development timing, impact/mitigation fees, state funding opportunities, taxpayer impacts, and the financial differences between Blue Fern remaining in Rainier School District versus a potential future boundary transfer. **Piper Sandler will be presenting at the Blue Fern Work Session September 16th 6:00 pm in the Main Gym.**

- **Capital Facilities Plan** - We have been developing a Capital Facilities Plan. The Plan has a lot of moving parts and we want to make sure it is correct. We clearly need professional assistance completing this work. Parker Howell who is an attorney for Porter Foster Rorick is reviewing our work and giving us feedback on what we need.
- **Policy 6900 Facilities Planning** - Policy 6900 is scheduled for approval at this August 19, 2026 Board meeting.
- **City of Yelm / Impact Fees** - I have contacted Kathy Linnemeyer, Yelm City Clerk. My understanding is that for Rainier School District to collect school impact fees within the City of Yelm, we would likely need an Interlocal Agreement with the City, an updated Capital Facilities Plan supporting an impact-fee schedule, adoption of an ordinance by the Yelm City Council, and incorporation into the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- **Blue Fern Survey** - The purpose of the survey is to gather thoughtful and informed feedback. I believe the September 16th work session will provide additional data, answer some outstanding questions, and give all a better understanding of the Blue Fern development and its potential impact on the Rainier School District. The recommendation is to send the surveys out after the September 16th work session.

POLICY 5404 – FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE – Director Stillings made a motion to approve Policy 5404 and Director Spivey seconded. Motion passed 3/0 as Director Siemandel did not cast a vote because she works at the Employment Security Department.

POLICY 5407 – MILITARY LEAVE - Director Spivey made a motion to approve Policy 5407 and Director Stillings seconded. Motion passed 3/0 as Director Siemandel did not cast a vote because she works at the Employment Security Department.

POLICY 6900 – FACILITIES PLANNING – Director Siemandel made a motion to adopt the new Policy 6900 regarding facilities Planning and Director Stillings seconded. Motion passed 4/0.

FINANCIAL REPORT – LeAnn Bennett, Business Manager, reported on the July 2026 Budget Status and Cash Analysis Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Rita Meldrum, Principal of Rainier Elementary; Justin Gurnsey, Special Services Director; Rob Henry, Athletic Director and Kristin Robinson, Assistant Principal of Rainier High School and Middle School all gave reports on their buildings. Some highlights included comments on how great the buildings look after the completion of the modernization projects and what a great job the custodians have done. Rob Henry handed out Fall sport schedules and reported football started August 19th. All other Fall sports start Monday, August 24th. Mr. Henry let the Board know their passes will be handed out at the BBQ on September 2nd.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Bahr reported on several upcoming events including:

- Rainier Round-Up Parade is Saturday, August 22 at 11:00 am. The Board participants were asked to be there no later than 10:45 am.
- 2026-2027 Rainier School District Summer Institute begins Monday, August 31, 2026.
- Wednesday, September 2nd is Open House at all schools starting at 4:30 pm followed by a BBQ hotdog feed at the football stadium.
- First Day of the 2026-2027 school year starts Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chairman Sprouffske announced an Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss a personnel issue. The Executive Session started at 6:54 p.m. Director Siemandel made a motion to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. and Director Stillings seconded. Motion passed 4/0.

ADJOURN - Director Spivey made a motion to adjourn the Regular School Board Meeting and Director Stillings seconded the motion. Motion passed 4/0. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

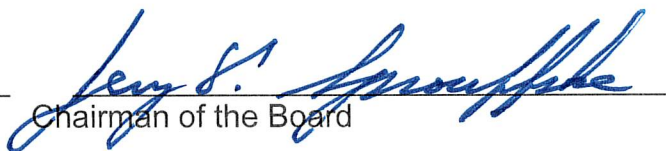
NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, September 23, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Bryon Bahr, Secretary



Secretary to the Board

Approved by:
Jerry F. Sprouffske



Chairman of the Board

The best education for every student, every day, every way!