Colorado Facility Schools Board Meeting
September 10, 2026

Venue: Shiloh House Family Resource Pavilion
9700 E. Easter Lane, Centennial, CO 80112

In attendance:
Board Members Present: Steven Ramirez, Megan Coggins, Rebecca Carpenter, Mylynda Herrick, and Margo Valaika.

Attended via Zoom: Sonjia Hunt.

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Judy Stirman, Robin Singer, Tara Butler, Lori Kochevar, Lisa Bohn Smith.

Attended via Zoom: Allie Miller, Margarita Colindres, Celina Ulibarri, Carrie Foster, Annie Haskins

Staff Absent: Wendy Dunaway, Ann Symalla

Meeting Commencement:
Chair Ramirez called the meeting to order and asked all present in the room and online to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes for August 13 , 2026:
Chair Ramirez entertained a motion to accept the Board minutes.
Board member Herrick made a motion to approve the August 13, 2026 minutes, and Board member Carpenter seconded. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Approval of September 10, 2026, Agenda:
Additions to the agenda were suggested to add Lawrence Green as a presenter for Shiloh Pueblo at 10:55. Other changes to the agenda were to move the interview protocol to 12:30, and eliminate the third interview candidate due to a candidate withdrawing their application. A final amendment to the agenda was for the Board Corner, Board member Coggins to contact Handprints for October, and Board member Valaika to contact Serenity for November. The agenda was approved with the changes.

Public Comment:
Chair Ramirez read the public comment rules. Members of the public who were signed up to address the Board included:

- Roberta Ayala, Former Facility School Educator
- Meryl Duguay, Parent Advocate
- Michaele Pansza, ACES Principal

Legal Updates with Jason Langberg, Attorney General's Office Representative:

- Attorney Langberg informed the Board that the Facility School Rulemaking was submitted and published, and there was no cost-benefit analysis requested. There is a link on the Office of Facility Schools' webpage and Facility Schools Board's webpage to the Secretary of State's website for a draft of the proposed rules, as well as an online form for public comment, an email link for public comment, and a notice of the public hearing at the October 8, 2026 Facility Schools Board meeting.
- ECEA Rulemaking was being presented today to the State Board. Proposed were changes to the IEP revision process requiring ongoing AU involvement, monitor compliance, a required process for discharging/exiting students, and more specific FAPE expectations to provide more clarity.
- Attorney Langberg updated the Board about fulfillment of the DLC settlement agreement, which included rulemaking, stakeholder engagement, an interagency agreement, oversight and accountability, and training and technical assistance.
- Law and Policy Institute Proposal - suggestions were made for additional training sessions other than Kaleidoscope - specifically, a day-long training for facility school leaders about laws, rules, and policies.
    - There was a proposal to invite CAFCA to a future board meeting to discuss the possibility of school lunches for Facility Schools. Chair Ramirez called for a voice vote to affirm consensus of all board members to support Chair Ramirez to speak to CAFCA. All members affirmed.

Review and approval of Joshua Early Childhood Center (JECC) to add 4th Grade
Samantha Davis, Cindy Lystad, Martha Muth, and Marie Lowe requested that JECC be approved to include 4th grade with their current licensure through DHS being through age 10.

- Chair Ramirez entertained a motion to approve adding 4th Grade to JECC approval. Board member Herrick made a motion and Board member Coggins seconded the motion.
- Chair Ramirez asked Director Stirman to call the roll as Board members responded with their vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Southgate
Deon Bruce presented an update on the conditions for approval of Southgate as a Facility School. CDHS has issued a license for the facility, staff is being trained, and there is onboarding for a licensed clinician. All conditions previously cited by the Board were met.

- Chair Ramirez entertained a motion. Board member Herrick moved to approve the new Southgate Facility School. Board member Carpenter seconded the motion.
- Chair Ramirez asked Director Stirman to call the roll as Board members responded with their vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Shiloh Pueblo
Kevin Tracy and Lawrence Green sought approval for a day treatment program. CDHS has issued a licence for the facility, staff is being trained, paras are being onboarded, and technology is being purchased.

- Chair Ramirez entertained a motion. Board member Valaika moved to approve the new Shiloh Pueblo Facility School. Board member Carpenter seconded the motion.
- Chair Ramirez asked Director Stirman to call the roll as Board members responded with their vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Accreditation Update
Director Judy Stirman walked the Board through three examples of accreditation reports for different types of schools. She highlighted how the reports include the grades served, students served, and a brief description of the school. The accreditation ratings currently show as pending. The Facility Schools Board will make their recommendations for rating and status to the State Board of Education in October. The State Board will review for the final approval in December, with ratings listed as meeting or developing, and the overall status would be listed as accredited, accredited with conditions, or not accredited. New schools would be given a year-long grace period before going through accreditation. Stirman explained that District average data was used for state assessments, and for this year only, District average staff retention was used but would use specific school data next year. Attendance was calculated by school. The reports would include digital icons earned for state testing, staff retention, and graduates. Stirman encouraged the Board members to give feedback. Board member Coggins proposed a definition on attendance. The Board thanked the Office of Facility Schools for their hard work and dedication involved in creating the accreditation reports.

Board Vacancy Interviews
The Board conducted two interviews for the vacant School District seat. After discussion of the candidates, Chair Ramirez entertained a motion.

- Board member Herrick made a motion to recommend Alexander Shockley to fill the vacant Board seat representing school districts. Board member Hunt seconded the motion.
- Chair Ramirez asked Director Stirman to call the roll as Board members responded with their vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Governance and Development
Virginia Winter led a discussion on the understanding and acknowledgement of the revised Operating Procedures. Changes were discussed for the Public Comment Guidelines, wording changes were made to the section Appointments to the Board, and language to specify co-chair staggered terms.

- Chair Ramirez entertained a motion to approve the revised Operating Procedures. Board member Carpenter made the motion, which was seconded by Board member Herrick.
- Chair Ramirez asked Director Stirman to call the roll as Board members responded with their vote. The motion passed unanimously.

2026-2027 Annual Verification of Facility School Directory
Board members were given the updated Facility School Directory for their binders. A suggestion was made that there would be a dropdown choice for the placing agency. Also the language on length of stay should be changed so it cannot be misconstrued that there is a predetermined length of placement.

Kaleidoscope
This year, Kaleidoscope will be held on October 29th and 30th. The Board will be presenting and recognizing nominations between 9:00-11:00 both days. Specific times will be firmed up and announced at the October meeting.

Board Corner Update
Board member Coggins will connect with Handprints for October; and Board member Valaika will connect with Serenity for November.

Reflections: Elements of Strategic Plan or Responsibilities of the Board
The Board touched on several items from the Responsibility Matrix, including the annual review of the updated directory, improving the accreditation process, determining the Board seat nomination, and revising operating procedures. The Board also touched on several items from the Strategic Plan including active leadership.

Office of Facility School Staff Updates
Leadership:
Stirman gave a quick update that Hilltop is closing the facility school side of their operation. She confirmed that Board member Hunt would continue to serve through the end of the calendar year. Stirman also thanked those who participated in the Work Group that recently ended and appreciation was given for five years of service. Stirman encouraged all to make rulemaking comments.

Monitoring:
Singer shared that an on-demand training was completed. Also, the first monitoring visit for 2026-27 is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

Data Management and Systems Support:
Kochevar and Ulibarri are working on IC support, Syncplicity folders for accreditation, 7 Mindsets/Base, October count, tuition cost financial report, and prepping for December staff data collection.

Academic Systems:
Butler is busy with IXL and i-Ready support, Para Pod training, and Kaleidoscope registration - with over 100 attendees already registered.

Next Meeting Date:
October 8, 2026, at Shiloh House Family Resource Pavilion (9700 E. Easter Lane, Centennial, CO 80112).