

COTTONWOOD JT. SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

**Members Present:** Chair Aaron Hinkelman, Vice Chair Tara Klapprich, Keith Holcomb, Casey Forsmann, and Shawn Kaschmitter

**Administration Present:** Jon Rehder, Matt Elven and Carly Behler – Clerk

**Others Present:** Diana Graning and Jason Weber

1. **Call to order:** The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Hinkelman at 5:30 p.m. in the board room in the Auxiliary Gym.
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance was recited**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Consent Agenda:**
  - a) **Agenda**
  - b) **Minutes from Annual Meeting - January 19, 2026**
  - c) **Presentation of Bills**
  - d) **Clerk/Treasure Financials – District, Jr/Sr High, and Elementary Student Body Funds**
  - e) **Add Carly Behler and Remove Denise Uhlenkott – Prairie Elementary School Account at Cottonwood Community Federal Credit Union**  
*After discussion Board Member Holcomb moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Board Member Forsmann, motion carried unanimously.*
5. **Public Input – Items on the Agenda:** Diana Graning thanked and encouraged the staff for the no cell phone policy.
6. **Action Items:**
  - a) **Set Budget Hearing Date:** *After discussion Board Member Forsmann moved to approve the Regular June Meeting, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. as the Budget Hearing Date, seconded by Board Member Kaschmitter, motion carried unanimously.*
  - b) **Levy Discussion/Resolution to Set Levy Amount – May 19, 2026 Election:** Superintendent Rehder went over the needs of the district and how the levy amount and budget will be affected by the state of the State and the education cuts that are being proposed. He mentioned that a special board meeting in March to finalize the levy amount and discuss the budget further could be useful as the March Board Meeting is after the levy resolution deadline for the county. *After discussion this was tabled for a special meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. This meeting will be a budget workshop and levy amount decision for the May 19, 2026 election.*
  - c) **Hire of Elementary Special Education Teacher:** Superintendent Rehder went over the process of filling the position internally and recommended Rachel Hernandez for this position. *Board Member Forsmann moved to approve Rachel Hernandez for the Elementary Special Education Teacher position, seconded by Vice Chair Klapprich, motion carried unanimously. Further discussion about filling the now vacant 1<sup>st</sup> grade teaching position will be discussed at the special meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.*
  - d) **Additional Protect Ed – Air Purifiers:** Superintendent Rehder went over the additional attendance information that was requested by the Board. *Vice Chair*

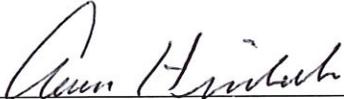
*Klapprich moved to approve additional Protect Ed – Air Purifiers in the 4-6 grade rooms as well as the library and multipurpose room, seconded by Board Member Holcomb, motion carried unanimously.*

- e) **Valedictorian and Salutatorian Requirements:** Superintendent Rehder and Principal Elven asked about follow up on these requirements. After a lengthy discussion and questions from the board it was agreed to bring it back to the March meeting for additional information including dual credit, chemistry/science, and FFA options, along with a more detailed definition of “academic rigor”.
- f) **Policy, Procedure, and Handbook Discussion of 3265 Electronic Devices:** Principal Elven went over the update of the policy, procedure, and handbook to show the difference from 1<sup>st</sup> semester to 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. *Board Member Forsmann moved to approve the update of 3265 as discussed in the meeting with the recommendations from Principal Elven, seconded by Vice Chair Klapprich, motion carried unanimously.*
- g) **Policy and Procedure Discussion of 3340 & 3340P Corrective Action Punishment:** Superintendent Rehder went over the difference of the policy and procedure of 3340 & 3340P and how the procedure should follow the policy as policy trumps procedure. *Board Member Forsmann moved to approve the update of the policy and procedure as discussed in the meeting with the recommendations from Superintendent Rehder, seconded by Board Member Holcomb, motion carried unanimously.*
- h) **Policy Updates 2nd Reading – 2445, 2605, 4260, 4260F, 5740, 5740P1, 5740P2, 7225, 7235, 7237, 7270, 7320, 7320P, 7400P1, 7400P2, 7400P4, 7405, 7430, 7450, 7450P2, 7455, 7600, 7600P1, 7403, 7600F1, and 7600F2:** *After discussion Board Member Holcomb moved to approve the update of all these policies with the recommendation from ISBA, with the exception of 7403 as that was updated in November and 5740P1 as 5740P2 was chosen as the form for the district to use with the verbiage certified (not highly qualified), seconded by Board Member Forsmann, motion carried unanimously.*

## 7. Reports:

- a) **Jr/Sr High:** Principal Elven went through his report with no additions. He answered questions from the board.
  - b) **Elementary/Supt/Facilities:** Superintendent Rehder went through his report and added that the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Moss camp would like to move their date from Fall of 2026 to Spring of 2027. He said that the regular March meeting would be a great opportunity to meet at the Jr/Sr High School and go for a tour at 5:30 so Rick Forsmann can show the Board the updates and needs of the school. Maybe with the regular April meeting we can plan for the same opportunity at the Elementary School. He answered questions from the board.
8. **Public Input – Items Not on the Agenda:** Jason Weber thanked the board members for multiple items, including the no cell phone policy, levy discussion, being transparent with patrons which allows confidence from the community, and allowing the coop with Grangeville for the soccer team.
9. **Future Agenda Items:** Valedictorian and Salutatorian requirements, Special Meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>, Gym Foyer, and Touring the High School before the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

10. **Executive Session – Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) – Personnel:** The Board was polled as follows regarding entering into executive session, Shawn – yes, Keith – yes, Tara – yes, Casey – yes, and Aaron – yes. The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:25 pm regarding principal evaluation. All Board Members were present. Also present were the administrators and clerk.
11. **Reconvene:** The Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:34 pm.
12. **Principal Contract:** *Board Member Kaschmitter moved to approve an extension of 1 year to Principal Elven’s contract, making it a 2-year contract with the increase to be determined with the state budget and budget workshop, seconded by Board Member Forsmann, motion carried unanimously.*
13. **Adjourn:** Chair Hinkelman adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

  
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Chairman of the Board

  
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Clerk of the Board

