



# CULVER SD #4 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2025

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## In Attendance

Seth Taylor, Chair | Chelsea Williams, Director | Scott Leeper, Director | Gabrielle Beebe, Director |

Stefanie Garber, Superintendent | Megan VerVaecke, Business Manager | Lacie Correa, Board Secretary | Cassandra Loreda, Elementary School Principal | Dave Williams, Middle School Principal |

Makenzie McElmurry, High School Student | Various 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Student's |

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## Call to Order and Flag Salute

Board Chair, Seth Taylor, called the meeting to order at 5:03PM.

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## Appointment and Swear in Gabrielle Beebe for Board Position #3 for the Culver School Board

Board Chair, Seth Taylor swore Gabrielle Beebe into Board Position #3 for the Culver School Board.

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## Approval of Agenda

Agenda amended to remove Scott Novelli for Administrators Reports and add High School Student Reports under Communications.

S. Leeper moved to approve the amended agenda as presented; C. Williams seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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## Communications

### 1. Hearing of Patrons

None

### 2. Culver Elementary School Report – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Culver Elementary Students

First Grade Students performed a dance to showcase and invite the Board to their dance assembly scheduled for Friday March 21, 2025.

### 3. Culver High School Report- FBLA

High School FBLA Student Makenzie McElmurry presented a PowerPoint to the Board to highlight the High School FBLA students' successes.

**Board Chair S. Taylor left meeting at 5:18pm due to prior commitment; S. Leeper filled in as board chair for the remained of the meeting.**

### 4. Business Manager Financial Report- Megan VerVaecke

Business Manager Megan VerVaecke provided an update to the Board, reporting that the LGIP interest rate has decreased from 4.70% to 4.60% effective on March 12, 2025. She went on to add that we have received our initial estimate from the State and although the State has increased overall funding, the amount that the District is set to receive is lower than we anticipated. She stated that we are currently expecting to receiving an additional \$362k. Ms. VerVaecke advised the Board that this was not the news we wanted to hear, considering the information we had been receiving the last six months from the State had been so positive regarding School Funding, she added that they are still evaluating everything in order to make the budget work. Additionally, she added that there are some other legislative bills currently under review that could potentially bring additional funds. Ms. VerVaecke went on to provide information on Senate Bill 849, she informed the Board that information came out late yesterday afternoon and this morning, if this bill passed this could provide some relief in regards to PERS rates for the District. Ms. VerVaecke stated that from everything that has been released that it appears the relief would be for all Districts, not just Districts with side accounts. Another additional area where we may see additional funding that is being discussed by legislators currently is the Special Education Cap, which if passed could either increase or remove the cap which would mean an increase in funding for the District.

Ms. VerVaecke informed the Board that our prior year taxes came in at \$1400, which is a slight decrease of about \$600 from February of last year. Our current year tax collections came in at almost \$41k, which is increase of about \$3k from February of last year. Our State School Fund is up about 10K from this time last year. She said that we received an updated on February 21, 2025 that reflected the changes that we had previously made to our estimates back in January. However due to the PGE recall, we did adjust our local tax revenue down by \$100k. Ms. VerVaecke informed the Board that our school's March payment is increasing around \$50k per month for the remainder of the year due to this adjustment. She went on to inform the Board that our ADMw has decreased on our last estimate and after a review of the submitted ADM data and a few discussions with ODE, it appears that it is accurate. She added that our enrollment has been fluctuating throughout the year, however we have only seen an increase of three students. Ms. VerVaecke went on to explain that there are two factors that need to be considered which are that four of our students are Ashwood, which we receive tuition for and also the ODE also applies a December to June ratio for enrollment and that has us dropping almost an additional five students based of previous years' data. She directed the Board to review the financial documents she had provided and informed them that there is a new line item which is yellow, this new line items are for the rental costs of the use of our facilities, which we have seen an increase of requests. Lastly she stated that our year to date revenue is at \$9.5 million, which is a decrease of \$230k from this time last year.

Ms. VerVaecke added that for that most part, most of our expenditures were in line with what we have seen in prior years. She referenced financial reports provided to the Board and directed the Board to the Instruction-Services line item, which has seen the largest increase year over year with a \$33K increase. She added that this was largely due to our December Substitute bill being paid this month. She informed the Board that our purchasing cutoff date will go into effect on April 4, 2025 and we will hopefully be able to get a better idea of where we will land with our ending fund balance. Ms. VerVaecke informed the Board that our year to date expenditures were around \$5.7 million, which is an increase of \$250k from this time last year and all of our bank reconciliations have been completed and all of our accounts were in balance with no variances.



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## Administrator Reports

### Stefanie Garber, Superintendent

Superintendent Stefanie Garber presented a PowerPoint to the Board which informed the Board of her current goal updates which included:

#### Goal 1: Work with Principals to Examine Possibilities to Create a Variety of Offerings:

- ☐ CTE
- ☐ Community Partnerships
- ☐ Extracurricular
- ☐ Areas of lower achievement identified each year

#### Progress Toward Goal 1:

1. She has met with the new director of COCC-Madras, James Rodriguez and the Instructional Outreach Dean, Cindy Lenhart to explore partnerships between COCC and the Culver School District.
2. She continues to serve as the Technology Committee Facilitator
3. She has met with Montell Elliott to work with Best Care on funding the Wayfinder programs for the Culver Middle School.
4. She attended a virtual PowerSchool Training on "The Power of Data to Positively Impact Attendance".
5. She attended the Ashwood School District Board of Directors meeting to thank them for their donation to the District.
6. She initiated the discussions with the admin team on efficiency and budget reductions, encouraging creative ideas to team up staff and/or programs to increase offerings without increasing staffing.

#### Goal 2: Communication & Climate

##### ● Objectives:

- ☐ Visit one building or department per day; be out and about three days per week.
- ☐ Continue Labor/Relations meetings once a month with unions.
- ☐ Communicate with staff in the region and at the State level regarding programs, legislation, concerns, & accolades representing Culver's best interest.
- ☐ Develop a schedule for regular communications with the board and ask for their preferred format.

#### Progress Toward Goal 2:

1. She continues to attend monthly labor relation meetings with the Certified Union. The Classified Union has not yet found the need to meet. She also invited the Board to participate in the upcoming negotiations.
2. She joined the High School and Elementary School PE Teachers and participated in two PE classes on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.
3. She rode all four regular bus routes on March 12, 2025, March 13, 2025, March 17, 2025 and March 19, 2025.
4. She continues to communicate with the Board as issues arise.
5. She has surveyed stakeholder groups for the Integrated 7 applications, which will be utilized to gain a sense of the overall climate of the District. She added that she has shared this information with the Large Admin Team.
6. She attended the COSA Legislative Update meeting, which occurs every Friday at 8am.
7. She met with ODE Small Rural School Representative, Erin Blair to discuss Culver and build a partnership.
8. She has attended monthly Regional Superintendent Meetings held at the High Desert ESD.
9. She has attended bi-monthly Integrated 7 regional meetings.
10. She had contacted Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson regarding a "no vote" on HB3652.

#### Goal 3: Communication & Climate

##### ● Objectives:

- ☐ Continue to guide principals and the administrative team to support smooth leadership.
- ☐ Represent the district in community projects—specifically the sewer project and the housing development.
- ☐ Continue to improve facilities in our district by addressing:
  - Seismic Grant
  - Facilities Assessments
  - Establishing a Facilities Supervisor position for 2025-26 SY
  - Future Bond initiatives

#### Progress Toward Goal 3:

1. She is meeting bi-weekly with the Facilities, Megan VerVaecke and the Seismic Grant Team.
2. She announced that the Facilities Supervisor position has been posted.
3. She organized the final plan for Emergency Response events during unstructured time, scheduled Jefferson County Sheriff's Department to come to train staff on our protocols on April 3 and also worked with the facilities staff to get lines painted and door key card access points installed.
4. She continues to plan and lead week Administrative Team meetings.
5. She has met with SAJ Architects, Megan VerVaecke and our Facilities Team to determine Finishes in the gym for the Seismic Project.

### Dave Williams, Middle School Principal

Middle School Principal Dave Williams informed the Board as they approach spring break, the middle school staff and students are focused on planning and preparation for the remainder of the school year. Upon returning, students will have only a few days until the end of the current nine-week grading period. Efforts are underway to support students in clearing up Ds and Fs. While the list is currently larger than usual, this is expected due to recent illnesses and absences.

We are actively working on the Master Schedule in coordination with both the high school and elementary school. We are currently awaiting forecasting data from the high school, and the middle school will potentially begin its own forecasting process shortly. We are also looking to expand and enhance elective offerings for the upcoming school year to provide students with a more robust experience.



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Winter sports have successfully concluded, with approximately 90 students—about half of our student body—participating. Looking ahead, spring track will begin immediately after spring break, and we are anticipating an exciting season.

In addition to athletics, we have several engaging events and learning opportunities coming up:

- The “Wild Horse” trip
- The 8th Grade Road Scholar trip
- 6th Grade Outdoor School experience
- Middle School Battle of the Books recently competed and placed 13th; the team is already preparing for next year
- Tomorrow, a majority of our 8th-grade students will head to Mt. Bachelor for a ski trip

## Cassandra Loreda, Elementary School Principal

Culver Elementary School Principal Cassandra Loreda presented a PowerPoint to the Board which informed the Board of a vibrant and engaging month. In celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, Student’s celebrated the day with various activities. Leadership students participated in a Shamrock Hunt, created posters and cards for local veterans, helped plan Spirit Week, and the Student of the Month assembly. The TAG (Talented and Gifted) program has continued to expand, with students identified through SBAC scores in the 97th percentile or higher. A total of 12 students across grades 1 through 6 were tested, and families of newly identified students will receive Personal Education Plans (PEPs). A parent survey was also distributed to gather input for quarterly TAG events planned for next year, and families have been receiving enrichment activity updates through High Desert ESD and the High Desert Museum. In ELD (English Language Development), ELPA testing is ongoing and has been impacted by absences and accommodations. At the high school level, push-in support is proving beneficial, though students miss having a dedicated ELD class. Efforts are underway to expand support during the school day. Elementary and middle school ELD students are currently studying local plants and animals and have begun a novel study unit. The month also featured a successful OMSI Science Night, including the Wild Weather Show assembly, dinner, a STEAM fundraiser, student activity rotations, and large-scale science demonstrations such as Elephant’s Toothpaste and Van de Graaff experiments. Lastly she displayed an activity calendar with events throughout the end of the school year.

## Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2025 and March 14, 2025  
Monthly Personnel Report – March 2025

*C. Williams moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; G. Beebe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

## Business Agenda

1. HMK Presentation  
*Steve Earle with HMK provided Board with update of the District’s current seismic grant. No action taken.*
2. Staff Appreciation  
*Board decided on staff appreciation meal and decided on Wednesday of Staff Appreciation Week for their scheduled day. No action taken.*
3. Superintendent Evaluation Discussion  
*No action taken at this time. Will be added to April 24, 2025 Agenda.*
4. Board Goal Document Discussion  
*No action taken at this time.*

## Items for Information at a Future Meeting

None

## Items for Action at a Future Meeting

- CSD Policy Rewrite/Adoption- June 2025
- GEM Awards
- Budget Committee Interviews
- Integrated Programs 25-27 SY Application- April Board Meeting
- Inter-District Transfers- May 2025
- 25-26 Calendar- April/May 2025
- Fee Schedule
- Resolution for new bus purchase

## Board Member Comments

None

## Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21PM.





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A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and strokes.

Scott Leeper – Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, prominent 'S' followed by a series of connected loops and a trailing flourish.

Stefanie Garber - Superintendent