

Key Votes in Douglas County School Board Meetings – June 26 – August 21:

Douglas County School Board Meeting – June 26, 2025

- **DCSD faces a serious fiscal issues:** The District incurred a \$2.6 million revenue loss due to a 170-student enrollment decline and unreimbursed special education costs, prompting critical budget amendments. Director of Business Services Susan Estes presented the final budget. Ms. Estes informed the Board that the District no longer maintains the required 4% fund balance for the first time in memory. This is due to falling enrollment, escalating costs of Special Education and excessive per-pupil spending at Whittell School up at the Lake. This will result in inevitable staff reductions. And a lack of a 4% fund balance may require the State to provide a compliance officer to review financial viability.
- **The Board approved the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan** - The 2022-2027 Strategic Plan was unanimously approved without discussion or debate, with some public comment noting its alignment with DEI and collectivist principles, raising questions about its ideological framework.
- The superintendent's report highlighted successful graduations, ongoing professional development, and planned broker tours to boost enrollment.
- **Homework Policy Disagreement** - The homework policy discussion was highly contentious, marked by sharp disagreements over completion-based grading and delays in addressing February directives.

[Read the full report.](#)

Douglas County School Board Meeting – July 16, 2025

- **The Superintendent's Plan to address the fiscal shortfall** - The meeting was chaired by DCSD Board President Trustee Wagstaff, with Trustees Jansen, Burns, Gneiting, Dickerson, Miller present, and Trustee Zinke. DCSD Superintendent, Frankie Alvarado, presented draft goals emphasizing phased staff reductions over three to five years, leveraging 41 upcoming teacher retirements to match staffing to enrollment without massive cuts, and restoring a 4% ending fund balance plus a 1% contingency within three years through a December plan presentation.
- **Enrollment declines in the District** - Enrollment was reported at 4,674 students as of July 17, with kindergarten registrations around 100 in June and expectations of late enrollments; a special meeting was scheduled to forecast five-year declines using three-year averages, discuss per-student education costs, and solicit input. Declining enrollment has very serious fiscal ramifications.
- **Compliance award** - The District is in receipt of over \$100,000 in CASE funding after advocacy with state officials, achievement of 100% compliance in inclusive education as confirmed by a Nevada Department of Education (NDE) letter

[Read the full report.](#)

Douglas County School Board Meeting – August 21, 2025

- **Superintendent Evaluation and Compensation:** The board unanimously rated Superintendent Alvarado as highly effective (averages: vision 3.89, organization 4, collaboration 3.71, ethics 4.64, governance 4.4) and approved his compensation with a 6-1 vote, aligning with a 3% step increase and administrative raises.

- **Policy and Committee Updates:** Second readings of Board Policies 551 (Student Political Activities) and 529 (Suspension and Expulsion) were unanimously approved, alongside revised Transportation Field Trip Policy 809, and Melinda Knighting was appointed to the Health Advisory Committee.
- **Enrollment:** Superintendent Alvarado reported a 125-student enrollment decline from the previous year.
- **Academic Performance Trends -** Pueblo Middle School's presentation by Principal Amy Carter highlighted a decline in 8th grade math proficiency from 22.4% to 19.7% and 7th grade ELA from 27% to 22%. Gains were reported in 6th grade ELA (22.9% to 46.6%) and overall attendance improved from 21.4% absent to 7.23% absent.

[Read the full report.](#)