



## **CEC Governing Board Meeting February 19, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Join the meeting now**

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**Call to Order** – Laura called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the reading of the Mission Statement.

### **Mission Statement**

*Colorado Early Colleges' mission is to prepare a diverse population of students for life by developing their mind, body and character through rigorous academic studies, and character development activities in cooperation with the community we serve.*

*All students, regardless of background or skill level, will have the opportunity to pursue a growth mindset that will allow them to achieve mastery and will demonstrate that they can succeed in school, in college, and in their chosen career.*

*No exceptions. No excuses.*

### **Attendees:**

- Board of Governors: Laura Calhoun, Terry McDonald, Arthur Cyphers, Jessie Mathis, Larry Mohr, and Fish Abrahaley
- Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Jill Gildea
- Governing Board Liaison: Brenda Rhodes
- Other guests: Jeremiah W., Saeed S., Tom S., Stephanie G., Melissa T., Wendy R., Aaron P., Cameron M., and Cody P.

**Approval of Agenda** – Art made a motion to approve the agenda; Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

### **Correspondence/Board Comments**

- Jessie attended the CEC Colorado Springs Frozen Frenzy Invitational Robotics competition.
- Larry shared a Fort Collins Coloradoan newspaper article about how Poudre School District's Board was taking up the topic of potential teacher layoffs/reduction in force at their February 24, 2026 Board meeting.

## Board Committee Reports

- CEC Governance Committee
  - Terry gave an updated on the ongoing new Board Director recruitment process:
  - 9 candidates were moved forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> step of the recruitment process and asked to submit answers to 9 written questions and to send a copy of their resume or other document which outlines their professional/personal experience.
  - As of the Board meeting:
    - 4 candidates have completed the written questions and have sent the requested document.
    - 2 candidates have completed the written questions but have not sent the requested document.
    - 3 candidates have not completed the written questions and have not sent the requested document.
  - The committee also asked Dr. Gildea to share what experiences and /or expertise she feels would be beneficial and important to have on the Governing Board going forward.
  - Next steps:
    - The committee will use a “scoring rubric” to review each candidate’s packet, which includes informal interview feedback, initial New Board Director application, answers to written interview questions, and resume.
    - Using the scoring rubrics and Dr. Gildea’s feedback, the Committee will recommend candidates to move forward to a final interview with the entire Governing Board at the March 19, 2026 board meeting.
  - The committee is also reviewing the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of revisions to CEC’s Bylaws, the CEC Governing Board Policy, and CEO evaluation process.
  - Terry thanks Stephanie and Brenda for their work in supporting the committee’s work.

## Administration Report – Dr. Jill Gildea

- Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Annual Report – Wendy Rhodes, Director of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness
  - Wendy shared her annual report on CEC’s Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness including a summary of current PWR pathways, upcoming legislative changes and how CEC is responding, a recap of new PWR pathways for the 26-27 school year, and a review of PWR funding.
- School Showcase – Tom Smith, Head of School, CEC Online Campus
  - During his presentation, Tom highlighted the school’s growth noting that the Online Campus outperforms the top 5 Colorado online schools in student achievements and outcomes. He also shared parent/student testimonials with the Board.

## Public Comment - None

The Board welcomes Public Comment. Please keep comments to 3 minutes or less per person. Should you have a question for the Board that requires a response, please submit your question via email to the CEC Governing Board President, Laura Calhoun, at [cecgoverningboard@coloradoearlycolleges.org](mailto:cecgoverningboard@coloradoearlycolleges.org) who will then respond to your question via email.

## Board Discussion and Action

- Approve January 15, 2026 CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
- Approve January 27, 2026 Special CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
  - Jessie made a motion to approve both the January 15, 2026 CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes and the January 27, 2026 Special CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes; Art 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.
- Approve Adoption of Curriculum Policy
  - Aaron P. provided context for the updates to the policy. After Board discussion, Art made a motion to approve the Adoption of Curriculum Policy; Larry 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved by voice vote.
- Approve Early College Graduation Policy
  - Aaron P. provided context for the updates to the policy. After Board discussion, Terry made a motion to approve the Early College Graduation Policy; Jessie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved by voice vote.
- Approve Student Name Change Policy
  - Aaron P. provided context for the updates to the policy. After Board discussion, Art made a motion to approve the Student Name Change Policy; Laura 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved by the following roll call vote:
    - Jessie – Yes
    - Art – Yes
    - Fish – Yes
    - Larry – Yes
    - Terry – Yes
    - Laura - Yes

## Other Business

- April Date for In Person Half Day Board Retreat
  - The Board agreed on Saturday, April 18, 2026 as their next In Person Half Day Board Retreat.
- Review Keith King and President’s Scholarship Award Selection Process
  - Brenda shared key dates with the Board as to when nominations for both the Keith King and President’s Scholarship award will be ready for Board review.
  - Art made a recommendation that the President’s Scholarship Award be changed to the CEC Governing Board Scholarship Award. The Board unanimously agreed with the change effective with the 2026 graduating class.
- 2026 CEC Promotion and Graduation Ceremonies
  - The Board is to inform Melissa as to which promotion and/or graduation ceremonies they will be attending.
    - CEC Colorado Springs Middle School Promotion
      - Wednesday, May 13, 2026 @ 8:30 a.m., CECCS MS Basecamp
    - CEC Fort Collins Middle School Promotion
      - Wednesday, May 13, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m., CECFC High School King Auditorium
    - CEC Online Campus Middle School Promotion
      - Friday, May 15, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m. (virtual/recorded)
    - CEC Fort Collins High School Graduation
      - Monday, May 18, 2026 @ 10:30 a.m., Blue Arena, Loveland
    - CEC Online Campus High School Graduation
      - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m. (virtual/recorded)
    - CEC Colorado Springs High School Graduation
      - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m., UCCS
    - CEC Windsor Middle School Promotion

- Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m., CECFC High School King Auditorium
- CEC Windsor High School Graduation
  - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 7:30 p.m., CECFC High School King Auditorium
- CEC Douglas County North High School Graduation
  - Wednesday, May 20, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m., Arapahoe Fairgrounds Event Center
- CEC Aurora High School Graduation
  - Wednesday, May 20, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m., Arapahoe Fairgrounds Event Center
- CEC Castle Rock High School Graduation
  - Friday, May 22, 2026 @ Noon, Douglas County Event Center

### **Future Meetings of the Governing Board**

- March 19, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. Virtually Via Teams
- April 16, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. Virtually Via Teams
- April 18 2026 @ 8:30 a.m. In Person Board Retreat at CEC DC North
- May 28, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. Virtually Via Teams

### **Adjourned**

- Jessie made a motion to adjourn the February 19, 2026 CEC Governing Board Meeting; Art 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.
- Laura adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Rhodes, CEC Board Liaison

Signed

*Fish Abrhaley*

Fish Abrhaley, CEC Governing Board Secretary