



CEC Governing Board Meeting
March 19, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Join the meeting now
Dial in by phone
+1 970-462-9165 Conference ID 562 898 096#

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: Stephanie G., Mel P., Saeed S., Aaron P., Alex T., Stephanie C., Cameron M., Jeremiah W., Mark M., Jennifer B., and Melissa T.

Approval of Agenda

- Jessie made a motion to approve the agenda; Art 2nd. Approved.

Correspondence/Board Comments

- Laura noted that the Board is using a new process in recruiting new Board Directors and she was excited about the new Board Director candidates. She thanked Brenda for her work in developing the process.
- Larry added that the candidate packets were good and thanks Laura and Terry for their work in selecting the candidates being interviewed later in the meeting.

Administration Report – Dr. Jill Gildea

- School Showcase – Frutoso (Toso) Chavez, Head of School, CEC DC North
 - The Board watched a video presentation from Frutoso Chavez, Head of School, CEC DC North, which highlighted student achievements and student/school culture.

- Jill informed the Board that 4 CEC schools would be up for charter renewal next year – CEC Fort Collins, CEC Aurora, CEC Online Campus, and CEC Colorado Springs.

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 who will then respond to your question via email.

Board Discussion and Action

- Approve February 19, 2026 CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
 - Terry made a motion to approve the February 19, 2026 CEC Governing Board Meeting Minutes; Jessie 2nd. Approved.

Other Business

- Keith King and CEC Governing Board Scholarship Award Deadlines
 - Ballots due to Brenda Rhodes Friday, April 3, 2026
- Laura reminded the Board of the deadline above.

Board Committee Report

- CEC Governance Committee
 - Terry informed the Board that CEC's Bylaws have been updated, and the draft is with CSI for their review to ensure the Bylaws are in compliance. The CEC Governing Board policy is also being updated and the committee is working on CEO evaluation criteria.
 - Larry quickly added that the Finance Committee would be meeting soon.
 - New Board Director Candidate Panel Interview
 - Jennifer Bailey
 - Stephanie Christian
 - Alex Tibar
 - Jeremiah Way
 - Laura introduce Brenda Rhodes, CEC Governing Board Liaison, as the facilitator for the New Board Director Candidate Panel Interview.
 - Each Board Director received a packet for each candidate noted above which included their resume, initial application, and written answers to formal questions.
 - Each candidate was asked the following 5 questions with present Board Directors and Dr. Gildea having the opportunity to ask follow-up questions.
 - Please tell the Board more about yourself and explain why you are interested in joining the CEC Governing board.
 - What do you hope to achieve by serving on CEC's Governing Board? How did you hear about CEC? What are your thoughts regarding CEC's Mission Statement?
 - What do you perceive as the most significant opportunities and challenges facing CEC?
 - How would you describe your communication style and your approach to working with other Board members?
 - How would you approach a situation where Board members are in disagreement with each other, or with CEC leadership?

Additional Information

- 2026 CEC Promotion and Graduation Ceremonies
 - 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

- 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
- No June Meeting
- July 16, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. Virtually Via Teams

Adjourned

- Terry made a motion to adjourn the March 19, 2026 CEC Governing Board Meeting; Larry 2nd. Approved.
- Laura adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Rhodes, CEC Governing Board Liaison

Signed

Fish Abrhaley

Fish Abrhaley, CEC Governing Board Secretary