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Three board members intend to resign; remaining members, incoming superintendent look to the future

Dan Snowberger's contract as district leader is on agenda for March 13 meeting, followed by resignations of board president, vice president and secretary; special meeting planned for March 16 to map the way forward for remaining board members

ELIZABETH, Colo. — Three members of the Elizabeth School District Board of Directors intend to resign during an abbreviated business meeting tonight.

On the agenda are consent items, which include the contract for the new principal at Running Creek Elementary School, Michael Seefried, as well as an action item to approve the contract for new Superintendent Dan Snowberger. The next item on the agenda is the resignation of President Cary Karcher, Vice President Kim Frumveller and Secretary Craig Blackham. Their resignation letters are posted on the [Board Meetings webpage](#).

No public comment is scheduled for the 6 p.m. meeting at the Elizabeth Middle School auditorium, which will be conducted via Zoom. The resigning members will attend virtually.

The meeting will be [live-streamed](#).

Comments from board members and the incoming superintendent

Director Rhonda Olsen said, “While I am disappointed by the recent turn of events, I remain focused on supporting our students, staff and families in Elizabeth. We have amazing accomplishments awaiting us, and I am confident our new superintendent will help us solidify our mission and vision for the district.”

Director Heather Booth said, “I am excited at what lies ahead of us in the Elizabeth School District. The conflict that existed among the previous board was unfortunate. I look forward to working with the new members of the board once they are appointed and strengthening our board leadership. I remain focused on supporting our students and staff as we move forward.”

Incoming Superintendent Snowberger said, “It is always disappointing when adult issues impact a school district and keep it from focusing on the most important work – ensuring our students receive the best education possible. After working with board members, I am confident that we will overcome this situation and refocus on our mission. I am excited to join the Elizabeth School District team.

“I recognize that there are members of our community concerned about some of the national issues playing out in classrooms across our country,” Snowberger said. “This appears to have led to conflict among members of the current board. It is incumbent upon district leadership to operate with great transparency and recognize that we serve our local community by upholding their values within our schools. National agendas and ideologies have no place in our classrooms. While I am confident it doesn’t exist today, the fear of many of our parents and community members is real. We will work diligently to implement policies and practices to ensure we uphold these community values and always respect the role of the parent in their child’s education.”

District leadership appreciates the service of all volunteer school board members and recognizes that individual members must make decisions they feel are best for them and the school district.

Next steps

Following any resignations presented at tonight’s meeting, the remaining board members and the new superintendent will work to follow the guidance of legal counsel, Caplan & Earnest, which has determined the remaining board members may declare an “extraordinary circumstance” to continue to operate. This includes reorganizing board leadership, declaring vacancies, and filling the open seats over the next month or so.

Any business that must be conducted during the period of time that a quorum may not exist will be brought back for formal authorization once at least three board members are in place constituting a quorum.

The board consisting of the remaining members will conduct a special board meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, March 16, at a location to be determined, to ensure the officer roles of president and vice president are filled, and then accept the resignations of any board members who formally choose to resign.

Letters of interest will be accepted by the board over the next few weeks, and the board will interview prospective individuals to appoint candidates to fill any declared vacancies. Upon appointment, these individuals will serve up to the next election cycle which occurs in November of 2023. Any individual who is appointed to fill an open position will need to formally participate in the upcoming election if they wish to continue to serve. Formal directions to apply for open seats will be posted on the district website after vacancies are declared later this week.

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About Elizabeth School District

Located less than an hour from downtown Denver and Colorado Springs, Elizabeth School District educates more than 2,300 students at five schools: Running Creek Elementary, Singing Hills Elementary, Legacy Academy, Elizabeth Middle School and Elizabeth High School.