



# UNAPPROVED MINUTES

## March 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education was held on **March 11, 2025** at the Piute County Courthouse in Junction, Utah. Teresa Morgan called the meeting to order at **3:33 P.M.** Present was Teresa Morgan, Jeremy Pearson, Erin Jensen, and Neccia Dalton. Rick Dalton was absent. Also present was Superintendent Koby Willis and Business Administrator Dallas Sylvester. Guests at the meeting were: Paul James, Kilee Long, Natalie Remund, Japheth Mcgee, Ryan Bjerke, Janette Lee, Russ Lee, and Eric Jessen.

**Work Meeting:** The board met before the normal meeting to review the updated preliminary negotiations agreement for FY26.

### Opening Remarks:

- President Teresa Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting. After the pledge of allegiance was recited, opening remarks were given by Jeremy Pearson.

### Program Reports:

- **Literacy Program**
  - Natalie Remund gave the school board a report on the literacy program in the district.
  - Natalie shared reading scores and progress reports with the school board.
  - Natalie shared a handout with the school board that showed a sample LETRS Phonics and Word Reading Survey that she uses with the students.
  - 54% of students are reading at the benchmark level as of right now.
  - 89 students are being progress monitored at Circleville Elementary School.
  - 11 students are being progress monitored at Utah Peak Academy.
  - Natalie explained to the board how the Kids Read Now program works and how students from Kindergarten-3rd grade get 4 free books sent to them during the summer.

## **Business Items/Meeting of the Local Building Authority of Piute County School District:**

### **Consideration of a resolution directing the issuance of lease revenue bonds by the Local Building Authority of Piute County School District and providing for related matters**

- Erin Jensen made a motion to adopt a resolution by the board of education of Piute County School District, Piute County, Utah, directing the board of trustees of the Local Building Authority of Piute County School District, Piute County, Utah to undertake a certain project through the issuance and sale by the authority of its lease revenue bonds; authorizing the execution and delivery of certain agreements and documents required in connection therewith; approving the plans, specifications and estimated costs of the project to be financed with a portion of the proceeds of such bonds; giving authority to certain officers to approve the final terms and provisions of the bonds within the parameters set forth herein; and authorizing the taking of all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution. Jeremy Pearson Seconded the motion. Roll call voting as follows: Neccia Dalton Aye, Erin Jensen Aye, Teresa Morgan Aye, Jeremy Pearson Aye. Rick Dalton was absent. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Recess From Board of Education Meeting and open Local Building Authority Board of Trustees Meeting**

- Neccia Dalton made a motion to recess from the regular board meeting and open the Local Building Authority Board of Trustees Meeting. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Roll call voting as follows: Neccia Dalton Aye, Erin Jensen Aye, Teresa Morgan Aye, Jeremy Pearson Aye. Rick Dalton was absent. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Jeremy Pearson made a motion to adopt resolution of the board of directors of the local building authority of Piute County School District, Piute County, Utah authorizing the issuance and sale by the authority of its lease revenue bonds; authorizing the execution and delivery of certain agreements and documents required in connection therewith; giving authority to certain officers to approve the final terms and provisions of the bonds within the parameters set forth herein and authorizing the taking of all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Roll call voting as follows: Neccia Dalton Aye, Erin Jensen Aye, Teresa Morgan Aye, Jeremy Pearson Aye. Rick Dalton was absent. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Erin Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Local Building Authority Board of Trustees meeting and return to the regular board meeting. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Roll call voting as follows: Neccia Dalton Aye, Erin Jensen Aye, Teresa Morgan Aye, Jeremy Pearson Aye. Rick Dalton was absent. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **Program Reports Continued:**

- **Technology Infrastructure**

- Paul James gave the school board a report on technology infrastructure in the school district.
- Paul said that fiber optics have been added to the high school's marquee.
- Paul mentioned that he is currently the co-chair of TCC, which is the group of technology directors from around the state. He is the representative for the rural school districts.
- Paul gave an update on Utah Peak Academy enrollment.
- Paul mentioned that the high school would like to have all students enrolled in their classes for next school year by the end of this school year.
- Paul mentioned that he has received an E-rate grant to upgrade network infrastructure at the schools.

## **Public Hearing**

- **School Fees Schedule 2025 - 2026**

- Superintendent Willis presented the school fees schedule for 2025-2026 to the public for the second time.
- Superintendent Willis mentioned that instead of increasing the pay to play fee for students, the district can cover the cost of the increase by reimbursing the high school for it.
- The school board reviewed the fee schedule and deliberated changes that could be made to the schedule.
- The board decided to keep the pay to play fee at \$25 a sport and will discuss how much the district will contribute to the high school during the next school board meeting.
- Jeremy Pearson made a motion to approve the school fees schedule for 2025-2026. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **Public Comments**

- President Teresa Morgan turned the time over to the public for public comment.
- No public comments were made.

## **Business Items Continued:**

- **Elementary Schools & Softball Field Design Update**

- Superintendent Willis presented the board with the most recent elementary school plans.
- Superintendent Willis presented the board with the final softball field design.
- Superintendent Willis mentioned that the school district can either put the entire softball field project out for bid to one general contractor or the project can be broken up into sections.
- The board deliberated the two options and decided to break the softball field project down into sections and put each section of the project out for bid individually.

- **UPA 2025-2026 Staffing Proposal**

- Superintendent Willis presented the school board with the Utah Peak Academy staffing proposal for 2025-2026.
- Superintendent Willis mentioned the school district would like to pursue hiring an additional teacher for UPA to cover special education.

- The new teacher would be the teacher in charge of one-on-one daily special education meetings with the online students enrolled in Utah Peak Academy.
- Superintendent Willis also mentioned that the school district would like to pursue adding an additional IT position to help with UPA and also with the in-person students.
- The school board decided to move forward with the special education teacher position and will discuss the IT position again at the next school board meeting.
- Erin Jensen made a motion to approve the school district to hire an additional teacher to cover special education for Utah Peak Academy. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- **Tax cut options**

- Superintendent Willis mentioned that the school board forgot to discuss future tax cut options during the bond discussion earlier in the meeting. The board decided to revisit that agenda item and review the possible tax cuts in relation to bond issuance for the new elementary schools.
- The possible options are as follows:

#1 - Large Tax Cut: Cut \$55,000 of estimated revenue from the capital levy. Would cut 19.6% of the increase from 2024. Would bring the estimated capital levy revenue to \$429,099. This would allow the bond to be funded entirely from the Capital Levy without pulling from other sources. It leaves a small buffer of \$5,372 assuming the 18 year bond option. This would give some space for years that the redemptions, penalties, interest, and commercial vehicle tax generate less revenue than estimated. This option could allow for an additional tax cut in 2027 when the high school bonds expire and all capital outlay foundation funds are available.

#2 - Larger Tax Cut: Cut \$100,000 of estimated revenue from the capital levy. Would cut 35.7% of the increase from 2024. Would bring the estimated capital levy revenue to \$384,099. The remaining \$39,628 needed to make payments on the 18 year bond option would come from the capital outlay foundation funds. This option ensures that every dollar generated by the capital levy is being used for the elementary school bond and then excess costs are covered by the capital outlay foundation funds. Still allows for a possible small additional cut in 2027.

#3 - Largest Tax Cut: Cut \$150,000 of the estimated revenue from the capital levy. Would cut 53.5% of the increase from 2024. Would bring the estimated capital levy revenue to \$334,099. The remaining \$89,628 needed to make payments on the 18 year bond option would come from the capital outlay foundation funds. This option provides the largest tax relief of the three options. This option could make the capital outlay funds available for school buses and smaller capital projects very tight for FY26 and FY27. Once the high school bonds expire that budget would again loosen. This option may cause less tightness in other budgets if the bond terms are extended to 20 years and the annual payment reduced.

- The board deliberated the different options for tax decreases and will continue to discuss them before tax rates are set in June.

- **2025 Legislative Session Summary**

- Superintendent Willis gave the school board an update on the 2025 legislative session.

- The school board thanked Superintendent Willis for his work on the new, Necessarily Existent Small Schools bill, HB 396.
- HB 396 was passed by the legislature and results in new ongoing funding for the school district and other rural school districts.
- Superintendent Willis explained some of the other bills that were presented in the legislative session this year that will affect education.
- **AASA Lessons Learned Presentation**
  - Superintendent Willis shared some highlights from AASA, which he attended last week in New Orleans with the CUES superintendents.
  - He shared some information from one of the breakout sessions that he attended, which focused on rural education trends.
- **Policy #4077 FBBA Dual Enrollment Revision 1st Reading**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the revision for Policy #4077, FBBA Dual Enrollment for the first reading.
  - The policy is a model policy from the state and has been reviewed and approved by the policy committee.
  - Neccia Dalton made a motion to suspend the second and third readings of the revision of policy #4077, FBBA Dual Enrollment and approve it on the first reading. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Combined Food Services Director Position With Garfield School District**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the school board with the proposed combined food services director position with Garfield School District.
  - The position would be the food services director for both Piute and Garfield, but would be the lead cook at Piute High School.
  - The current proposal has the director spending 80% of time in Piute and 20% in Garfield.
  - The position would be full time with benefits.
  - Garfield School District has approved the proposal.
  - Jeremy Pearson made a motion to approve the combined food services director position with Garfield School District. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Mountain America Credit Union Money Market Account**
  - Dallas Sylvester explained to the board that the school district can move the funding from the small schools capital grant from the PTIF account to a Mountain America PTIF Plus account to earn a little bit more interest. The current balance of the grant funding is just over \$19,000,000.
  - The Mountain America PTIF Plus account is a money market account which has an interest rate that is usually at least .001 percent higher than the PTIF account.
  - Erin Jensen made a motion to approve the school district to move the small schools capital project funding from the PTIF account where it is currently held to a money market savings account with Mountain America Credit Union(MACU PTIF PLUS). Jeremy Pearson seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- **Approval of Minutes and Vouchers**

- Jeremy Pearson made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes, the February payroll, and district vouchers and 25000565-25000649. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- **New Hires, Assignments, and Reassignments**

**New Hires**

- No new hires to approve.

**Information Items:** None

**Executive Session :** None

**Adjournment**

- At **6:19 P.M.** Jeremy Pearson made a motion to adjourn the **March 11, 2025** meeting of the school board. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.