



# UNAPPROVED MINUTES

## May 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education was held on **May 13, 2025** at the Piute County Courthouse in Junction, Utah. Teresa Morgan called the meeting to order at **3:30 P.M.** Present was Teresa Morgan, Jeremy Pearson, Erin Jensen, Neccia Dalton and Rick Dalton. Also present was Superintendent Koby Willis and Business Administrator Dallas Sylvester. Guests at the meeting were: Shauna Bagley, Heather Fautin, Heidi Stringham, Rex Waddington, Janette Lee, Robert Thomas, Stacie Gass, Jay Olsen, Russ Lee, and Kelcie Dastrup.

**Work Meeting:** The board met before the normal meeting to meet as a selection committee to select qualified contractors to bid on the new elementary schools.

### Opening Remarks:

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

### Program Reports:

- **Special Education Program**
  - Heather Fautin and Kelcie Dastrup presented the school board with the special education program report.
  - Heather gave an overview of the special education programs at each school and what their goals are.
  - Heather mentioned that one of the goals this year has been to provide individual instruction to help students become more independent in the classroom.
  - She added that another goal is to better the students' scores on grade level Acadience.
  - Another goal has been to make sure all files are properly organized.
  - She mentioned that she has spent a lot of her time lately working with students from Utah Peak Academy.
  - Kelcie Dastrup presented the school board with some of the things that special education students at the high school have been working on.
  - Kelcie showed the board how student progress is tracked and gave examples.
- **Snow College Technical Education & Workforce Development**
  - Heidi Stringham and Jay Olsen presented the school board with the program report for Snow College Technical Education & Workforce Development.

- They explained how the new Tech Connect program works. The program allows students to transfer technical credits to Snow College to count towards at Snow College.
- Phlebotomy will be added next year.
- Electrical apprenticeship and CDL programs were added last year.
- 133 tech ed scholarships were awarded last year.
- Heidi and Jay explained how the “Snow Mobile” from Snow college works.
- **Secondary Science Program**
  - Robert Thomas presented the school board with the secondary science program report.
  - Robert mentioned that the school just had the Physics day at Lagoon last week.
  - Almost all of the 8th graders attend as well as 2 juniors.
  - Robert mentioned that students participated in the egg drop event at Lagoon with other students from the state.
  - Robert mentioned that the drop was from about 50 feet.
  - Robert mentioned that he plans on taking his Physics students again next year.
  - Robert explained that some of the teachers were surprised about the change in Aspire testing this year. The test had a time limit this year for the first time.

### **Public Comments**

- President Teresa Morgan turned the time over to the public for public comment.
- Rex Waddington commented that cursive writing should be taught in the schools and that he is worried about students' handwriting.

### **Business Items:**

- **School Behavior Plans**
  - Stacie Gass presented the school board with the school behavior plans for Oscarson Elementary and Circleville Elementary School for the school year 2025-2026.
  - The plans include programs that will be implemented and how those programs will help accomplish the goals of the plans.
- **Elementary School Names & Mascots**
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the school district will need to decide if the name of the new Marysville Elementary School will continue to be Oscarson Elementary School or be changed to Marysville Elementary School.
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the school district will also need to decide if they will keep the current elementary school mascots or change them before the new schools are built. Marysville wants to keep the Bulldog as their mascot, but Circleville is currently looking into changing their mascot. They currently have a community survey circulating to gauge what the community would like to do.
  - The elementary school names and mascots topic will be revisited again.
- **Softball Field Construction Updates**
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the school district received bids for the softball field project.
  - One of the bids was \$1.26 million. The other bid was \$558,900

- The school district is currently working with the low bidder to modify the project to get it below \$400,000.
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the bid for power to the softball field was \$63,250. He mentioned that in order to have power to the field, the school district would need to increase the budgeted amount of \$400,000.
  - Jeremy Pearson made a motion to increase the amount of the softball field budget to \$500,000 or under. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **HB173 State SHINE Program Plan**
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the school district will need to decide which teaching assignments will qualify for the state SHIINE program that will replace TSSP next year.
  - The school district will also need to implement a policy that addresses the SHIINE program and how it will operate.
  - The school district will need to decide the amount of the stipend that will be paid to teachers who qualify.
  - The school board will revisit this topic and make decisions before the 2025-2026 school year begins.
- **School Land Trust Plan 2025-2026 for UPA**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the board with the 2025-2026 school land trust plan for Utah Peak Academy.
  - Neccia Dalton made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 school land trust plan for Utah Peak Academy . Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Piute High School Student Devices Policy 2025-2026**
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the policy committee has discussed the options for the high school student devices policy for 2025-2026.
  - Shauna Bagley commented about how the trial period for the device policy has been going. The high school has been testing out the policy since returning from spring break. She and other teachers commented that overall, it has been a positive experience.
  - The student device policy for 2025-2026 will be revisited again in the June meeting.
- **Policy #2041 Payroll Procedures & Benefits Revision 1st Reading**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the school board with the revision of policy #2041, Payroll Procedures & Benefits for the first reading.
  - The main change to the policy is to award part-time employees who work more than 20 hours a week with retirement and leave benefits on their second year of employment with the district. Currently, the policy awards retirement on the fourth year of employment.
  - The policy has been reviewed by the policy committee.
  - Rick Dalton made a motion to suspend the second and third readings of the revision of policy #2041, Payroll Procedures & Benefits and approve it on the first reading. Erin Jensen seconded the motion, Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Policy #2047 Staff Leave Policy Revision 1st Reading**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the school board with the revision of policy #2047, Staff Leave Policy for the first reading.
  - The main change in the policy is to award 16 days of paid maternity leave days and 12 days of paid paternity leave to employees.

- The policy has been reviewed by the policy committee.
  - Neccia Dalton made a motion to suspend the second and third readings of the revision of policy #2047, Staff Leave Policy and approve it on the first reading. Rick Dalton seconded the motion, Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Policy #4024 Transfers & Assignments Repeal**
  - Jeremy Pearson made a motion to repeal policy #4024, Transfers & Assignments. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Policy #4076 Eligibility To Participate In Student Activities Revision 1st Reading**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the school board with the revision of policy #4076, Eligibility To Participate In Student Activities for the first reading.
  - The policy has been reviewed by the policy committee.
  - Neccia Dalton made a motion to suspend the second and third readings of the revision of policy #4076, Eligibility To Participate In Student Activities and approve it on the first reading. Jeremy Pearson seconded the motion, Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **School Board Meeting Schedule 2025-2026**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the school board meeting schedule for 2025-2026.
  - Rick Dalton Made a motion to approve the school board meeting schedule for 2025-2026. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Preliminary Budget 2025-2026**
  - Dallas Sylvester presented the school board with the preliminary budget for 2025-2026.
  - He presented the preliminary budgeted revenue and expense amounts for each fund for the final FY25 budget and the original FY26 budget.
  - The FY25 final and the FY26 original budgets will be approved in the June school board meeting.
- **UPA Staffing Recommendations**
  - Superintendent Willis presented the school board with the Utah Peak Academy staffing recommendations for next school year.
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that Jennifer Finn was hired as a full time special education teacher for Utah Peak Academy.
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that the hiring committee also recommended that Sarah Erickson be hired as a part-time teacher with Utah Peak Academy for 20 hours a week.
- **In Lieu of Health Insurance Benefit**
  - Superintendent Willis mentioned that he and Dallas Sylvester have been discussing the possibility of increasing the in lieu of health insurance amount that is offered to employees who decline the school district's health insurance.
  - The school district currently offers \$500 a month (\$300 payroll and \$200 into 401k)
  - It is estimated that the school district will have 5 employees decline insurance next year and receive the in lieu of insurance.
  - The single insurance rate for FY26 will be \$8,772 or \$731 a month.
  - It is proposed that the school district raise the in lieu of insurance amount to \$700 a month with \$350 on payroll and \$350 into the employee's 401k.
  - The school board decided to revisit this topic at the next meeting and no decision was made.

- **Approval of Minutes and Vouchers**
  - Neccia Dalton made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes, the April payroll, and district vouchers and 25000721-25000801. Rick Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **New Hires, Assignments, and Reassignments**

#### **New Hires**

- Hire Jennifer Finn as a Utah Peak Academy Special Education Teacher
  - Hire Sarah Erickson as a part-time Utah Peak Teacher (20 hrs a week)
  - Hire Heidi Westwood as a 6th grade teacher at CES
  - Hire Jaxon Hepworth as a high school English teacher
  - Hire Julie Mayo as the food services director
  - Hire Emily Burton as a volleyball assistant
  - Hire Kaylie Barney as a volleyball assistant
  - Hire Mackenzie Anderton as a Substitute
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- Jeremy Pearson made a motion to approve the new hires and reassignments in the school district. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Information Items: None**

**Executive Session : At 5:55 P.M.** Erin Jensen made a motion to move into executive session for the Discussion of the Character, Professional Competence, or Mental Health of an Individual. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Each individual board member was in favor of moving into executive session. Erin Jensen voted aye, Teresa Morgan voted aye, Rick Dalton voted aye, Neccia Dalton voted aye, and Jeremy Pearson voted aye.

- The school board entered the executive meeting at **5:55 P.M.**
- The school board left the executive meeting at **7:21 P.M.**
- **Elementary Schools Bid Documents**
  - Erin Jensen made a motion to approve the qualified contractors to bid on the elementary school projects as follows: Mahas Construction, Westland Construction, BHI INC, and Tushar Contracting. Jeremy Pearson seconded the motion. Roll call voting as follows: Erin Jensen voted aye, Teresa Morgan voted aye, Rick Dalton voted aye, and Jeremy Pearson voted aye. Neccia Dalton was not present to vote. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
  - The four qualified construction companies will be sent the final plans and will have until June 4th, 2025 to submit bids.

#### **Adjournment**

- At **7:22 P.M.** Jeremy Pearson made a motion to adjourn the **May 13, 2025** meeting of the school board. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.