



Grand County School District

EACH STUDENT, EVERY DAY.

Grand County School District Board of Education

Board Retreat - Jun 27 2025

Friday, June 27, 2025

9:00 AM

In Attendance: Melissa Byrd, Kathy Williams, Dave Bierschied, Lauralee Green, Jenna Woodbury, Mike McFalls (Superintendent), Matthew Keyes (Business Administrator), NaShay Lange (Administrative Assistant)

Also in attendance: Richard Stowell, Mark Clement, Curtis Whipple, Julie Jackson and Teri Rhodes (all from USBA - arrived at 9:55, left at 12:00)

Melissa Byrd called the meeting to order at 9:27 AM

Pledge Allegiance led by Mike McFalls

Mission Statement read by: Dave Bierschied

1. Items for Discussion

a. Board Presentation Schedule

The Board has previously been presented with a board presentation schedule that includes departments within the school district. Discussion will take place now to determine outside entities that the Board would like to include in the schedule to have them present at Board Meetings for Work Sessions as well.

[25-26 - Presentation Schedule.pdf](#) 

Including:

- Seek Haven

- Four Corners
- Children's Justice Center
- Bolder Way Forward
- Moab Valley MultiCultural Center
- Moab Free Health Clinic
- Outdoor Ed - National Park Service
- Science Moab
- Library - Teen Center

b. Trainings from USBA - 10am - 12pm

Richard Stowell, Mark Clement, Curtis Whipple, Julie Jackson and Teri Rhodes will be present. They will be presenting regarding the following:

- Master Board Certification - Curtis Whipple
 - Comply with Statutory Training Requirements
 - Substantial increase of completion from 2022 to 2024
 - Changes to have newly elected board members include having these completed in the first year
 - Open and Public Meetings Act
 - Audit Training - if you are on the Audit Committee, you must complete all of the trainings; if you are not on the committee, you only have to complete some of them
 - School Community Council (School Land Trust)
 - Different Levels
 - Continuous Improvement
 - Open and Public Meetings Act Training
 - Attend annual state and national conference
 - Attend region meetings and local board trainings
 - Attend Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) or Day on the Hill
 - Advocacy
 - Know district Mission, vision and goals
 - Develop relationships with

- city, county and state leaders
 - Relationships with media outlet
 - Develop strategies for advocacy
 - It's important for you to advocate for what you need in your county/area
- Community Engagement/Collaboration
 - Serve on district wide committees
 - Build positive board relationships
 - Be familiar with school and district websites
 - Interact with Parent/Educator/Community Organizations
 - Going to town meetings
 - Don't always have to meet as a quorum, less than a quorum can meet more easily
- Effective Governance
 - Superintendent and BA evaluations (required)
 - Work to make it a positive experience
 - Focus on areas that can be improved as well as what is being done well
 - Board Evaluations
 - District Policy - Board Handbook - Code of Ethics
 - Yearly signing of Code of Ethics [signed during board meetings approximately one month after bringing on new board

- member(s)]
 - Effective to have Board Norms - we don't ask admin questions off guard "gotcha", they get to have time to find the answer and be prepared
 - Our Code of Ethics is BBF
 - "A Guide to Effective Utah School Boards"
 - "Key Works of School Boards"
- Accountability
 - School Community Council Training
 - School Finance training completed
 - Review Board Strategic Plan
 - Evaluate policies that are tied to student achievement
 - Be prepared and on-time to board meetings
- Trainings are available on the USBA website
- Trainings do not need to be completed in order
- Complete one level per year, then do a different level each year following
- Must be completed by the first part of December
- Finance/Audit Training can be found on the USBE website
 - Module 1 is only completed once, during every board member's first year
 - Module 2 is annual and for board members who are on the Audit Committee
 - Module 3 is only for School Districts with over 10,000 students enrolled
 - Another training resource:

- Enhance Board Effectiveness
 - Promote Board
- Oversight vs Overreach - Teri Rhodes
 - It's all about best practices
 - Personnel - Oversight or Overstepping
 - Professional, respectful, focused on overarching goals of the district
 - Avoid day-to-day involvement in employee matters, interacting primarily through the Superintendent
 - Facilities and Procurement - Oversight or Overstepping
 - Ensure school facilities are operated and maintained properly in accordance with district policies
 - Establish guidelines and procedures for procurement that conform with state code
 - It's appropriate to voice concerns to the Superintendent and/or BA
 - Complaints - Oversight or Overstepping
 - Follow chain of command and empower the public to answer their own questions whenever possible
 - Programs and Curriculum - Oversight or Overstepping
 - Set broad direction for what is taught
 - Ensure alignment with state standards and district goals
 - Oversight focuses on management
 - Board answers What, Superintendent and BA answer How
- Roles and Responsibilities - covered through video
 - No matter what hat you are wearing, or if you have taken your Board Member hat off or not, the community, teachers, parents, etc will always see you as a board member. You need to be cognizant of that.
- Whenever someone asks how is the Super or BA doing, I would say "they are doing a fantastic job, don't you think?"

c. Mission and Vision

The group will talk about the Mission and Vision of GCSD.

Mike - a mission and vision exists to tell what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. Feels the current mission statement is more of a motto, rather than an actual concise mission statement. Proposes that we create a new mission statement that tells more. Suggests the following statement: "To provide a quality education in a safe environment to prepare students for life after graduation."

Discussion - our current mission statement reflects the what we do.

How do we create a vision from our mission statement?

Grand Expectation, Grand Outcomes

Does our mission statement need to include employees?

Pulling "each" from the original mission statement into the proposed mission statement: To provide a quality education in a safe environment to prepare each student for life after graduation.

d. Truckman's Stages of Group Effectiveness

Superintendent, Mike McFalls, will talk to the Board about Truckman's Stages of Group Effectiveness.

- Agree to disagree, agreeably.
- Like to see the board be able to share different opinions even if they differ from someone else's and not be afraid to give that opinion.
- Take time to reflect where we are at
- Mike would like to build relationships with each board member by having conversations with board members individually. He's learning that the way things are done in other states doesn't mean that's how they are done here in Utah
- Define acronyms so no one is lost or confused
- Potential of creating a schedule where school board members can attend different meetings
- Planning a quarterly meeting with board members at the district office for team building, building morale by

strengthening personal relationships

e. Review of Required Board Trainings

Required Board Trainings include but are not limited to:

- Open Meetings
- School Community Counsel
- Audit Trainings
- Diligent Community

Reviewed the Grand County School Board References document in the School Board shared drive.

NaShay and Matt went over the Member side of Diligent Community with Board Members.

f. Enrollment Projections

Business Administrator, Matthew Keyes, will discuss the enrollment projections for SY25/26.

- Enrollment in K12 is in "historic turndown"
- 4873 students down, state-wide
- Public education is seeing a decrease and charters are seeing an increase
- Grand County is seeing a substantially less students each year
- We need to take precautions through attrition
- We have to make thoughtful and financially responsible choices when a person retires, moves away, transfers to a new position
- Moab Charter School is one of the smallest in the State. It is showing steady growth
 - Recent/upcoming changes may give us more students or take students away; big changes tend to cause big reactions
 - New leadership will take place at the Charter School and that can also make changes for us, in show of increase of decrease, and only time will tell which it will be
- With attrition we need to be aware of potential miscommunication ie: programs and positions being cut
- Riff is reduction in force where we are letting people go. Attrition is not filling positions as they become available and reorganizing what we are left with

- Attrition is going to be a big tool that we are going to be using
- Projections are showing that it will be 10 years before Utah starts seeing growth in enrollment again (that's on the Wasatch front), Moab is a couple years behind that

2. **GCSD Regular Board Meeting June 27th 2025 1:00 PM**

Board Meeting June 27th 2025

- a. FY 25 Final Budget, FY 26 Proposed Budget, and Certified Tax Rate.

Action Item: To Approve FY 25 Final Budget, FY 26 Proposed Budget, and Certified Tax Rate.

We are doing this again due to a technical glitch in our new program for board meetings, Diligent Community. The approval action item did not carry over to the state public notice website. This is being done today with an abundance of caution and good faith.

Motion to approve the District Budget Revision for the fiscal year 2024-25 school year.

Moved by: Kathy Williams

Seconded by: Jenna Woodbury

Passed

Motion to approve the proposed tax rates as shown on the PT-693 entity tax forms subject to a Truth in Taxation Hearing and the final approval of the tax rates.

Moved by: Kathy Williams

Seconded by: Dave Bierschied

Passed

Move to approve the proposed fiscal year 2025-26 District Budget subject to the final approval of the tax rates during the Truth in Taxation Hearing and the final approval of the tax rates.

Moved by: Kathy Williams
Seconded by: Lauralee Green

Passed

Lauralee Green made a motion to adjourn.

Dave Bierschied seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.