



WORK/REGULAR MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING - JUNE 17, 2025

Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 3:00 PM

BoardDocs Imported Meetings

A. WORK MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
Vice-President Tullis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

B. TRAINING

1. Diligent Overview
Superintendent Hatch provided a training and update on the transition from BoardDocs to Diligent. He informed the Board that the transition has been delayed, primarily due to the incomplete migration of policy documents. However, the transition is expected to be completed before the July Board Meeting, likely within the next couple of weeks. Board member training on the new system is planned for the July meeting.

C. WORK MEETING ITEMS

1. Positive Behavior Plans
Tim Marriott reviewed the end of year Positive Behavior Plans. Each school is required by state statute to have a Positive Behavior Plan aimed at addressing the root causes of student use of tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarettes, and other controlled substances by promoting positive behaviors. These plans were approved by the Board in October. Each school submitted an initial report and an end-of-year

progress report, both of which are available in BoardDocs. He informed the Board that no action is required for the end-of-year reports, this is only a review. Each school received \$1,000 for plan implementation and also a stipend for the specialist overseeing the plan. He highlighted South Elementary and Three Peaks Elementary on how they used some of their funding. These two schools purchased a large TV for their lunchroom and installed software that allows staff, students, and teachers to submit positive messages or shoutouts. Submissions are reviewed and approved before being displayed. The TV showcases kind messages, quotes, and themes of the month, promoting kindness and positive relationships in the school community. Mr. Eddy suggested that schools include guidance on the influence of social media. Tim noted that the district is required to hold two parent nights each year, with the most recent ones focusing on social media. He expressed concern over the low parent turnout, emphasizing that this is a critical issue that students are currently dealing with.

2. Early Retirement

Business Administrator Todd Hess informed the Board that based on new developments, it has been decided to pause the policy update. The main concern is the potential expiration of a federal tax provision that currently makes health insurance more affordable through the health exchange. If this provision isn't extended, premiums could increase significantly, negatively affecting retirees. Tabling the policy for now allows time to monitor Congressional action and consider better options before moving forward. He noted the policy wouldn't take affect until next spring, and the intent would be to bring the policy back to the Board for approval before the March 1st early retirement application deadline.

3. Policy 335a Supplement for Highly Needed Educators SHINE

Janette Stubbs, Human Resources Director, reviewed the proposed Policy 335a Supplement for Highly Needed Educators. She pointed out several changes that had been made since the last meeting. The policy outlines what a highly needed educator is and the requirements to receive the

bonus.

4. Contract Days

Superintendent Hatch proposed a change to teacher contract days, reducing the current 190-day contract by one day, while maintaining the same pay. This proposal, supported by the teachers' association and mentioned in last month's public comments, would eliminate the flexible contract day during Christmas break, specifically January 2nd. He explained that teachers previously used that day to prepare for the next quarter, and many found it helpful. However, if a contract day must be cut, this day make perfect sense. If approved, January 2nd would become an additional winter recess day instead of a workday. He shared a brief history to provide context for the 190 day teacher contract . The district moved to 190 days several years ago, which allowed for a significant salary increase, with one year showing the highest growth in teacher pay due to the added contract days. The increase also addressed teacher concerns about limited prep time before the school year. Previously, teachers had only three days, which were largely taken up by meetings and trainings. Expanding those days gave teachers more time to prepare. For employees on a 240-day contract, the proposal is to reduce their contract to 239 days. The suggested non-contract day would be March 13th, which would become a scheduled day off similar to any other non-workday.

5. Risk Assessment

Business Administrator Todd Hess reported on the annual compliance report required by the state auditor. The report shows the district falls into the "very low risk" category, indicating strong policies are in place. The assessment involves a rubric-based evaluation, particularly for internal controls, using a detailed questionnaire.

6. Policy 742 Attendance Policy

Superintendent Hatch led a review of Policy 742 Attendance Policy. The policy has been developed through extensive collaboration with principals in response to ongoing concerns about poor student attendance. He explained that while it doesn't full solve the issue, it aims to provide schools with stronger tools to enforce attendance efforts. He also noted

the policy applies only to in-person students; online students follow a separate policy, which is Policy 743 Learner Validated Programs.

7. Facilities Discussion

Business Administrator Todd Hess revisited the previous month's facilities discussion where various alternatives and associated costs were considered by the Board. He reminded board members that he had inquired about the Board's interest in financing options using lease revenue bonds in the last meeting, provided it could be done without a tax increase. He indicated that he has conducted further research and is now prepared to present a potential financing option to the Board. One of the options that the Board was in favor of in last month's meeting was to construct a new South Elementary School with increased capacity, while converting the existing South Elementary into a facility for Alternative Programs. He noted that a similar concept was considered prior to the 2023 bond, but at that time the Board chose to retain the existing South Elementary and instead included a new 10th elementary school and an alternative programs facility in the bond, which ultimately failed twice. Todd explained the differences between general obligation bonds and lease revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the district and secured through its authority to levy property taxes. These bonds require voter approval and typically result in a tax increase unless they replace expiring debt. Lease revenue bonds do not require a public vote and can be approved by the Board through a local building authority, which the district established last year. Payments for lease revenue bonds are incorporated into the district's budget. If a tax increase is needed to cover payments, the district must follow the truth in taxation process. If the payments can be absorbed within the existing budget, the bonds can be issued without a tax increase. He outlined a financial plan for the Board to consider to move ahead with the new South Elementary project and conversion of the existing South Elementary into an Alternative Programs facility by using the lease revenue bond option. The estimated project cost would be around \$40M. Todd confirmed the district would contribute \$25M in available funds up front and finance the remaining \$15M

through a lease revenue bond, following required public hearings, but without triggering a truth-in-taxation process. The district's contribution toward the project would be structured as follows:

\$3M from estimated interest earned on prior bond funds

\$6M come from the Capital Projects Fund

\$10M from the Debt Service Fund

\$6M from the General Fund balance (with flexibility to increase to \$9-10M if needed)

\$15M through a Lease Revenue Bond

This funding approach would cover the full \$40M cost without requiring a tax increase. Todd also noted the \$15M 20 year lease revenue bond is \$1,200,000. This could be absorbed into the Capital budget each year. The Board discussed the lifespan of South Elementary, the green space and the parking around the building. The Board will continue the discussion in the next work meeting. Due to the Budget Hearing at 5:00 p.m. the Board adjourned the work meeting.

Mrs. Ralphs left the meeting at 4:58.

Motion to adjourn the work meeting.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: Tyrel Eddy

Passed

D. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

At 5:00 p.m. Vice-President Tullis called the meeting to order. She noted that President Johnson was excused. Mr. Taylor joined the meeting remotely, and Mrs. Ralphs was absent for both the budget hearing and the regular meeting.

2. Prayer or Thought

Mr. Eddy offered a prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. BUDGET HEARING

1. Budget Presentation

Business Administrator Todd Hess presented the final amended budget for FY2024-2025, explaining that state law permits districts to amend their budgets through June 30th. He informed the Board that minor revisions were made due to updated property tax figures received from the county in early June. The general fund had an estimated revenue increase of \$3.7 million compared to the original budget. Included in this increase was \$2.8 million in local revenue, due to higher than anticipated property tax collections; and \$2.1 million in final allocations of federal COVID relief grants. State revenue declined \$1.2 million. Expenditures were increased by \$4.2 million as a precautionary measure and to account for approved grants, ensuring continued compliance with state regulations. He also pointed out a general fund surplus is expected, and the Board may consider using a portion for a mid-year stipend or construction project, while preserving a healthy fund balance for emergencies. In the capital projects fund he noted expenditures have been adjusted to reflect the estimated expenditures on bond projects through the end of the year. There are still several projects that were originally budgeted for FY25 that are being carried over into FY26. Todd reported the Non-K-12 Fund will likely end the year with expenditures in excess of revenues to spend down some of its excess fund balance. The Debt Service Fund will end the year with a fund balance of \$14 million and may be applied to future debt payments or limited-use expenses without raising taxes. In the Food Service Fund, a net operating loss is projected due to increased food and equipment costs. This deficit will help reduce a fund balance that exceeds federal limits. Todd noted that lunch prices are expected to remain steady.

Next, Todd highlighted the tentative budget for FY26. He emphasized this is a tentative budget, subject to change and pending a Truth in Taxation hearing, particularly due to a proposed tax rate increase in the voted local levy. The two sources of increase are growth and market value increases.

He proposed an increase in the voted local levy to .000822 to maintain eligibility for full state-guaranteed amounts and increase State Revenues by approximately \$380,000. He pointed out that without this increase, the district would lost approximately \$1 million in state aid. The total from the State Revenue increase of \$380,000 and the Local Revenue increase of \$2.47 million totals \$2.85 million in combined new funding. Todd explained the taxpayer impact would be \$16.17/year, per \$100,000 of assessed home value. The tax on a business would increase by approximately \$29.40/year, per \$100,000. Todd gave an overview of the FY26 General Fund Revenues. The Local Revenue is estimated to increase by \$2.23 million from growth and increase in Voted Local Levy. The State Revenue is estimated to increase by \$4.93 million, which includes a 4% increase in the WPU value, a \$900,000 increase in NESS funding, and includes growth related to basic programs and educator salary adjustments. The Federal Revenues are estimated to decrease by \$1.8 million, mostly from COVID related grants. Todd reported the General Fund expenditures includes pay increases, addition of five full-time educators (FTE's), an addition of a Level 2 SpEd unit at Fiddlers Elementary, the reimbursement of curricular and co-curricular fee waivers to the schools, and eliminates inequities in extra-curricular fee waivers. He noted a surplus is expected, but considered one-time funding due to temporary enrollment factors. The spending priorities include a primary focus on instruction, student services, and building operations. He also pointed out administrative spending remains below the state average. In the Capital Projects Budget, the carryover projects include:

- South Preschool parking expansion
- Perimeter fencing
- Water pumps and generator upgrades
- HVAC control system at E-Valley Elementary

The new Capital Projects for FY26 include:

- Canyon View High School addition and Transportation Facility
- Cedar High School bleacher replacement
- Secondary school flooring upgrades
- North Elementary parking and driveway redesign - in collaboration with the city

- Portable relocation from Cedar Middle School to Parowan Elementary
- Parowan High Auditorium HVAC system upgrades
- Track resurfacing across schools
- Tennis court maintenance at Canyon View High School
- Parking lot repairs at Cedar Middle, Enoch, and Fiddlers
- Ongoing technology, various equipment purchases, roofing, payments for use of the city pool, and facility maintenance projects

Todd indicated that, after accounting for the remaining bond proceeds, the Capital Fund is projected to have a balance of \$11 million. This includes \$1.4 million in excess that could support lease revenue bond obligations without a tax increase.

2. Public Hearing for the FY25 Amended Budget and the FY26 Preliminary

At 5:27 p.m. Vice-President Tullis opened the public hearing for the budget.

No comments were made.

3. Adopt the FY25 Amended Budget

Motion to adopt the FY25 Amended Budget as proposed.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: Stephanie Hill

Motion Passes

4. Adopt the FY26 Tentative Budget

Business Administrator Todd Hess clarified that this action does not approve the budget, but rather initiates the Truth in Taxation process, which will take place in August. The final budget will be adopted after that.

Motion to approve the FY26 Tentative Budget as proposed.

Moved by: Tyrel Eddy

Seconded by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Motion Passes

F. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Consent Agenda Items
Minutes of the May 13, 2025 Work and Regular Meeting
Audit and Approval of Warrants
Employment of Personnel
LEA Specific License Approval
Recommendation for Release of Students from School
Motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: John Taylor

Motion Passes

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Recognition
Denny Heaton, Principal at Canyon View High School, and Jason Jacobson, the school's baseball coach, recognized the Canyon View High School baseball team for their state championship victory. Jason acknowledged the team's talent and emphasized that their success came from unity and teamwork, not just skill. He credited the players and their families for coming together as a team to help achieve the goal of winning a state championship. This is the school's first state championship for baseball. The Board congratulated Coach Jacobson and the team for their success.

Todd Hess recognized Troy Lunt, Director of Technology, for being awarded the Bob Potts Award at the UEN Tech Summit, which includes all Utah school districts and tech leaders across the state. He was recognized for his efforts in supporting smaller districts with technology solutions, promoting collaboration among schools, communities, and universities, and leading both rural and statewide initiatives. Troy's commitment to service, leadership on various committees, and work to secure funding reflect the values of Bob Potts, for whom the award is named. The Board congratulated Troy.

2. Public Comment - School Fees

There were no comments from the public.

3. Public Comment

Cole Gibson, father of students at South Elementary, expressed appreciation for the district's efforts to address needs without significantly raising taxes. He voiced his concern about the potential closure or repurposing of South Elementary School. He emphasized the importance of clear communication, especially regarding the timelines for major decisions. He expressed support for Alternative Programs needing space, but urged the Board to consider the impact a decision to repurpose South Elementary would have on their close-knit neighborhood. He also emphasized that every resident's voice should count regardless of their tax contributions.

Kelli Gibson, mother of students at South Elementary, expressed appreciation to Todd Hess's budget planning and the Board's efforts to address growing facility needs without raising taxes. She strongly advocated for building a new facility for Alternative Programs, rather than retrofitting South Elementary for that use. She argued that if \$40 million in funding is potentially available, the district should prioritize a long-term investment in a dedicated facility for Alternative Programs rather than adapting an aging elementary school building that still has 10-15 years of life remaining.

McCall Hansen, mother of students at South Elementary and spouse of a Launch High teacher, voiced concern with the proposal to retrofit South Elementary for Alternative Programs, specifically Launch High. She indicated the proposal would be inadequate for accommodating the number of students and the type of learning that takes place in Alternative Programs. She advocated for preserving South Elementary as a neighborhood school.

4. Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Todd Hess indicated that the district is where it should be financially for that point in the year. The

Board had no questions.

5. Board Member Report

Mr. Eddy reiterated a previous report, commending the district and the state for their efforts to improve school safety and reduce vulnerabilities. He noted that while specific safety measures cannot be discussed publicly, Utah has enacted significant legislation on this issue. He pointed out that Iron County is seen as a leader in implementing these safety requirements and encouraged the public to review state laws for more details regarding school safety.

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of School Fee Schedule

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Maximum School Fee Schedule as proposed.

Moved by: Stephanie Hill

Seconded by: Tyrel Eddy

Motion Passes

I. FIRST READING

1. Policy 715 Student Activities - Dances

Executive Director of Secondary Education Roy Mathews highlighted the addition of section 1.7 to the policy, which states, "When possible, dances will be scheduled in such a way as to not conflict with holidays or vacations." Mr. Eddy expressed his appreciation to Roy for incorporating the change, noting that he had originally requested it.

2. Policy 742 Attendance Policy

Superintendent Hatch noted that the potential adjustments to the policy that were mentioned in the work meeting would be made between this reading and the second reading and were not significant enough to warrant restarting the process.

J. SECOND READING

1. Policy 335a Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators

Motion to approve Policy 335a Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: Stephanie Hill

Motion Passes

2. Policy 634 Retirement Policy
Motion to table Policy 634 Retirement Policy.

Moved by: Tyrel Eddy

Seconded by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Motion Passes

3. Policy 724 Student Fees
Motion to approve Policy 724 Student Fees.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: Stephanie Hill

Motion Passes

K. CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)

At 6:06 p.m. it was moved to enter into a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual as well as to discuss collective bargaining.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: Tyrel Eddy

Aye Stephanie Hill, Michelle Tullis, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, and John Taylor

Motion Passes 5-0

L. Motion to Come out of the Closed Session and Resume the Open Meeting

At 6:44 p.m. it was moved to resume the open meeting.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: Tyrel Eddy

M. Action from Closed Session

Motion to approve the leave of absence as discussed in closed session.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: Tyrel Eddy

Motion Passes

Motion to approve the increase in salary schedules to include a 2% cost of living increase and a reduction of one contract day.

Moved by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Seconded by: Stephanie Hill

Motion Passes

Amend the motion to include 2% cost of living increase for all district employees and a one day contract reduction for employees on 190 day and 240 day contracts.

Moved by: John Taylor

Seconded by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Motion Passes

N. ADJOURNMENT

1. At 6:47 p.m. Vice-President Tullis adjourned the meeting.

Board President

Business Administrator