

DRAFT

June 16, 2025 Wasatch County School District Board of Education Special Meeting (Monday, June 16, 2025)

A. Special Meeting

Procedural: 1. Call to Order

Board President Kim Dickerson called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.

Procedural: 2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Kim Dickerson, Board President
Cory Holmes, Board Vice President
Breanne Dedrickson, Board Member
Jake Collette, Board Member
Brad Ehlert, Board Member

Paul Sweat, Superintendent
Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator
Dr. Garrick Peterson, Assistant Superintendent (Incoming Superintendent)

Procedural: 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Board Vice President Cory Holmes.

Information: 4. Announcement of New Superintendent

*Board President Kim Dickerson officially announced the appointment of **Dr. Garrick Peterson** as the new Superintendent of Wasatch County School District, effective July 1, 2025. She explained that the appointment followed a nationwide search, facilitated by the Utah School Boards Association and informed by extensive community involvement. A 25-member committee of teachers, staff, parents, and community members screened 12 candidates. Two finalists were selected for in-depth interviews with teachers, administrators, and the Board. President Dickerson praised Dr. Peterson's six years of district leadership, statewide and national reputation, and his innovative, student-focused vision. She highlighted his humility, collaboration, and communication strengths, and expressed confidence in his ability to lead during the opening of the new high school.*

Board Member Comments

Breanne Dedrickson:

Expressed excitement about Dr. Peterson's appointment and emphasized that the Board could have appointed a candidate directly but chose to undergo a thorough process to ensure the best fit. Dr. Peterson consistently emerged as the top candidate throughout the process. She highlighted his deep experience, strong recommendations, and leadership in academic gains. Noted his experience in opening new schools in Alpine and said she believes he will unite the community as the district grows.

Cory Holmes:

Thanked committee members for their detailed feedback, which he read thoroughly and found invaluable. Shared appreciation for the process and congratulated Dr. Peterson, expressing excitement to work with him.

Jake Collette:

Shared initial surprise at Superintendent Sweat's retirement and reflected on his new role on the Board. Praised the community's deep engagement in the hiring process and noted the value of everyone's time and effort. He appreciated Dr. Peterson's authenticity and thoughtfulness during the process and voiced full support for his leadership.

Brad Ehlert:

Noted he entered the process ready to ask difficult questions and was impressed by Dr. Peterson's responses, thoughtful leadership, and ability to unify the district. Initially not expecting to favor an internal candidate, he shared that Dr. Peterson won him over through substance and vision. He praised Dr. Peterson's ability to elevate the district while emphasizing community and academic excellence.

Kim Dickerson (additional comments):

Reflected on the board's collaborative and respectful work throughout the process. She thanked each member for their contributions and shared confidence in their continued partnership with Dr. Peterson at the helm.

Comments from District Leadership

Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator:

Shared gratitude for the Board's thoughtful process and expressed excitement to work alongside Dr. Peterson. Described him as a calm, reflective leader and decisive decision-maker who helped move the district from good to exceptional.

Superintendent Paul Sweat:

Celebrated the announcement as a great day for the district. He praised Dr. Peterson's qualifications, leadership, and character. He emphasized the smooth transition, citing trust in both Dr. Peterson and Dr. Watt to lead the district

forward. He offered his full support and described himself as Dr. Peterson's number one fan.

Remarks from Dr. Garrick Peterson

Dr. Peterson thanked the Board for their confidence and the community for their support. He acknowledged the rigorous nature of the process and expressed appreciation to Superintendent Sweat for his mentorship. He emphasized his dedication to students and his belief in treating every student as he would his own child. He highlighted the district's mission to help students achieve personal goals and become contributing members of society. He looks forward to building on Wasatch's strengths and engaging in team-based collaboration across the district and community. He introduced his family: wife Dicy, a former math teacher; son Logan, a rising junior; and daughter Lexi, a rising freshman. He shared appreciation for their support and mentioned their enthusiasm for being part of the Wasatch community.

Action: 5. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Board Member Ehlert, second by President Kim Dickerson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett