

June 17, 2025 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Budget Hearing and Regularly Scheduled Meetings (Tuesday, June 17, 2025)

Members present

Board President, Kim Dickerson
 Board Vice President, Cory Holmes
 Board Member, Jake Collett
 Board Member, Breanne Dedrickson
 Board Member, Brad Ehler

Superintendent, Paul Sweat
 Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

A. Study Session - 5:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

Discussion, Information: 1. Policy Review: Medication Administration Policy - Aubreigh Parks, Health Services Supervisor

- **Medication Administration Policy:**
 - *Updated to reflect current evidence-based practices and recent changes in Utah code (e.g., seizure rescue medication, stock albuterol).*
 - *Clarified responsibilities for standing orders and staff training.*
 - *Required parent permissions remain in place with an annual update due to medical best practice.*
 - *Texting is now allowed for parent consent, with IT exploring district-managed platforms.*

Discussion, Information: 2. Policy Review: Exclusion and Readmission for Infectious Disease Policy - Aubreigh Parks, Health Services Supervisor

- **Exclusion and Remission for Infectious Disease Policy:**
 - *Revised measles section to align with local health department guidance rather than a set exclusion period.*
 - *Parks explained collaboration with Intermountain Health and the Wasatch County Health Department on proactive measures.*
 - *Students may miss up to 21 days unless timely vaccination occurs after exposure.*
 - *Telehealth visits will be used to mitigate exposure.*
 - *Board discussed maintaining instructional access for students during long-term absences.*
- **Head Lice and Bedbugs Policy:**
 - *Policy now explicitly states that students with lice or bedbugs will not be excluded from school.*
 - *Based on guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics and National Association of School Nurses.*
 - *Whole-class lice checks eliminated; privacy and cultural sensitivity emphasized.*
- **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):**
 - *Students with pink eye are not automatically excluded unless symptomatic; telehealth access remains an option.*

Information: 3. Round Table Discussion

High School Boundary Survey Results

Presenters: Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Education; Kevin Rich, Director of School Improvement & Data

- *The community survey gathered **1,351 open-ended comments** and **1,300 factor rankings** from **670 respondents** between May 23–June 6, 2025.*
- *Breakdown of responses by school population shared, with 46% of respondents representing Wasatch High families.*
- ***Scenario B** received the most favorable comments, followed by C, A, and D.*
- *Top community priorities:*
 - *Balanced enrollment*
 - *Equitable access to programs and services*
 - *Geographic proximity and transportation*
 - *Feeder patterns*
- *Kevin Rich noted community engagement was respectful, thoughtful, and often altruistic.*
- *Stephanie Discher discussed the importance of fall 2025 deadlines for decision-making due to staffing, athletics, and extracurricular planning.*
- *Upcoming boundary committee meeting scheduled for **June 30 at 9:00 AM.***

- More detailed growth projections and alternative scenario models are being prepared in response to community feedback.

Deer Creek High School Construction Update

Presenters: Superintendent Paul Sweat, Maintenance Supervisor Zach Bredsguard, Principal Justin Kelly

- Construction is on schedule, with **April 30, 2026** set as the target date to receive keys.
- Key updates:
 - Classroom wings are painted and nearing completion.
 - HVAC, ceilings, flooring, and furniture planning underway.
 - Gym roof and third floor athletic wing are nearing final stages.
 - Landscaping and roadwork progressing, with the west parking lot and entry roads targeted for paving by late summer.
 - Dust mitigation efforts ongoing in collaboration with EPA.
 - River Hawk nesting platform has been installed to attract the future school mascot.
 - Seminary and MTECH projects are underway.
- The Board discussed community open houses and acknowledged Westland Construction's strong partnership.

Closing Remarks

- Board members discussed long-term boundary planning, construction milestones, and community communication.
- Superintendent Sweat reiterated the importance of staying on schedule to ensure smooth transitions for students, staff, and athletics.

B. Board of Education Public Budget Hearing - 6:30 p.m.

Procedural: 1. Call to Order

Budget Hearing called to order at 6:30 p.m.; Welcome by Board President, Kim Dickerson

Procedural: 3. Board Member Roll Call

Members present:

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

Superintendent, Paul Sweat
 Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Offered by Board Member Ehlert

B. Budget Hearing 6:30 p.m.

Discussion, Information: 4. Budget Presentation - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator

Dr. Watt presented the proposed FY26 budget and reviewed amendments to the FY25 budget. Key highlights included:

- **Overview of District Funds:**
 The **General Fund**—which covers most district operational costs including salaries, maintenance, and utilities—is the largest and most informative for tracking district activity. Other funds include:
 - Student Activity Fund (school-based expenditures),
 - Tax Increment Fund (charter school taxes, pass-through only),
 - Debt Service Fund (for general obligation bonds),
 - Capital Fund (major construction, including the new high school),
 - Food Services Fund, and
 - Foundation Fund.
- **FY26 General Fund Budget Proposal:**
 Proposed increase from \$114.8M to \$124.6M—a \$9.7M rise, with **\$8.7M dedicated to salaries and benefits**.
 - 72.6% of the general fund is allocated to **instructional services**.
 - 89.6% of general fund expenses are for **salaries and benefits**.
- **Budget Priorities:**
 The Board continues to prioritize investments in personnel to ensure student success and competitive staff retention.
 Additional increases reflect rising **utility costs** and classroom-related expenses.
- **Revenues:**
 - 66% of revenue is from **local property taxes**, a growing share.

- State revenue has decreased slightly, primarily due to shifts in online school enrollment.
- Federal revenue projections remain steady.

- **FY25 Budget Amendments:**

Only two funds require amendments:

- Tax Increment Fund (slightly higher-than-expected collections), and
 - Foundation Fund (additional revenue led to more student scholarships).
- All other funds are expected to end FY25 under budget.

- **Capital Fund Trends:**

FY26 will show a large capital expenditure due to final construction and outfitting of **Deer Creek High School**.

Debt service expenses have dropped significantly following payoff of previous bonds; lease revenue bonds for the new high school are paid from the Capital Fund.

- **Fund Balance:**

WCSD ranks **21st of 41 districts** in fund balance as a percentage of general fund revenue. Current reserves (~\$40M) would cover approximately four months of payroll, which Dr. Watt described as fiscally sound and responsible.

Dr. Watt concluded with an invitation for questions. Board members confirmed the shift of payments from the debt service fund to the capital fund and sought clarification on local revenue classifications. No further questions were raised.

2. Public comments will be accepted. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

The following individuals offered public comment during the budget hearing, expressing appreciation for the district's budget priorities and highlighting the positive impact on recruitment, retention, compensation, and morale:

- **Jim Judd**, Principal, Timpanogos Middle School, shared a success story about recruiting a highly sought-after math teacher. He credited Wasatch's reputation for achievement and competitive compensation as key factors in the teacher's decision to join the district.
- **Jenna Horrocks**, Teacher, Midway Elementary, thanked the Board and district administration for valuing teachers and maintaining high morale. She shared the overwhelmingly positive response from educators following recent negotiations and emphasized pride in being part of the "Wasatch Way."
- **Duke DiStefano**, Vice Principal, Rocky Mountain Middle School, commended the Board for protecting CTE program funding and ensuring students and teachers are supported despite statewide budget cuts. He noted that peers across Utah admire Wasatch's leadership and commitment.
- **Kevin Rich**, Director of School Improvement & Data, expressed personal gratitude for the district's compensation policies, which have made it possible for him to live and work in the same community—a rare opportunity in education.
- **Dave McNaughtan**, Principal, Daniels Canyon Elementary, reinforced that fiscal accountability is taken seriously at the school level. He shared a hiring success story and applauded community partners like Sequoia Apartments for helping teachers live locally.
- **Drew Camps Wofford**, Teacher, Wasatch High School, praised the Board for leadership rooted in values that uplift the whole student. She shared how district-provided benefits allow teachers to care for both students and their own families, underscoring the holistic support culture at Wasatch.
- **Adam Hagan**, Director of Transportation, thanked the Board for recognizing and supporting classified staff, especially transportation teams. He noted that Wasatch's culture has helped retain drivers and aides, setting it apart from districts facing shortages.
- **Ryan Brown**, Principal, Wasatch Learning Academy, described the honor of working in a district that draws talent from neighboring districts like Park City. He highlighted Wasatch's reputation for academic quality and community-centered leadership.
- **Dave Haywood**, community member, raised concerns about rising property taxes and shared experiences of neighbors on fixed incomes being priced out of their homes. He asked about Wasatch's per-pupil spending compared to other districts, trends in local tax revenue reliance, the new high school's projected costs, and whether the district is preparing for the increased staffing costs of operating two high schools.
 - **Dr. Jason Watt**, Business Administrator, responded that:
 - Wasatch's tax effort ranks around 15th of 41 districts statewide.
 - Per-pupil spending comparisons are not readily available but could be calculated.
 - The new high school is budgeted to open without requiring additional tax increases.
 - Staffing costs for the second high school have been accounted for in the FY26 budget.
 - **Board President Kim Dickerson** offered to arrange a follow-up meeting with Mr. Haywood for deeper discussion.
- **Bre Carter**, Science Teacher, Wasatch High School, shared her gratitude for working in a district that allows her family to thrive. She described how district support has enabled both her and her husband (a counselor at Rocky Mountain) to work in education without needing second jobs.
- **Olivia Hales**, Preschool Teacher, Midway Elementary, thanked the Board for its continued support of early education. She noted her 26 years in the district and praised the lasting impact of quality preschool programs.
- **Martin Briggs**, Assistant Principal, Timpanogos Middle School, shared his perspective as both a parent and employee. He contrasted his experience working in Park City with the opportunities and community connection he has found at Wasatch, particularly the support of preschool teachers and the ability to live and work locally.

At the conclusion of public comment, **Board President Kim Dickerson** thanked all participants and reaffirmed the Board's appreciation for the community's engagement.

Action: 5. Adjourn Budget Meeting

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

C. Board of Education Meeting

Action: 1. Call to Order

D. Community Comment

Discussion, Information: 1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

No community comment given.

E. Consent Items

Action (Consent): 1. Consideration of Consent Items

Resolution: Consideration and Approval of Consent Items E 2. - E8.

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. School Board Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2025

Consideration and Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2025

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 3. Deer Creek High School Change Orders

Consideration and Approval of Deer Creek High School Change Orders

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 4. Financials

Resolution: Approval of May 2025 Financials

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 5. Employee New Hires

Consideration and Approval of Employee New Hires

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 6. Employee Separations

Consideration and Approval of Employee Separations

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 7. Staff or Student Travel

Consideration and Approval of Staff or Student Travel

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

F. Action Items

Action: 1. Consideration to Approve the Amended Budget for FY2024-2025 - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator

Recommended motion to open and amend the Revenue and Expenditure Budget for fiscal year 2025 to receive and expend an additional \$23,020 in the Tax Increment Financing Fund and an additional \$289,180 in the Foundation Enterprise Fund; authorizing the receipt of additional funds in the amounts mentioned from State, Federal, and Local sources and to reconcile and expend the amounts to meet the requirements of State School Law.

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 2. Consideration to Approve the Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026 - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator

Recommended motion to approve and adopt the General, Student Activity, Tax Increment Financing, Debt Service, Capital, Local Building Authority, Food Services, and Enterprise Revenue and Expenditure budgets for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026 as presented.

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 3. Consideration to Approve the Wasatch Education Support Professionals Employees Negotiations Agreement - Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations

- *Director of HR & Operations Shawn Kelly presented the proposed agreement for Education Support Professionals, highlighting a 5% increase and the addition of a \$1,000 state-funded boost. He noted the positive impact of these negotiations on employee morale and recruitment, citing a significant increase in custodian applicants compared to prior years.*
- *Board Member Brad Ehlert emphasized the district's strong health insurance benefits as a critical factor in supporting employees and helping attract and retain high-quality staff.*

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 4. Consideration to Approve the Wasatch Education Association Negotiations Agreement - Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations

- *Director of HR & Operations Shawn Kelly presented the licensed employee negotiations agreement, noting the district's fully funded health insurance as a key recruiting tool and highlighting salary increases that have boosted morale and supported rapid ratification by teachers.*
- *Board Member Breanne Dedrickson emphasized teachers' gratitude during negotiations, sharing that educators expressed commitment to working hard to be "worthy" of the investment, and affirmed that staff are indeed deserving of the recognition and support.*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 5. Consideration to Approve the Wasatch Supervisor Employees Negotiations Agreement - Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations

Director of HR & Operations Shawn Kelly presented the negotiations agreement for the small group of district supervisors, noting that while their agreement aligns closely with the support professionals' framework, it is handled separately as a distinct category. He confirmed that discussions were held with the supervisors and the agreement was signed.

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 6. Consideration to Approve the Administration Employees Negotiations Agreement - Shawn Kelly, Director of HR/Operations

Director of HR & Operations Shawn Kelly presented the FY25-26 negotiations agreement for administrative employees, noting the essential leadership role of principals, assistant principals, and other administrators across schools, district departments, and transportation. He emphasized their hard work, decision-making, and positive collaboration with the Board.

Motion by Jake Collett, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 7. Consideration to approve purchase of IP phones - Dustin Miller, Technology Director

*Technology Director Dustin Miller presented a proposal to purchase approximately 220 IP phones, recommending the bid from RingCentral in the amount of **\$26,620**. He explained that RingCentral was selected because the phones would arrive pre-provisioned, saving significant setup time across the district.*

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 8. Consideration to approve the MacBook Buyback - WHS Student and Teacher Devices - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor

Maintenance Supervisor Zach Bredsguard explained that the vendor previously approved for the MacBook buyback withdrew due to a pricing error related to differences in device colors (student devices in silver vs. administrative devices in space gray). The district moved to the next bidder, **Mac of All Trades**, whose proposal may yield higher revenue depending on device quality tiers. The Board approved canceling the original bid and awarding the MacBook buyback to Mac of All Trades.

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 9. Consideration to approve Fencing at Wasatch High School Baseball Field - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor

Maintenance Supervisor Zach Bredsguard presented a proposal to move the Wasatch High School baseball outfield fence in by 20 feet. The change would better align field dimensions with Deer Creek High School's new field and improve playability given local wind conditions. Two bids were received, and Simpson Fence submitted the recommended bid of **\$18,010**. It was noted that the project will be partially supported through fundraising efforts by the baseball program, with the district covering the majority of costs. Board members confirmed both bidding companies are local and discussed the timeline, which is expected to be completed before the upcoming season.

Motion by Jake Collett, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 10. Consideration to approve the contractor to refinish the Nest Floor at Wasatch High School - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor

- Maintenance Supervisor Zach Bredsguard presented a proposal to refinish the original Nest gym floor at Wasatch High School, which has been in use since 2009 and has exceeded its expected lifespan. The project will sand the floor to bare wood, apply stain instead of paint, and modernize the design to better align with Deer Creek High School's new gym floor.
- Board discussion included preserving historical design elements such as the 100-year seal and the "W" created from wood salvaged from earlier Wasatch High gymnasiums. Superintendent Sweat and Board Members emphasized the importance of retaining these legacy features while modernizing the floor.
- Mr. Bredsguard recommended accepting the bid from **Sweetwood Floor Company** in the amount of **\$71,582.50**, noting the contractor's prior experience with the district and ability to complete the project within the summer timeframe.

Motion by Jake Collett, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 11. Consideration to approve Asphalt Maintenance - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor

Maintenance Supervisor Zach Bredsguard presented a proposal for asphalt patching along the road from 600 South into the West Campus, including areas by the tennis courts and pool, which are in poor condition. The work will be completed ahead of scheduled slurry seal treatment. Only one bid was received, from **Morgan Pavement** (a state-contracted vendor previously approved for slurry seal work), in the amount of **\$20,700**. The project is planned for July to align with summer maintenance schedules.

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 12. Consideration to Approve the Medication Administration Policy - Aubreigh Parks, Health Services Supervisor

Recommendation that the Board approve the Medication Administration Policy, as discussed in Study Session.

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 13. Consideration to Approve the Exclusion and Readmission for Infectious Disease Policy, Aubreigh Parks, Health Services Supervisor

- Health Services Supervisor Aubreigh Parks presented proposed updates to the district's policy on exclusion and readmission for infectious diseases, aligning the policy with Utah State Code and evidence-based practices. Board members noted that the district is already following these practices, and the policy update formalizes current procedures.
- Board Member Brad Ehlert expressed appreciation for the proactive timing of the update, while Board Member Breanne Dedrickson emphasized the availability of information for parents via the district website, study session recordings, and direct communication with Health Services.
- Superintendent Paul Sweat and several board members commended Supervisor Parks for her leadership during COVID-19 and for establishing innovative school-based health services that have strengthened student

attendance and wellness.

- *Recommendation that the Board approve the Exclusion and Readmission for Infectious Disease Policy*

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

G. Board Report

Information: 1. Updates/Information

- *Board Member Breanne Dedrickson addressed public concerns about rumors of excessive spending—specifically the false claim that marble is being used in the new high school. She emphasized that the Board treats taxpayer funds with care and confirmed no such luxury materials are being used. Superintendent Paul Sweat and Board Vice President Cory Holmes reinforced that Wasatch's building costs are consistently lower than similar projects statewide and built to last with fiscally responsible materials.*
- *Board President Kim Dickerson acknowledged that this meeting marked Superintendent Sweat's final time seated in his official role, though he will remain with the district through August. Plans are underway to formally recognize his service during the August Board meeting.*
- *Director of HR & Operations Shawn Kelly provided an update on the historic log cabin restoration project, reporting good progress on site work and fundraising for the new roof.*
- *Board Member Dedrickson also reminded the public that high school boundary updates were discussed during the study session and encouraged interested community members to review that portion of the meeting for the latest information.*

H. Superintendent Report

Information: 1. Updates/Information

*In his final report to the Board, Superintendent Paul Sweat shared reflections on leadership, centering his remarks on the district's leadership theme of the year: **Love, Service, and Gratitude**. He emphasized that transformational leadership—rooted in genuine care, hard work, and appreciation—is more effective and enduring than transactional models based on control or compliance. Superintendent Sweat urged all district employees to view themselves as leaders, regardless of title, and to lead with integrity, compassion, and a mindset of service.*

He concluded by offering this philosophy as his parting advice to the district, underscoring that every member of the school community has the capacity to lead through attitude and action. Dr. Jason Watt followed with a personal tribute, affirming that Superintendent Sweat exemplified these values in every interaction, earning deep respect and admiration from all who worked with him.

I. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

J. Executive Session

Action: 1. Section 52-4-5 of the Open Meetings Act identifies the topics that may be discussed in a closed meeting. Discussion to purchase, exchange or lease of real property; character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; and or collective bargaining.