



WORK MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - Sep 16 2025 Minutes

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 4:30 PM

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2077 West Royal Hunte Drive Cedar City, Utah

A. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:32PM

2. Prayer or Thought

President Johnson

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Tyrel Eddy

B. TRAINING

1. Open Meetings Training

[Utah Open and Public Meetings Training.pdf](#)

Business Administrator Todd Hess conducted the Board's annual training on the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act.

2. Misc Information

[2024-24_RPT OpenEd Audit Report.pdf](#) [GF Fund Balance and Cash.png](#)

Superintendent Hatch presented information on the OpenEd Audit Report. He explained that Open Ed (formerly My Tech High) partners with districts to serve mostly homeschool families using public funding. The Iron County School District

is one of the few districts using Open Ed and is the second largest participant in the state. The per-student funding (WPU) remains the same, but 80% is allocated to Open Ed, while 20% is retained by the district for support services. He reported a state audit was performed in 2024, triggered by Tooele School District dropping 8,000 students but still expecting funding. The auditors proposed four options: keep the current system, change funding model, shift oversight to USBE, or move funds to the Utah Fits All Scholarship. Superintendent Hatch pointed out no action was taken initially, but in May 2025, a legislator opened a bill file, raising concerns about major changes. If changes are made, Iron could lose over 3,000 students and significant funding. He stressed the importance of being financially cautious and advocating for family choice, while preparing for possible major legislative changes that could impact Iron County School District's enrollment and budget tied to the Open Ed partnership. He emphasized that Iron County School District has prepared by treating the funding as one-time money to avoid a financial cliff similar to what Tooele experienced.

Business Administrator Todd Hess provided an overview of the General Fund balance and explained the various fund balance categories to the Board. He presented a graph showing trends in the district's General Fund cash, assigned and unassigned fund balance, expenditures, and the percentage of fund balance relative to total expenditures. He noted that, in response to statewide concerns about large cash reserves held by school districts, the Utah Legislature passed SB323, which established a task force to review the reserve levels and investment practices of public entities. As part of this effort, Mr. Hess completed the required Utah Asset and Investment Review Survey, submitting ten years of data on fund balances, net position, and the use of funds in supporting district operations and objectives.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. School Goals Presentations

[CMS Improvement Plan 25-26 - Google Docs.pdf](#) 

[CVHS Improvement Plan - Google Docs.pdf](#) 

[Preschool Improvement Plan Template SY 25_26 - Google Docs.pdf](#) 

[South Elementary Improvement Plan - Google Docs.pdf](#) 

[Enoch 25-26 School Improvement Plan.pdf](#) 

Principals and Assistant Principals from the following schools presented their school goals for the 2025-2026 school year: Cedar Middle School, Canyon View High School, South and Three Peaks Preschools, South Elementary, and Enoch Elementary

2. Cedar Middle School Character Education Program

Cedar Middle School Principal, Bylynda Murray, shared the history and development of the school's character education program. She explained that Cedar Middle began implementing character education in 2021, before district-wide initiatives began, in response to rising behavioral issues and the need to teach kids how to be good citizens and how to be respectful. Initially, the school adopted the Seven Mindsets program, which was later discontinued due to its alignment with CASEL standards. The school created its own character education curriculum, aligned with their PBIS framework: "Warriors Defy the Odds". She explained the program includes monthly themes such as scholarly, responsible, trustworthy, resilient, compassionate, and optimistic. Each theme is broken into four weekly short lessons, shown during advisory, and addresses technology use, academics, behavior, and peer relationships. She pointed out the lessons are designed to be engaging, low-prep, and directly relevant to students' daily experiences. Mrs. Murray noted that the reason Cedar Middle School chose not to adopt the Life Launch program because teachers and counselors didn't feel it was as effective and engaging for their students. She also noted the program was developed with input and approval from the school's Community Council. Mr. Eddy, who sat on the Community Council, shared

concerns from his experience in the character education adoption process, emphasizing that most of the community supports helping students with behavior. However, he cautioned that some organizations include small amounts of content aimed at shaping students' beliefs or opinions. Principal Murray expressed the importance of professional judgment in selecting appropriate content for students. She explained that her team reviews all material and excludes anything that doesn't align with school or community standards. She expressed that creating and owning the curriculum has empowered staff and positively impacted students. Board members thanked Mrs. Murray for her presentation.

3. Child Nutrition Services

Gina DeLange, Child Nutrition Supervisor, presented information on child nutrition in the district. She reported that meal counts are similar to last year, with only 55 more meals served districtwide in August. The district currently has 41% of students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals. She highlighted the successful launch of lunch service at the new Parowan High School Fieldhouse, which is now serving 85-90 students daily. Regarding negative meal balances, the district currently has a total of just over \$1,000 in unpaid lunch charges, which are typically covered by community donations by the end of the year. She also explained the Lunch Lady account, which is funded entirely by donations and used to ensure no child goes without a meal. She noted that House Bill 100 now allows students who qualify for reduced-price lunch to receive free lunches (though not breakfast) for the 2024-2025 school year. The Board thanked her for her work throughout the district.

4. 2026-2027 School Calendar

[First version ICSD School Calendar 26-27 - Reg 26-27 \(1\).pdf](#) 

[2026-27 DRAFT Calendar Features.pdf](#) 

Superintendent Hatch noted that no action will be taken on the proposed calendar this month. In the meantime, the

proposed calendar is being shared with all school community councils to gather feedback, some of which has already been received. He reviewed key features of the calendar that coincide with long-standing community expectations. Board members brought up concerns they've heard from parents and teachers including aligning our spring break with Washington County, A and B day concerns, and starting school too early in August. Superintendent Hatch asked board members to send any feedback they receive to him through the next month.

5. Intent to Initiate a Boundary Change

[Steps Required for Boundary Change.pdf](#)

Superintendent Hatch presented the Board with information required for a boundary change. He explained it is a complex process with many legal requirements. He outlined the necessary steps and timelines. Next week, the Board will be asked to formally begin the boundary change process - not to approve any specific changes yet. A public hearing is proposed for February to meet all deadlines and ensure families are informed in time. Superintendent Hatch informed the Board they will receive draft boundary ideas in October as an information item only. The changes will involve all schools, due to the new East Elementary opening and adding capacity, and the completion of the Canyon View High School addition which will also affect capacity. He explained the goal is to alleviate crowding and redistribute enrollment. Board members discussed possible concerns with the timeline and the importance of accommodating families who would like to stay at their current school.

At 7: 14 pm Mrs. Christiansen requested a short break, and all board members agreed. They reconvened at 7:23 pm

6. Data Governance Policy

[DataGovernancePlan_1stReading.pdf](#)

Nycole Reynolds, Data Privacy Specialist, presented the updated Data Governance Policy. She pointed out that the most significant change in the past three years is found in Section 8, where the data breach response policy was revised to better align with the requirements of the Government Data Privacy Act.

7. Government Data Privacy Agreement (GDPA) Policy

[Iron County School District GDPA_1stReading.pdf](#) 

Nycole Reynolds, Data Privacy Specialist, explained the update to the data privacy policy is to comply with the Government Data Privacy Act, which expands protections from just students to include staff, faculty, and employees.

8. Policy 102 Sexual Harassment

Human Resources Director Janette Stubbs informed the Board this is a complete rewrite of the policy based on legal requirements. Board members will send feedback to Janette before the next meeting.

[102 SEXUAL HARASSMENT](#) 

9. Policy 335a Stipend for Highly Needed Educators

[335a ICSD Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators](#) 

Human Resources Director Janette Stubbs explained this policy was revised primarily to reflect updated endorsement names, which changed over the summer after the policy was initially passed. She asked board members to review and provide feedback before the next meeting, so the updated policy can be approved.

10. Policy 729 Student Out of State Travel Policy

[729 STUDENT OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL POLICY](#) 

Business Administrator Todd Hess presented the proposed changes to Policy 729 Student Out of State Travel Policy. He pointed out the policy indicates the district would only provide supervision if four or more students from the district qualified for an event. The new clarification states, *if fewer*

than four (4) students qualify for a National level competition, arrangements may be made with another school or school district for students to travel as a group, and the District may provide one (1) chaperone.

11. Policy 742 Attendance Policy

[742 ATTENDANCE POLICY](#) 

Superintendent Hatch led a discussion on Policy 742 Attendance Policy. He noted additional changes were made after requests from board members in the previous meeting. After discussion, board members agreed with the intent of the policy, but requested clarified language around what constitutes an absence, and the process of determining the 20-day absence threshold. Superintendent Hatch will work on refining the language in the policy before the next meeting.

12. Policy 802 Compulsory Attendance

[803 Copy of COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE - Regulations](#) 

Superintendent Hatch informed the Board this policy will be retired once Policy 742 Attendance is approved.

13. Policy 803 Compulsory Attendance-Regulations

[803 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE - Regulations](#) 

Superintendent Hatch informed the Board this policy will be retired once Policy 742 Attendance is approved.

14. Policy 864 Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI) and Behavior Management

[864 Emergency Safety Interventions \(ESI\) and Behavior Management](#) 

Superintendent Hatch explained this policy has to do with safety care training. Kevin Garrett has reviewed this new policy in previous meetings and no changes have been made since. This is a new policy.

15. Policy 904 Advertising, Distributing & Posting of Promotional Materials in the Schools

[904 ADVERTISING, DISTRIBUTION & POSTING OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS IN THE SCHOOLS](#) 

Superintendent Hatch explained the updates to the policy are to help manage requests for digital flyer distribution from community organizations. The full tiered pricing and updated guidelines will be brought to the board at the next meeting.

D. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session held.

E. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjourn the Meeting

At 8:09 pm President Johnson adjourned the meeting.

Board President

Business Administrator