

**September 23, 2025 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meetings (Tuesday, September 23, 2025)**  
**APPROVED - SEPT 23, 2025**

**Members present**

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

Superintendent, Dr. Garrick Peterson  
Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

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

Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m.

**Discussion, Information: 1. School Boundary Discussion**

Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson and Student Services Director Dr. Eric Campbell presented.

**Report:**

- Administration summarized five recent boundary meetings (three neighborhood; two school) and outlined objectives for this session: review feedback, identify additional information needs, and preview a draft community survey.
- Key themes heard: **proximity, keeping neighborhoods together, and elementary feeder alignment**; members noted these priorities often conflict and cannot always be achieved simultaneously.
- Members observed many families prefer Wasatch High School; limited familiarity with Deer Creek High School may contribute to this perception.

**Board Discussion / Direction:**

- **Maps & Survey Aids:** Include road/landmark labels and a boundary map link within the survey to help respondents identify their elementary boundary.
- **Communications:** Prepare neutral, parallel materials for **both** high schools (video/VR, drone footage). Add preliminary traffic access visuals; communicate safe routes/busing after boundaries are set. Provide bilingual access and QR/text options; offer in-person survey assistance (e.g., Todd Hollow).
- **Open Enrollment:** Confirm compliance with state open-enrollment capacity rules; consider limited first-year exceptions where permitted. Members discussed potential short-term enrollment imbalance (juniors/seniors) and supported collecting early intent data from those cohorts.
- **Equity & Balance:** Evaluate scenarios for impacts on FRL, ELL, and Special Education; maintain program and opportunity equity between schools.

**Survey — Board-Approved Direction:**

- **Order of First Three Questions (per Member Ehlert):**
  1. Elementary boundary of residence
  2. Student grade levels
  3. Boundary decision priorities (e.g., proximity, feeder patterns, neighborhoods, equity/safety)
- Use “**preferred**” school (not “expect”).
- Add a follow-up on whether the family would **open enroll** if the boundary does not align with preference.
- **Mirror** preference and open-enrollment items for **middle school**.
- Retain an open-response “reasons for preference” item; consider adding multiple-choice categories to aid analysis.
- Include items on information sources and meeting attendance.
- Provide English/Spanish delivery; support QR/text access.

**Scenario & Data Requests:**

- Model additional scenarios using **River Road, Coyote Lane, and 5th North** as pivots; further refine neighborhood delineations (notably in the J.R. Smith area).
- Supply maps of approved/planned developments and expected student yields; note current roadway projects (e.g., Midway Lane/Hwy-40 improvements).
- Prepare equity and enrollment-balance summaries for each scenario.

**Timeline / Next Steps:**

- **Administration** to finalize and release the survey for ~**one week**, then disaggregate results and deliver to the Board 4–5 days before the **October 10** meeting.
- **Administration** to begin production of balanced Deer Creek/Wasatch informational materials using existing assets; additional content may follow.
- **Administration** to explore a short, targeted query of **juniors/seniors** to gauge likely open-enrollment choices.

- **Goal:** Finalize boundaries in **October** to give families time to submit open enrollment (target early December) and inform staffing and UHSAA timelines.

**Action: 2. 2025-2026 Fraud Risk Assessment Report/Training - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator**

Business Administrator Jason Watt presented the district's annual Fraud Risk Assessment, which must be submitted to the Utah State Auditor. The assessment is based on a checklist that measures internal controls, policies, and governance practices to minimize fraud risk.

**Key Practices Reviewed**

- **Separation of Duties:** Cash handling, accounting, and approvals must be divided among different staff. Where full separation isn't possible, mitigating controls (e.g., dual signatures, independent reviews) are required.
- **Written Policies:** The district must maintain and follow policies covering conflict of interest, procurement, ethical behavior, fraud and abuse reporting, travel, credit card use, personal use of assets, IT security, and cash receipting.
- **Annual Ethics Commitments:** Board members and employees should sign yearly ethics statements to prevent conflicts of interest and reinforce accountability.
- **Qualified Oversight:** A licensed CPA or trained accounting professionals must oversee finances. WCSD has a CPA on staff, along with employees holding accounting degrees.
- **Training:** Board members must complete state-required financial training at least once every 4 years. Finance staff are expected to complete 40 hours annually in accounting, auditing, internal controls, and fraud prevention.
- **Fraud Hotline:** WCSD has a hotline posted on its district webpage, but Watt noted it should also be added to each school's webpage. Hotline reports should be reviewed independently and reported to the audit committee.
- **Audit Function:** Larger districts should employ internal auditors; smaller ones can contract with external firms. WCSD contracts with outside auditors, who conduct a thorough, extended review each year.
- **Audit Committee:** WCSD has an audit committee that includes community members, one of whom is an external audit partner, adding expertise and independent oversight.

**Board Training**

The only outstanding item is completion of the **state-required fraud risk training for board members**. While the law allows four years, Watt recommended finishing it soon (it takes about 45 minutes) and suggested the upcoming board retreat as an opportunity.

**Board Response**

Board Members expressed appreciation for the strong internal controls, thorough auditing process, and staff diligence. The report was placed on the agenda for Board approval as an action item

**Information: 3. Round Table Discussion**

No Round Table Discussion

**B. Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.****1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Member Brad Ehlert****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, Dr. Garrick Peterson

Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

**C. Celebrations/Information****Information: 1. Pre-School Update and Celebration - Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Education**

*Presented by Tara Boswell, Preschool Program Coordinator*

Preschool Coordinator **Tara Boswell** provided an overview of the district's early childhood programs, highlighting the continued growth and success of Wasatch's preschool system, which now serves **382 students** across all elementary schools. She noted that **Daniels Canyon Elementary** serves as an expansion site with three preschool programs and that each class includes certified teachers, paraeducators,

specialists, and strong parent involvement. Teachers **Amrit Holladay** (Heber Valley Elementary) and **Olivia Hales** (Midway Elementary) discussed the ways preschool supports district goals through **Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)**, collaboration across grade levels, and family engagement activities such as the **Coral Reef Family Day**, which fostered meaningful parent-child connections. **Dr. Amie Andelin** from the **Utah Pyramid Model** at Utah State University recognized Wasatch as the **only district in Utah** to achieve full fidelity and quality benchmarks for both classroom and system implementation, calling Wasatch's preschool program a **state model of excellence** for emotional literacy, social development, and instructional alignment. Board members and district leaders expressed deep appreciation for the preschool team's commitment and innovation. **Dr. Jason Watt** acknowledged the financial sustainability of the program through recurring grants and prior board fiscal planning, and **Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson** commended Mrs. Boswell's leadership and advocacy for early childhood education.

#### **Discussion, Information: 2. Celebrate Wasatch Parent Network**

*Presented by Diann Glenn, Former WPN District President; School WPN Representatives*

**Board President Kim Dickerson** introduced the Wasatch Parent Network (WPN) as an essential part of connecting students, teachers, and families, recognizing the group's vital role in supporting staff and strengthening school communities. **Diann Glenn**, former district president, and school representatives from each elementary introduced themselves and described WPN's mission and accomplishments. Formed in **2020** as a parent-led alternative to PTA, WPN operates under the **Wasatch Education Foundation's nonprofit umbrella**, allowing for financial transparency and district partnership. The group's initiatives include **teacher and staff appreciation, bus driver recognition, the food backpack program** (providing over **10,600 weekend meals** in the 2024-25 school year), and support for district-wide programs such as **Literacy Month, Kindness Week, Red Ribbon Week, Bike Safety Week**, and the **Emergent Art Program**. WPN also organizes fundraisers to sustain these efforts and continues to seek additional parent volunteers. Board members and district leaders expressed appreciation for WPN's service and dedication. **President Dickerson** emphasized research showing the positive academic impact of parent engagement, while **Board Member Breanne Dedrickson** and **Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson** thanked WPN for its continuous contributions to student success and school culture.

#### **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*

#### **E. Consent Items**

##### **Action (Consent): 1. Consideration of Consent Items**

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

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

##### **Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. School Board Meeting Minutes - August 26, 2025**

*Consideration and Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes - August 26, 2025*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

##### **Action (Consent): 3. Financials**

*Resolution: Approval of August 2025 Financials*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

##### **Action (Consent): 4. LEA-Specific Educator Licenses**

*Consideration and Approval of LEA-Specific Educator Licenses*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

##### **Action (Consent): 5. Personnel Agreements**

*Resolution: It is recommended that the Wasatch County School District Board of Education approve the personnel agreements as presented.*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

##### **Action (Consent): 6. Employee New Hires**

*Consideration and Approval of Employee New Hires*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**Action (Consent): 7. Homeschool Affidavits***Consideration and Approval of Homeschool Affidavits*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**Action (Consent): 8. School Choice Applications***Consideration and Approval of School Choice Applications*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**Action (Consent): 9. Employee Separations***Consideration and Approval of Employee Separations*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**Action (Consent): 10. Staff or Student Travel***Consideration and Approval of Staff or Student Travel*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**F. Action Items****Action: 1. Approval to Initiate Boundary Consideration Process - Dr. Eric Campbell, HR/Student Support**

*Recommendation that the Wasatch County School District Board of Education approve the initiation of the boundary adjustment process for the 2026–2027 school year, pursuant to Utah Code § 53G-4-402. This process includes proposed boundary changes affecting Timpanogos Middle School, Rocky Mountain Middle School, and Wasatch High School, resulting from the opening of Deer Creek High School (grades 9–12). As required the Board will hold a public hearing on October 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to receive community input.*

Dr. Campbell explained that, in accordance with **Utah Code §53G-4-402**, the Board is required to formally initiate a boundary change process in a public meeting at least **30 days prior to a public hearing**. The public hearing regarding proposed school boundary changes is scheduled for **October 28, 2025**. He noted that this process also includes issuing a **public notice at least 10 days before the hearing** to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input. Dr. Campbell commended the Board for the significant time and effort already dedicated to community engagement, stating that this has been one of the most comprehensive boundary review processes he has participated in. Following the presentation, **Board Vice President Cory Holmes** moved that: "As required by Utah Code §53G-4-402, I move that we formally initiate the process to change school boundaries for the **2026–2027 school year**, including through issuing the notifications required by law to parents of students who may be affected, as well as to the relevant counties and municipalities within our district. I further move that we set the proposed boundary changes for a **public hearing and final decision on October 28, 2025**, and that **Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson** be authorized to oversee and implement the steps required to ensure compliance with the public notice and any other statutory requirements." Dr. Campbell confirmed that, as required by statute, **mailers will be sent to all families** informing them of the public hearing and providing details about the proposed boundary options. **Board Member Breanne Dedrickson** clarified that the purpose of the October 28 hearing is to allow the public to provide formal comments on the proposed options. In response to a question from **Vice President Holmes** regarding the venue, **Superintendent Dr. Peterson** stated that the district will explore a larger, more suitable location to accommodate expected community attendance.

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**Action: 2. Consideration to Approve the 2025-2026 Fraud Risk Assessment Report - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator**

*Dr. Watt explained that the **Fraud Risk Assessment** is a required checklist developed by the **Utah State Auditor's Office** and completed annually in conjunction with the district's **independent financial audit**. The assessment evaluates the district's internal controls, accounting procedures, and oversight measures to ensure that public funds are managed in accordance with **generally accepted accounting principles** and best practices. Dr. Watt noted that the district's current assessment resulted in a "**very low risk**" rating, reflecting strong internal controls, proper policy implementation, and proactive fraud prevention measures. He also commended district staff and committees for*

maintaining compliance and vigilance in these financial practices. **Board Member Dedrickson** expressed appreciation for the district's robust internal controls and staff diligence in maintaining financial integrity. **Board President Dickerson** also thanked **Dr. Watt** for his leadership and professionalism during the audit process, commanding his thoroughness and calm approach.

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 Non-Exclusive Lease Agreement from Strawberry Communications - Dustin Miller, Director of Technology

Mr. Miller explained that **Strawberry Communications** has requested to lease a small portion of unused space within the district's **fiber building**. Specifically, the company will occupy **half of a server rack** for its broadband networking and telecommunications equipment and will pay the district a **monthly lease fee**. The agreement also allows the company potential access to a portion of the district's **unused ("dark") fiber** infrastructure, if needed. Mr. Miller noted that **John Hagan**, Managing Partner at Strawberry Communications, has been a strong and longstanding partner to the district, providing technical support and assistance on multiple occasions. He emphasized that the lease is **non-exclusive and flexible**, allowing either party to modify or terminate the agreement if necessary. **Board Member Breanne Dedrickson** inquired about the flexibility of the lease in the event that the district required the space in the future. Mr. Miller confirmed that the agreement contains provisions for adjustment or termination and assured the Board that, given the district's current and future capacity (including the new high school), space constraints are not anticipated. **Board Member Brad Ehlert** asked what type of equipment Strawberry Communications would be using in the leased space. Mr. Miller clarified that it will primarily be **networking and telecommunications hardware** and that the company will likely terminate some of its fiber connections within the rack.

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 purchase a Timing System for Wasatch Aquatic Center - Shawn Kelly, Director of Operations and Secondary Education

Mr. Kelly explained that the district's **Colorado Timing System**, which supports all aquatic events at the Wasatch Aquatic Center, requires replacement of several components due to corrosion and wear from years of heavy use in a humid environment. The proposed purchase includes new **touchpads, starter gun, and related components**, all of which must integrate with the district's existing system. Because of compatibility requirements, **Colorado Timing Systems** serves as the **sole-source provider**. Mr. Kelly emphasized that the system is widely regarded as the industry leader in aquatic timing and that this purchase will maintain Wasatch's high-quality standards for swim competitions. The total cost of the replacement components is **\$21,145**, with approximately **half of the cost offset by revenue** collected from rental fees charged to outside organizations that use the pool for swim meets. **Board Member Brad Ehlert** inquired whether the new equipment would include any school-specific branding. Mr. Kelly responded that the components are not branded and can be used for both schools, but noted that future requests for school-branded pool equipment may be presented at a later date. **Board President Dickerson** asked whether this was the first time the district had needed to replace components of the timing system. Mr. Kelly confirmed that it was. President Dickerson also mentioned that she had recently been asked if the district was planning to build a second pool with the opening of Deer Creek High School, and affirmed for the record that the answer is **no**. Mr. Kelly added that the district's existing pool is a valued and well-maintained community resource, noting, "We love the pool—it's a great resource for our district and our students, but it does require consistent maintenance and upkeep." He reported that usage of the facility is higher than ever, with the **Wasatch swim team**, physical education classes, and community programs keeping it in near-constant use. He also commended Aquatics Director **Jared** and his team for maintaining the pool as one of the **best facilities in the state**.

Following discussion, **Mr. Kelly** requested approval to proceed with the purchase of replacement components from **Colorado Timing Systems** in the amount of **\$21,145**.

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 purchase a Vehicle for Wasatch High School - Shawn Kelly, Director of Operations and Secondary Education

Mr. Kelly explained that, following the end of the lease for the **Cool2Care teacher recognition vehicle**, **Labrum Ford** offered the district the opportunity to purchase that vehicle — a **2023 Ford Edge** — at a **discounted price** after the original teacher selected not to buy it. Mr. Kelly confirmed that the district compared costs and determined the purchase to be financially advantageous: while a new Ford Edge would cost approximately **\$41,500**, and the retail value of the vehicle is **\$27,600**, the district's negotiated purchase price is **\$22,105 — below book value**. The vehicle will be assigned to **Wasatch High School administrators**, who require reliable transportation for **off-campus meetings, athletic events, and district-related travel**. Mr. Kelly noted that the Ford Edge offers **four-wheel drive and enhanced safety features**, and represents the district's future standard for administrative fleet vehicles since Ford and Chevrolet no longer produce sedan models such as the Malibu or Fusion. Mr. Kelly also reviewed the district's broader **fleet management plan**, explaining that three older vehicles—two 2007 models and one additional car meeting

replacement criteria—will be removed from service and sold through the **state surplus auction site**. The overall plan will reduce the district's fleet by one vehicle while prioritizing safety and efficiency. **Board Member Brad Ehlert** confirmed that the purchase had been **budgeted** within the district's existing operational funds. **Board President Kimberly Dickerson** praised the clarity and transparency of the vehicle replacement criteria, noting that the process demonstrates fiscal responsibility and ensures vehicles are used safely through their full lifespan. **Board Vice President Cory Holmes** and **Board Member Breanne Dedrickson** both commended Mr. Kelly for balancing responsible replacement with continued use of vehicles that remain functional for in-valley purposes. Mr. Kelly agreed, noting that some **older Crown Victorias and maintenance trucks** continue to perform well for local use, and that the new criteria provide a clear, consistent framework for future decisions. **Board Member Jake Collett** also expressed appreciation for the partnership with Labrum Ford, highlighting the value of the **significant price reduction**. **Board Member Dedrickson** added that the partnership exemplifies community collaboration and ensures staff have **safe, reliable transportation**.

Motion by Jake Collett, second by Brad Ehlert.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

## G. Board Report

### **Information: 1. Updates/Information**

**Board Member Brad Ehlert** reflected on the importance of **civil discourse and constructive dialogue**, particularly in light of recent community discussions surrounding boundary adjustments. He emphasized that while differences of opinion are natural, respectful communication and a willingness to engage in dialogue—rather than debate—are essential for finding compromise and moving forward together as a community. **Board President Kim Dickerson** thanked Mr. Ehlert for his comments and noted the distinction between **debate, discussion, and dialogue**, underscoring that effective governance depends on open, two-way communication and mutual understanding among Board members and the public. **Board Member Jake Collett** agreed, adding that while boundary changes are challenging, they also present a **unique opportunity for unity**. He expressed his belief that the process can strengthen rather than divide the community, and that by maintaining optimism and focusing on collaboration, Wasatch can emerge even stronger. President Dickerson concluded by affirming that such conversations are especially valuable in today's environment, where division is common, and reiterated the Board's commitment to fostering **connection, understanding, and shared purpose** within the community.

## H. Superintendent Report

### **Information: 1. Updates/Information**

**Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson** reflected on the value of **dialogue and connection** within education, echoing earlier comments from Board members. He shared insights from the district's long-standing involvement in the **BYU-Public School Partnership**, a collaboration that has benefited Wasatch County School District for more than **40 years**. Dr. Peterson highlighted the district's participation in the **Associates Program**, led locally by **Director of Student Services Dr. Eric Campbell**, which engages teachers in exploring the **higher purpose of education** and the importance of teaching students how to engage in meaningful dialogue. He explained that these reflective experiences not only strengthen educators but also help them cultivate those same skills in their students, fostering empathy, understanding, and civic responsibility. He expressed gratitude for the partnership and for the opportunities it provides for professional and personal growth, noting that such efforts make educators—and ultimately students—better equipped to navigate complex conversations in an increasingly polarized world. **Board President Kim Dickerson** thanked Dr. Peterson for his remarks and commended his **strong communication and leadership**, emphasizing her appreciation for the open and ongoing dialogue he maintains with the Board and district staff.

## I. Adjournment

### **Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting**

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

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.**