

Wasatch County School District Special Study Session and Special Board Meeting (Wednesday, November 5, 2025)

DRAFT

Members present

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

Dr. Garrick Peterson, Superintendent
Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator
Dr. Eric Campbell, Student Services Director

A. Special Study Session - 6:00 p.m.

Discussion, Information: 1. Boundary Discussion

Meeting called to order by Board President Kim Dickerson at 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education held a Special Study Session on November 5, 2025, to review and discuss updates to proposed middle and high school boundaries in preparation for the opening of Deer Creek High School in August 2026. Dr. Eric Campbell, Student Services Director, presented updated boundary information based on community feedback received following the previous study session and October public hearing. He explained that the latest proposal modifies the earlier "Option H" map to better align with community concerns regarding neighborhood continuity and safety. Adjustments include moving the boundary north to U.S. Highway 40 and following Wasatch Canal and Coyote Lane to connect neighborhoods that share access points, ensuring the Ivory Homes and Cove neighborhoods remain unified within the same feeder pattern, and including the top portion of Red Ledges to maintain consistent middle and high school assignments. Dr. Campbell emphasized that these revisions were the result of direct community input focused on walkability and neighborhood integrity.

Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson reviewed the overall decision-making timeline and outlined next steps, noting that the District had sent updated maps and information to all families on November 3 to gather additional feedback ahead of the Special Board Meeting later that evening. He explained that the study session offered an opportunity for final clarification before the formal vote and that, if a final boundary was not approved, the Board would reconvene later in November to continue deliberations.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding demographic and capacity projections. Board Member Brad Ehlert requested comparison data for Scenarios D and H, specifically regarding student population, diversity, and free and reduced lunch percentages. Dr. Campbell confirmed that capacity projections indicate Rocky Mountain Middle School at approximately 1,040 students and Timpanogos Middle School at 1,300 students, both within acceptable capacity limits. Superintendent Peterson noted that demographic differences among the proposed scenarios were minimal and that no significant disparities were anticipated between the two schools. Dr. Campbell added that the demographic modeling used October 1, 2025, student counts, as the District's boundary consultant, MGT, does not project subgroup growth by demographic variable.

Board discussion reaffirmed that the proposed boundary plan maintains equitable access, balanced enrollment, and consistent feeder patterns while incorporating the feedback and priorities expressed by the community. With no further questions or discussion, Board President Kim Dickerson thanked Dr. Campbell and District staff for their analysis, diligence, and responsiveness throughout the process.

Discussion, Information: 2. Adjournment

Action: 2. 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

B. Special Meeting- 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Board President Kim Dickerson at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board President Kim Dickerson

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. Community Comment

Discussion, Information: 1. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

A total of 18 community members addressed the Board during the public hearing, representing neighborhoods across the District, including Valley Hills, Wheeler Park, Stone Creek, Red Ledges, J.R. Smith, and Daniels Canyon.

Speakers expressing support for the proposed boundary adjustment (Option H) included Katrina K. of Red Ledges; Zach M. of Wheeler Park; Tesla C. of Valley Hills; Kaylin N. of J.R. Smith; Shauna B. of Stone Creek; Coventry B. of Valley Hills; Maxine W. of Wheeler Park; Erin S. of Daniels Canyon; Morgan O. of J.R. Smith; Maxwell G. of Wheeler Park; Danny O. of Daniels Canyon; Tiffany J. of Valley Hills; Jen E. of Red Ledges; Jonathan H. and Brigham H. of Stone Creek; Isaac N. of J.R. Smith; Aurora C. of Wheeler Park; and Matt N. of Stone Creek. Supportive speakers commonly cited student safety, neighborhood cohesion, and minimizing the need for students to cross Main Street as priorities in favor of the proposed map. Several student speakers shared personal experiences about walking or biking to school, expressing that the revised boundary would help maintain proximity to friends and allow students to stay within their neighborhood schools. Others thanked the Board for listening to public input, conducting thorough analysis, and modeling respectful decision-making.

Speakers expressing concerns about Option H or support for an alternative scenario included Ryan B. of Daniels Canyon and Marianne A. of Valley Hills, who urged the Board to reconsider the southern boundary lines to keep Daniels Canyon neighborhoods together and argued that the previously discussed "Option B" better aligned with natural landmarks, reduced disruption, and maintained stronger demographic balance.

Several speakers, including **Erin S. of Daniels Canyon,** commended the Board and administration for maintaining civility and transparency throughout the boundary process. She noted appreciation for the Board's ability to "disagree without being disagreeable" and encouraged the community to support the decision once finalized.

D. Action Items

Action: 1. 1. Consideration to approve School Boundary Adjustments for 2026-2027 - Dr. Eric Campbell, Director of HR/Student Services

*Following public comment, **Dr. Eric Campbell** reviewed the details of the revised proposal distributed to families on November 3. The final version reflected a blend of the previously considered Scenarios D and H, moving the northern boundary north to U.S. Highway 40, following Wasatch Canal and Coyote Lane, and including Ivory Homes and the upper portion of Red Ledges.*

Board President Dickerson then read the formal motion: **"In connection with the need to adopt school boundary changes for the 2026–2027 school year, resulting from the opening of Deer Creek High School, I move that the Board adopt the current proposal as noticed to the school community in an email on November 3, 2025, with the adjustments to the north boundary as depicted and articulated by Dr. Campbell."** The motion was seconded by Vice President Cory Holmes and opened for discussion.

Board Member Breanne Dedrickson expressed concern regarding equity and demographic balance, noting that the current proposal reflected the greatest disparity in free and reduced lunch percentages between schools. **Board Member Brad Ehlert** shared that while he echoed equity concerns, he also supported future review of elementary school boundaries to better align feeder patterns. After discussion, the **Board voted 3–2 in favor of adopting the new boundaries, with President Dickerson, Vice President Holmes, and Member Collett voting aye, and Members Dedrickson and Ehlert voting nay.**

*Following the vote, Board members shared reflections on the process. **Board Member Ehlert** thanked the public for sharing their stories and emphasized that, despite differing votes, the Board remained unified in purpose. He encouraged the District to move forward swiftly in staffing and planning and thanked his colleagues for robust, respectful discussion. **Board President Dickerson** echoed appreciation for civility and collaboration, stating, "Just because we voted differently doesn't mean that we're not united. We are united." She urged the community to model respect and unity for students. **Board Vice President Holmes** expressed gratitude for the community's engagement,*

*acknowledging the difficulty of disappointing neighbors he admired. He urged parents to model resilience for their children and reaffirmed that both schools will thrive. **Board Member Collett** thanked all who reached out, noting the personal difficulty of the decision: "I hope you feel heard. I hope you know how much we have cared and how much we will continue to care and support in any way we can." **Board Member Dedrickson** thanked the community for maintaining civil discourse and professionalism, adding, "The decision has been made, and we will move forward united. We have two great middle schools and two great high schools."*

Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson commended the Board and community for a process marked by respect and collaboration, calling it "the best process I've ever been part of in one of these." He emphasized that while the decision concludes one phase, significant work remains to prepare both high schools and middle schools for success. Dr. Peterson reaffirmed commitments to ensuring program parity and access to opportunities at both high schools, supporting school choice flexibility for families, and fostering unity across the Valley, noting, "Two high schools doesn't mean we are not still a united valley. Our kids are friends. Our teachers are friends. We'll still collaborate and support each other."

Motion by Kim Dickerson, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Jake Collett

Nay: Breanne Dedrickson, Brad Ehlert

E. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

F. 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.