

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 25, 2025

The Board of Education of the Aspen Peaks School District met in a board meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 7:30 PM. The board meeting took place in the boardroom at the Broadbent Community Room.

Board members present: Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, Jason Hart, Diane Knight, Steven Sparti, and Jason Theler.

Also present: There were approximately 150 others in attendance.

Mark Johnson, Mayor of Lehi conducted the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Was not performed.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT OR REFLECTION

Was not performed.

OATH OF OFFICE

Judge, John Neilson administered the oath of office to Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, Jason Hart, Diane Knight, Steven Sparti, and Jason Theler, who were appointed as Board Members of the Aspen Peaks School District, at 7:00pm at the Boardroom in the Lehi City Council Chambers, effective November 25, 2025.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Board Leadership Election

Steve Sparti nominated **Diane Knight** as President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education, and it was seconded by **Nicki Brammer**.

Jeanne-Marie Burrows nominated **Amber Bonner** as President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education and it was seconded by **Jason Hart**.

By show of hands, those who voted for **Diane Knight** as President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education were Diane Knight, Steve Sparti, Nicki Brammer, and Jason Theler.

By show of hands, those who voted for **Amber Bonner** as President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education were Amber Bonner, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, and Jason Hart.

Diane Knight was elected as President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education by a 4:3 vote.

Jason Hart nominated **Amber Bonner** as Vice President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education, and it was seconded by **Jeanne-Marie Burrows**.

Steve Sparti nominated **Nicki Brammer** as Vice President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education but the nomination was not seconded. **Nicki Brammer** advised she was putting her support behind **Amber Bonner** for Vice President.

Diane Knight nominated **Jason Theler** as Vice President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education, and it was seconded by **Steve Sparti**.

By show of hands, those who voted for **Amber Bonner** as the Vice President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education were Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jason Hart, Jason Theler, and Jeanne-Marie Burrows.

By show of hands, those who voted for **Jason Theler** as the Vice President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education were Diane Knight and Steve Sparti.

Amber Bonner was elected as Vice President of the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education by a 5:2 vote.

2. Policy 2025-1: Community Comments

Board President Diane Knight recommended the approval of Policy 2025-1 and to renumber it to Policy 1001. **Jason Theler** made the motion to approve Policy 2025-1: Community Comments and to renumber the Policy to 1001, and it was seconded by **Steve Sparti**. **The board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Rebecca Jane Waite of Lehi, and an employee of North Point Elementary School, congratulated the Board and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to advocate for her school and community. She noted ongoing overcrowding concerns, encouraged continued progress on the boundary study, and voiced support for moving forward with the Cold Springs site construction.

Sarah Beeson of American Fork, representing the Alpine School District Board of Education, congratulated the board members and offered her support as they work to make Aspen Peaks successful. She expressed a desire for future collaboration and emphasized the importance of continued commitment to the teachers and students in the area.

Aaron Bullen of Lehi congratulated the Board and commented on the Public Comment Policy. He encouraged the Board, as they develop policies for the new district, to thoughtfully consider alternatives rather than simply adopting Alpine's approach, despite it being a strong model. He also requested an expanded boundary study for North Point Elementary that includes additional elementary schools and suggested exploring an agreement with the West to allow students from Cold Springs to attend their schools.

Molly Darrington of Lehi shared that her son currently attends Highland Elementary and will transition to Lehi Junior High next year. She thanked the Board for their willingness to serve, acknowledging the challenges ahead, and affirmed the shared commitment to educating and supporting students. She noted the strength of the community as a support system and expressed her anticipation for continued collaboration in the future.

Cindy Davis of American Fork, a parent of students in both American Fork and Highland, expressed her support for the Board and appreciation for the progress being made. She noted her work with USBA as a policy maker representing parents across the area and stated she looks forward to collaborating with the Board to advocate for students, teachers, and parents.

Heather Newell of Lehi congratulated the Board and thanked them for their willingness to run and take on the challenges ahead. She expressed enthusiasm for their work and confidence that many positive outcomes will result from their efforts. She noted that the community stands behind them, is committed to their success, and is prepared to support the Board in building three strong districts.

Max Sims of Lehi shared insights from his prior service on a charter school board, emphasizing the importance of building strong relationships, noting that effective collaboration begins with relationships among Board members themselves. He encouraged the Board to cultivate connections with their constituencies, communities, future employees, community leaders, cities, the State Board of Education, and the legislature, stating that such relationships create opportunities for meaningful dialogue. He noted that while the Board is not obligated to act on every recommendation they receive, established relationships enable productive conversations. He also reminded the Board that they will sometimes need to make decisions without having all desired information, but the relationships they build will help them gather what they need to make informed decisions. He concluded by encouraging members to remember that they were elected not to be directed by constituents, but to make the best

decisions based on the information available to them, which may at times include insights not available to the public.

Jenilee Furness of Lehi, PTA President of North Point Elementary, urged the Board not to overlook the needs of their school, emphasizing that they are significantly overcrowded and located on a busy, hazardous road. She noted that the proposed boundary study adjustments would offer only short-term relief before overcrowding returns. She encouraged the Board to move forward with constructing a new school at the Cold Springs site to provide lasting relief and prevent students from being shifted repeatedly between schools.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Official Name of the New District

Nicki Brammer made the motion to adopt the name of “Aspen Peaks School District” as the official name of their school district, and it was seconded by **Amber Bonner**.

Vice President Amber Bonner commented on the Interlocal Board’s efforts to involve the community in selecting the new district name, noting that more than 1,100 community members submitted feedback and recommendations. She expressed appreciation for the high level of participation and shared her support for the name “Aspen Peaks,” highlighting the metaphor of aspen trees—connected underground as one community while each tree remains unique with its own characteristics and needs.

Jeanne-Marie Burrows expressed appreciation for the Interlocal Board’s work in selecting a name that reflected strong community support. She noted that after reviewing the data provided, she understood the rationale behind the choice. She added that “Peaks” and “Aspen” were among the top-ranked name options.

Steve Sparti shared that their group discussed potential district names and considered examples from other districts named after their counties. He noted that “North Utah County Central School District” did not resonate as well as “Aspen Peaks.” He added that the imagery associated with aspens strongly supports and reinforces the chosen name.

President Diane Knight noted that in 2014, a 4th grade class at Monroe Elementary submitted the Aspen be the new Utah state tree. Before that it was the blue spruce, but for eleven (11) years, the Utah state tree has been the Aspen.

The board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. 2025-2026 Board Meeting Calendar

Vice President Amber Bonner made the motion to approved the Aspen Peaks School District Board of Education meeting calendar for the 2025-2026 year, which states that meetings will take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:00pm at the Alpine School District Board Room with amendments to dates in January and April, meeting on the 3rd and 5th Thursdays, and it was seconded by **Jeanne-Marie Burrows**.

Jeanne-Marie Burrows commented that she appreciated not having a meeting during Spring Break.

The board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Superintendent Search

Jeanne-Marrie Burrows made the motion to open the search for the Superintendent for the Aspen Peaks School District as soon as possible and appoint USBA to assist with that search, and it was seconded by **Steve Sparti**. **The board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Nicki Brammer explained that current state law requires board leadership elected today to serve a two-year term. However, because this is a new school district, the leadership vote occurred off-cycle. She noted that the Board has previously discussed requesting a legislative amendment, as two (2) new districts are in the same situation. Their intent is to work with the legislature during the upcoming session on an amendment that would allow new school boards to align leadership elections with the next regular election cycle. She stated this for the record.

Jeanne-Marie Burrows thanked everyone for attending and expressed appreciation for the strong show of support. She noted that the Board feels that support and is committed to doing what is best for their communities, students, and teachers. She added that she hopes to see similar participation at the next board meeting.

Vice President Amber Bonner expressed appreciation for the many city leaders in attendance and shared her excitement for future collaboration between the cities and the new school district. She noted that, while they serve the same constituents in different ways, there are meaningful opportunities to work together for the benefit of both the cities and the schools. She acknowledged the unique and historic nature of the transition, noting that no school district in Utah has previously been divided into three (3) new districts, and recognized the significance of the first board meeting. She also acknowledged the anxiety among community members, employees, and parents regarding the transition and asked for patience, while encouraging open communication about concerns, needs, and expectations. She emphasized that the best decisions are made when the most voices are heard and encouraged the community to continue reaching out and sharing feedback, offering patience and grace throughout the process.

Nicki Brammer noted that the new board has spent the past two (2) weeks getting to know one another and expressed appreciation for the remarkable individuals serving on it. She highlighted that each member brings a distinct background, valuable experience, and a shared commitment to families and students. She encouraged others to take the opportunity to get to know each board member and shared her enthusiasm for what they will accomplish together.

President Diane Knight expressed that they are honored to be present and to serve in their representative roles, and she thanked everyone for attending.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Jason Hart and seconded by Steve Sparti, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM. The Board Members who voted in favor were Vice President Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, Jason Hart, President Diane Knight, Steven Sparti, and Jason Theler.