MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 15, 2025

The Board of Education of the Lake Mountain School District met in a board meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM. The board meeting took place in council chambers at the City of Eagle Mountain City Hall offices.

Board members present: President Julie King, Vice President Matt Isaacson, Joylin Lincoln, Julie Myers, Melissa Sauser, and Ilene Strong. Remote Attendance: Charity Judkins.

Also present: There were approximately 28 others in attendance.

President Julie King conducted the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Becky Jones, teacher at Eagle Valley Elementary.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT OR REFLECTION

An inspirational thought was given by Board President Julie King.

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Vice President Isaacson reported on visits to several schools in the district, noting that administrators frequently stopped to share highlights about their staff. Each principal emphasized something different they were proud of. He shared that, as a board, there have been ongoing discussions about what will make the district unique, and the recurring theme has been innovation. He suggested setting aside a few minutes for staff to participate in an "Innovation Spotlight," providing an opportunity for employees to celebrate and showcase the innovative work they are doing at their schools.

Mr. Ben Everett, a first-year SPED Resource teacher at Frontier Middle School, shared experiences from his classroom and discussed initiatives introduced by Principal Becar. He described the implementation of "Fun Friday" activities, typically lasting about 20 minutes and held on many Fridays, during which all teachers create activities for students. The purpose of these activities is to help students feel more connected beyond their regular instructors and peer groups. Mr. Everett shared an example of a student who initially participated briefly in these activities and later began coming to his classroom during lunch to work on homework and ask for help. During that time, the student made significant progress and eventually felt comfortable opening up about his personal life. Mr. Everett explained that the student did not have a supportive home environment and needed a safe, quiet place to complete his work. This experience helped him recognize that Principal Becar's vision is working by fostering an environment where students feel comfortable and supported. He noted that while other schools likely have similar stories, it is important to recognize the impact of their work and the efforts of the district to meet students where they are. Mr. Everett shared that if he is able to make a difference for even one student each year, the extra time and effort are worthwhile, and that this experience significantly changed his perspective.

Mr. Alex Robinson, a teacher at Cedar Valley High School, shared information about the unmanned aerial systems (drone) program. He noted that he is currently the only teacher at CVHS offering this course and the only educator in the state who produces drone light shows. He shared that a drone show was held for Homecoming, while another planned event was canceled due to weather. Mr. Robinson explained that the program is designed to create additional pathways and opportunities for students. He is also teaching concurrent enrollment drone courses, allowing students to earn college credit and work toward a Part 107 license, which enables them to legally operate drones commercially. He highlighted that CVHS benefits from having fewer airspace restrictions, allowing students to safely engage in a wide range of activities. Currently, Mr. Robinson teaches two drone courses and is working to expand the program by adding additional classes. Instruction includes training students to design and operate drone shows both indoors and outdoors, with plans to introduce a building and design class next year.

Courtney Johnson, Principal of Cedar Valley High School, shared that students in the program can graduate with a Part 107 license, allowing them to enter the workforce as licensed drone operators with strong earning potential. She emphasized that this field represents the future and aligns well with the school's aviation science pathway. She noted that a promotional video highlighting the program will be released in January. Principal Johnson also highlighted the success of the school's concurrent enrollment efforts, sharing that last year 90 students earned an associate degree at the same time as their high school diploma, and that 95 students are currently on track to do so this year. She concluded by praising the exceptional accomplishments of CVHS students.

President King thanked Ben Everett, Alex Robinson, and Courtney Johnson for attending the meeting and helping to launch the "Innovation Spotlight" initiative, which is intended to highlight the exceptional work taking place in district schools. She encouraged them to share if there are ways the Board can assist in securing support at the state level. President King expressed appreciation for the dedication and efforts of employees and emphasized the importance of recognizing those who are "boots on the ground" doing the day-to-day work for students. She concluded by thanking them for their time and contributions, noting the Board's sincere gratitude.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Jones, teacher at Eagle Valley shared feedback from a staff discussion during lunch, noting that some staff were under the impression that the Lake Mountain name was being retained and were unaware that additional naming decisions were still under consideration. She expressed support for keeping the Lake Mountain name for the district, sharing that she had researched alternative names but did not find any that stood out. She also expressed interest in hearing what other names are being considered. Ms. Jones complimented the book and lake concept for the district logo. She suggested that as principals are hired, it would be beneficial to pair them with an existing staff member who is familiar with the school and its culture to help support a smooth transition. She also thanked the Board for the structure of the calendar, noting that teachers would appreciate maintaining that approach moving forward. After attending her first two board meetings, Ms. Jones expressed gratitude for the Board's time, effort, and commitment, stating that it is evident the Board is working to do what is best for students, teachers, and families.

Jill Jones shared that she primarily attended the meeting to observe. She noted that she had met several of the candidates at the local farmers market and the clubhouse and that she serves as a delegate for the area. Ms. Jones also shared that she has 33 years of experience as a substitute teacher, including 31 years in California. She expressed interest in learning how substitute teachers are selected for this year and next year, particularly how assignments are made for substitutes located nearby. Ms. Jones stated that she would appreciate information about the selection process and expressed interest in having the opportunity to substitute, noting her extensive experience. She requested that staff follow up with her and provide additional details.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Policy 7002: Naming of a School (1st Reading)
   Board member Lincoln reviewed the proposed policy outlining the process for naming a school. She explained that the policy includes a purpose statement, definitions, scope, intended outcomes, applicable state and federal code, U.S. Board of Education policy, measures for determining effectiveness, and the frequency of evaluation. She noted that it is a straightforward policy that does not include procedures, only policy language. She further stated that superintendent input is not necessary as the policy is very basic. She outlined the formation of a school-naming committee, including its composition, responsibilities, and the respective roles of the committee and the Board.
   President King commented on the inclusion of provisions related to renaming schools, noting that this language was likely added to be inclusive of potential future circumstances. She referenced past instances in Alpine School District where schools were renamed, including Centennial and Parkside, and

acknowledged the reasoning behind those decisions. However, she expressed uncertainty about establishing renaming as a standard practice. Her feedback focused on whether the renaming component should be included, while recognizing that other Board members may hold different perspectives.

Board member Strong asked whether there is a different process for naming versus renaming a school, and questioned whether the same policy and process should apply to both.

President King responded that while the policy would generally be the same, the question for the Board is whether it wants to allow for the possibility of renaming schools.

Board member Sauser expressed interest in including language that allows for student involvement in the naming process when appropriate. She suggested that, while student participation may not be feasible in every situation, opportunities should be provided when possible so students can have a voice on the committee.

Board member Lincoln reminded members of the public that comments or suggestions are welcome and encouraged them to reach out directly via email with any feedback. She noted that the item will be included on the next agenda.

2. <u>Policy 5501: School Foundation (1st Reading)</u>

Board member Lincoln noted that the policy follows the standard format and outlines how a School Foundation can be established to support the district. She explained the relationship between the district and the Foundation as collaborative but separate entities. The policy defines the scope and provisions, while this particular policy also includes procedures. She clarified that the policy reflects what the Board says while the procedures reflect what the Superintendent says.

President King reviewed specific sections of the policy and shared concerns and suggestions. Under the policy provisions, she noted that Section 1.2 that some Foundation programs, such as “Subs for Santa,” may not be tied directly to school improvement but still provide valuable student opportunities, and suggested the language be more inclusive to allow such programs. She requested clarification on who receives the fundraising list referenced in section 3.2, whether it is the Business Administrator, the Board, or the schools. Regarding advertising partnerships in section 4.1, she asked if this applies to Peachjar or nonprofit partners like United Way, noting that some programs do not provide a direct financial benefit and suggested clarifying exclusions for nonprofits. For section 5.1, she recommended flexibility for programs that collect food or toys, allowing support for other student needs beyond strictly educational purposes. She expressed concern that section 5.3 could be interpreted to prohibit scholarships or other targeted support and suggested clarifying that such support is allowable. While she agreed that Foundation and District funds should not be comingled (7.3), she noted that the Board occasionally covers the Foundation Director’s salary from its budget and suggested language to exclude salary and benefits. She also observed that the policy does not specify who approves the Foundation Board of Directors and recommended including 1–2 Board members on the committee for oversight. Regarding procedures, she requested clarification on whom principals should contact for donation approval (4.1) and suggested ensuring that teachers have a straightforward process to accept classroom donations without requiring a full grant application (4.2).

Vice President Isaacson asked whether Alpine and other districts were used as templates for the policy and inquired about any significant deviations from those practices.

Board member Lincoln responded that she referenced several districts, including Jordan, Canyons, ASD, and Provo, as well as general foundation practices, but could not specify exact sources.

Vice President Isaacson expressed feeling a bit overwhelmed due to limited familiarity with the Foundation and suggested having a Foundation Director from another district review the policy and provide feedback before the next board meeting.

Board member Lincoln agreed and noted that she also referenced Park City’s Foundation, which is larger and generates significant funding, and that she relied heavily on their practices.

Board member Strong raised a question regarding section 5.3 on individual student fees, noting that people have occasionally wanted to pay off lunch accounts for specific students. She asked whether the policy would allow this, as paying through the Foundation provides a tax benefit while benefiting a particular student.

Board member Lincoln acknowledged considering this issue while drafting the policy and trying to find a balance, though she is still working on a solution. She noted the challenge of individuals paying their own child's lunch fees through the Foundation for a tax write-off.
Board member Strong clarified that, under the current approach, people would need to pay the cafeteria directly rather than through the Foundation.
Board member Lincoln explained that limitations need to be established so that lunch fee payments cannot be made for one's own child, ensuring the Foundation is not used inappropriately for personal tax benefits.

3. Policy 7001: District Community Committees (1st Reading)
Board member Lincoln emphasized the Board's desire for broad community involvement. She noted the importance of addressing this early to create a pathway for a wide range of participants, rather than relying on the same small group of volunteers. The goal is for the whole community to contribute their skills while maintaining clear limitations, as participants serve in an advisory capacity without authority, with the Superintendent or Board retaining decision-making power. She also highlighted the need for effective communication regarding these roles.
Board member Sauser expressed appreciation for the inclusion of students in the process.
Vice President Isaacson noted that the current policy requires a one (1) year gap before someone can serve again and suggested that this might be restrictive, proposing six (6) months as a possible alternative for discussion.
Board member Lincoln agreed that six (6) months could be considered, explaining that the original intent was to prevent the same small group from serving repeatedly and to provide opportunities for others to participate.
Board member Sauser suggested broadening participation by actively advertising and recruiting as many people as possible, and noted that the Board could make an exception if this process does not yield enough volunteers.
President King proposed language to clarify this process: if all avenues to solicit feedback or committee members through school newsletters and district communications fail to produce volunteers, the Board may appoint individuals who have served within the past year.
Board member Lincoln asked whether the term should remain one (1) year or be reduced to six (6) months.
President King expressed a preference to keep it at one year, noting strong community interest in participating in processes such as naming, committee work, superintendent searches, BA searches, and principal searches. She suggested reevaluating if participation begins to decline.
Board member Lincoln clarified that the discussion pertains to district committees, not school-level committees.

ACTION ITEMS

1. December Minutes
Board president Julie King recommended the approval of the December 3rd board meeting minutes. Board member Sauser made the motion to approve the December 3rd board meeting minutes, and it was seconded by Vice President Isaacson. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Official Name of the New (West) District
Board member Strong noted that the committee has been busy and introduced the evening's presentation, inviting the Naming Committee to come forward and present.
Committee Representative explained that the committee, composed of Board members, parents, and staff, reviewed options for the district name. They considered the history of the current name and discussed the importance of selecting a name that connects the community, reflects district values, provides a clear identity, and resonates with students. Key considerations included community recognition, family appeal, logistics such as communication, websites, email addresses, logins, mottos, and branding, with an emphasis on simplicity and distinctiveness, including an easy-to-type domain name as requested by staff. A public survey was conducted, receiving 3,765 responses, showing strong support for keeping Lake Mountain while also presenting compelling arguments for selecting a different name.

The committee emphasized that the district name should not duplicate any existing school names to ensure clarity and distinct identity. Guiding principles were established, and several "Honorable Mentions" from the survey were noted, including 67 SD, Hogwarts SD, Schooly McSchool District, and Mtn Dew SD. Ultimately, four names emerged as finalists: Cedar Springs SD, Desert Ridge SD, Lake Mountain SD, and Sage SD.

Board member Strong acknowledged that this is a difficult decision, noting the quality and excitement of the ideas generated. She encouraged listening to the public comments and mentioned that the committee did not provide a formal recommendation.

Committee Representative explained that the vote was tied, suggesting that future committees have an odd number of members to avoid ties. The eight-member committee split 4–4, relying heavily on community feedback emphasizing that the district name should not be tied to a single school. They noted that Sagebrush is widespread throughout Utah. The committee aimed for a name that reflects unity, rebranding, and a strong foundation for the district's future.

President King noted the preference to avoid using school names, but pointed out that Sage Canyon and Sage Hills are already school names. She also made a lighthearted comment referring to "the Sage test for the old timers."

Committee Representative shared that, with a marketing and design background, they felt "Sage" leaned toward a medical branding, which was one reason they favored Cedar Springs, though they believe any of the four options could be successful.

President King noted that domain names for all options listed in the slide deck have been purchased.

Committee Representative added that shortening the name to "Sage" would likely be a common occurrence, and abbreviations could present challenges regardless of the name selected.

Board member Sauser observed that all names considered are either already part of existing school names or are widely used locally, highlighting the historical and regional context of these options.

Committee Representative explained that selecting a name was very difficult because all the schools already have excellent names, leaving few options.

Vice President Isaacson noted that the committee showed great restraint by not choosing "Desert Springs," given its six- and seven-letter composition.

President King added a lighthearted comment that students might be disappointed not to have the district named the "67 District."

Board member Strong made a motion to delay the vote by two (2) days and add it to the Wednesday agenda and the reason is to poll the community to receive more input on the district name, and it was seconded by Board member Sauser.

Board member Strong reported that the group met on Saturday and has continued to reflect on the naming options. Emphasized that this is a significant decision and proposed making one final effort to gather community input. Noted that 64% of respondents who supported "Lake Mountain" also suggested other names, highlighting the need to include "Lake Mountain" in the upcoming community poll. Recommended that the seven (7) board members narrow the list to two (2) options—ensuring "Lake Mountain" is one (1)—so the community can vote between the two (2), with the option receiving the most votes being selected.

President King clarified that the process would include "Lake Mountain" plus one (1) name chosen from the remaining three (3) options, with the community then voting between the two (2).

Board member Strong noted that it would also be possible to include all four (4) names in the vote.

Board member Lincoln expressed support for narrowing the options to two names, as this would produce a clear majority.

Board member Sauser raised concerns about the survey and its wording, noting that it initially asked respondents if they wanted to keep "Lake Mountain" and then for additional suggestions. Suggested sending the revised options back to the community since they may not be aware of all the choices. Questioned whether 48 hours is sufficient for responses. Emphasized that if the Board narrows the options, they must be prepared to accept the community's majority decision and cannot change their minds later.

Board member Strong noted that over half of the 3,700 responses were received within the first 24 hours, suggesting the community will likely respond before the deadline. Emphasized the importance of

making a decision by December 31 for technology purposes and recommended making a strong effort to involve the community.
Committee Representative stressed the need to ensure that each person can vote only once.
Vice President Isaacson supported moving forward with the poll and allowing the community to select the name.
President King asked whether the Board wants to narrow down the options.
Vice President Isaacson states a personal preference for "Sage".
President King clarified the proposed a motion to move the Action Item to Wednesday and send out the community pole.
Board member Lincoln asked if the Board would also decide whether to include two (2) or four (4) names in the poll once the vote is taken.
President King clarified that the number of names to include should be a separate motion.
The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
Vice President Isaacson motioned to send a poll to the communities asking them to pick the name of our new district, choosing between Lake Mountain & Sage, and it was seconded by Board member Lincoln.
Board member Strong stated that she would be satisfied with any of the four (4) names but, after consideration, feels that "Sage" is a strong option to include in the poll.
Board member Sauser noted that all the names have been reserved and purchased as web domains, and asked if there is any difference in cost or technology implications.
President King confirmed that all domains, as listed in the slides, are dot-orgs and have already been purchased.
Board member Lincoln expressed appreciation for all four (4) names but prefers to avoid the "Desert" option, noting her difficulty with the multiple "s" letters in the name.
Board member Judkins commended the work done, stating that any of the names would be strong choices. Expressed support for including "Lake Mountain" and "Sage" in the survey, as these options align most closely with community feedback. Emphasized letting the community lead the decision and appreciated the effort and presentation provided that evening.
Board member Sauser shared that "Lake Mountain" has grown on her, though it feels somewhat generic. Noted that "Sage" has also become appealing, even if it seems more common in other regions such as the Midwest.
Committee Representative provided context for those unfamiliar with Utah Aggie traditions, explaining that a song about a Scotsman mentions that sagebrush grows in Utah.
Board member Judkins expressed support for both "Sage" and "Lake Mountain." She mentioned being initially invested in a logo featuring a lake and mountain but stated she is comfortable with the community choosing a different name.
The Board voted in favor & the motion passed unanimously.

3. Policy 5201: Tax Increment Financing Project Agreements (2nd Reading)
   Board member Lincoln reviewed updates from the first reading, including strengthened three (3) year trigger language, clarified standards, and adjustments to wording. Highlighted that the revisions reflect collaboration with Board leadership rather than being developed in isolation, and clarified that TIF analysis is specified for up to three (3) cases, though more may be included.
   President King stated that caps should be applied per project phase to establish the maximum district participation for each phase, ensuring caps are built in for every project and phase.
   Board member Lincoln recommended bringing the item back to the next meeting rather than amending it at the table, in order to present a clean copy on the January agenda instead of the Wednesday.
4. Policy 4201: School Calendars (2nd Reading)
   Board member Lincoln incorporated feedback from the first reading, including adding a definition for "Superintendent" and clarifying the Superintendent's authority to delegate. Noted that this language will be applied consistently across all policies going forward. Added a definition for "minimal day" to differentiate it from an early-out day and corrected the numbering system.
   Vice President Isaacson motioned to adopt the school calendar policy and it was seconded by Board member Sauser.

Vice President Isaacson asked whether the policy now allows for amendments to the calendar.
Board member Lincoln confirmed that nothing in the policy prevents calendar amendments.
The Board voted in favor & the motion passed unanimously.

5. District Calendars 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030
President King reminded Board members that the ASD School Board originally set this calendar. The recommendation for new districts to adopt aligned calendars was intended to enable teacher collaboration, allowing larger professional development communities to work together. This alignment was a key factor in the decision.
Board member Lincoln motioned to approve the District calendars for 2027-2028, 2028-2029, and 2029-2030 and it was seconded by Board member Sauser.
Board member Lincoln shared experience serving on the ASD calendar committee. Noted that the 2027–2028 calendar works well with the timing of Christmas, allowing the term to end neatly at the break. Explained that PD and comp days were scheduled thoughtfully for secondary teachers and aligned with parent-teacher calendars for elementary teachers. Highlighted that this was a challenge for the other two (2) years, where Christmas fell awkwardly, requiring extensive adjustments. They reviewed survey data across all three (3) districts and aligned priorities as best as possible. She acknowledged that while the calendar may not meet every preference and could potentially frustrate some teachers, there was limited flexibility without starting the school year on August 6.
Board member Sauser expressed appreciation for passing the policy, noting it provides flexibility and allows families to plan ahead. Emphasized the importance of balancing innovation with the needs of teachers and families in the community. Highlighted that the new policy enables adjustments moving forward and allows the district to evolve its practices as needed.
The Board voted in favor & the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Creation of Foundation
President King suggested delaying the report, noting that two key pieces of information—a physical address, which has been obtained, and a name, which is not yet available. The report will be moved to the January meeting.
2. Board Members
Board member Lincoln expressed gratitude to everyone who provided feedback to the calendar and naming committees, noting that the input and participation provide a strong foundation for the new district.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Board member Lincoln and seconded by Board member Strong, the meeting adjourned into a closed session per Utah Code 52-5-205 to discuss litigation matters, acquisition of real property, or authorized personnel issues at 7:26 PM. The Board members who voted in favor were President Julie King, Vice President Matt Isaacson, Charity Judkins, Joylin Lincoln, Julie Myers, Melissa Sauser, and Ilene Strong. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION – DECEMBER 15, 2025

The Board of Education of the Lake Mountain School District met in a closed session on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 7:40 PM. The meeting took place in council chambers at the City of Eagle Mountain City Hall offices.

Board members present: President Julie King, Vice President Matt Isaacson, Joylin Lincoln, Julie Myers, Melissa Sauser, and Ilene Strong. Remote Attendance: Charity Judkins.

The purpose of the closed session was to discuss personnel, property, litigation, and collective bargaining.

ADJORNMENT

On motion by Board member Sauser and seconded by Board member Lincoln, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.