

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

General Board Meeting
January 7, 2026

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Board Meeting in the Board Room at 5320 Adams Avenue, Ogden, Utah. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Paul Widdison	Board President
Doug Hurst	Board Vice President
Janis Christensen	Board Member
Jan Burrell	Board Member
Kelly Larson	Board Member
Wyle Williams	Board Member
Gina Butters	Superintendent
Clyde Moore	Assistant Superintendent
Dave Hales	Assistant Superintendent
Brock Mitchell	Business Administrator

Board Member Bruce Jardine was excused.

Musical Performance: Roy Jr. High School Choir Performing, *There is Faint Music* – Directed by Sam Hyland

1. Pledge of Allegiance: – Roy Jr. High Student
2. Recognitions
 - A. Alicia Johnson-Coats, West Weber Elementary – *Utah Air and Space Force Teacher of the Year Award*
 - B. Mishy Kirby, Bonneville High School – *UHSAA State Choir Director of the Year*
 - C. Mike Martini, West Field High School – *Utah Association of Secondary School Principals High School Principal of the Year*
 - D. Angie Holtry, South Ogden Jr. High – *I LOVE Teaching Award*
 - E. Front Office Staff at Rocky Mountain Jr. High (Cindy Campbell, Jennifer Hougaard and Julie Gochis) – *E+ Team Award*

- 3. Principal Spotlight
 - A. Principal Mike Martini – West Field High School
- 4. Consent Calendar
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Warrant Register
 - C. Budget Update
 - D. New Hires
 - E. Bid/Purchase Approvals
 - F. Leave of Absence Requests
 - G. Approval of LEA License and Endorsement Lists – January 2026
 - H. Approval of Out of State Travel
- 5. Presentation
 - A. School Program Study Updates
- 6. Public Comment
- 7. Discussion/Action Items
 - A. Establish Board Meeting Dates for 2026 & January 2027
 - B. Approve Plan Adjustment on Finance for the Remaining 2021 GO Bond Proceeds
 - C. Independent Audit Report
 - D. Approval of New Policy 8650 *Research and Proposal* – 2nd Reading
 - E. Approval of Revised Policy 8700 *Animals in Schools* – 2nd Reading

AGENDUM ITEM #2 – Recognition

- A. Alicia Johnson-Coats, West Weber Elementary – *Utah Air and Space Force Teacher of the Year*

Curriculum and Instruction Teacher Specialist Maggie Huddleston introduced Alicia Johnson-Coats who recently won the *Utah Air and Space Force Teacher of the Year Award*. Alicia is a 6th grade teacher at West Weber Elementary and was nominated by Maggie Huddleston. She is the first elementary teacher in the State to win the award and will now go on to compete nationally.

Alicia introduced family in attendance.

- B. Mishy Kirby, Bonneville High School – *UHSAA State Choir Director of the Year*

Secondary Education Assistant Director Rob Lake introduced Mishy Kirby, choir director at Bonneville High School. She has been a teacher at Bonneville for 32 years, but

expressed she is not tired and is passionate about what she does. She is also part of the Utah Music Educators Association and will receive their award in February.

Mishy introduced family in attendance.

C. Mike Martini, West Field High School – *Utah Association of Secondary School Principals High School Principal of the Year*

Secondary Education Director Matt Williams introduced Mike Martini, Principal at West Field High School and noted he received the *Utah Association of Secondary School Principals High School Principal of the Year* in November. The award was presented at West Field High School during a surprise assembly.

Mike introduced family in attendance.

D. Angie Holtry, South Ogden Jr. High – *I LOVE Teaching Award*

Secondary Education Director Matt Williams introduced Angie Holtry, Math teacher at South Ogden Jr. High. It was noted she does amazing things, especially with co-teaching. A video was shared noting she cares so much about the kids. She doesn't lose sight on helping students and they know they can go to her. They feel comfortable and she knows how to explain things to students and is always looking for a new way for students to engage in Math. She is very patient and makes sure students can adapt in Math. She works tirelessly and breaks things down into steps for students to understand. She is always willing to help out including with cheer and student government. She is an amazing educator!

Angie introduced family in attendance.

E. Front Office Staff at Rocky Mountain Jr. High (Cindy Campbell, Jennifer Hougaard, Julie Gochis) – *E+Team Award*

Secondary Education Assistant Director Rob Lake introduced the Front Office Staff at Rocky Mountain Jr. High and noted whenever anyone walks into the office, it feels amazing! They are so professional with both adults and students. A video was shared noting they are the face of Rocky Mountain Jr. High and are always so positive and willing to help. They are the moms of the school, compassionate and willing to serve anyone and put everyone before themselves. They work together seamlessly, love the students and without them the school would not function.

Families of all awardees were introduced.

AGENDUM ITEM #3 – Principal Spotlight

West Field High School Principal Mike Martini shared with the Board the great things happening at West Field High School. Mr. Martini began by sharing the definition of school culture - Encompasses beliefs and behaviors that are cultivated over time, honored by tradition,

and validated by the shared experiences of educators. The vision at West Field: We are not just building a school; we are building a community. West Field is the result of years of planning and community investment. Building a culture starts with a mission of excellence every day. Values: **Honor Excellence Respect Determination (Herd).** Teachers are mentors and coaches not just instructors. Supportive groups include model of instruction, MTSS, and wellness and mentoring. Mentoring successes from Panorama surveys was shared and their numbers have increased. Every student is paired with a teacher for three years, as their trusted adult.

Collaborative learning at West Field is interactive, and supportive with daily and weekly collaboration within departments, PLC days, student leadership meetings, and community council.

Student life and involvement was shared how connection leads to success, with almost 900 students involved in clubs/groups, and 455 students involved in extracurricular activities.

The West Field family includes Mountain View Jr. High and Rocky Mountain Jr. High as part of the West Field cone. Their success is tied to the support of the community and by shared commitment of staff, students and community all working together for the kids.

A video was shared about the culture of West Field High School, OWN THE ORANGE!

AGENDUM ITEM #4 – Consent Calendar

A. Minutes

That the minutes for the Study Session dated December 3, 2025 and General Board Meeting dated December 3, 2025 be approved.

B. Warrant Register

That check numbers 00034126 through 00034374; and 00585619 through 00586275 totaling \$6,078,053.44 dated December 14, 2025, be approved.

C. Budget Update

That the budget update dated December 14, 2025, be approved.

D. New Hires

That the list of personnel changes and additions dated November 25, 2025 through December 18, 2025, be approved.

E. Bid/Purchase Approvals

That the Approval of Palo Alto Cortex License Purchase be approved.

F. Leave of Absence Requests

There were no Leave of Absence Requests.

G. Approval of LEA License and Endorsement Lists – January 2026

H. Approval of Out of State Travel

Motion: Jan Burrell

Seconded: Wyle Williams

That the above Consent Calendar be approved. Voting was unanimous in support of the motion.

AGENDUM ITEM #5 – Presentation

Assessment School Improvement and Research Director Dr. Bryan Becherini and Student Access Director Jamie Ellis presented on the Special Programs Study Review. It was noted this study has taken place over a year. Initially, it began with DLI programs and shifted to other programs. The study included community input, academic data, and fiscal data. It concluded with new procedures regarding addition/removal of special programs that align with existing procedures. A survey data recap was shared with the Board noting there were 1,641 individuals completing the survey. A full review can be found in the June 2025 Board presentation. Common survey questions were then shared with the Board.

- Summative DLI Academic Data – 3-year average AP pass rates
 - 39.3% Chinese and 64.8% Spanish in Weber School District
- DLI Enrollment Data 3-year Average 1st Grade
 - Chinese
 - Bates – 35 (28 Fall of 2025)
 - Uintah – 47 (53 Fall of 2025)
 - Spanish
 - Majestic – 54 (53 Fall of 2025)
 - Freedom – 54 (52 Fall of 2025)
- 3 Year Average 7th Grade Enrollment and Attrition Rates
 - Chinese
 - North Ogden Jr. – 36 with an attrition rate of 32%
 - South Ogden Jr. 30 with an attrition rate of 46%
 - Spanish
 - Roy Jr. – 33 with an attrition rate of 43%
 - Orion – 47 with an attrition rate of 29%

Visa costs are approximately \$7,000 per teacher with no funding source provided to LEA's. New H1B costs are in limbo due to potential federal regulations. Current visa holding educators in DLI are 12 for Chinese and 1 for Spanish. Chinese FTE costs are approximately \$1,640 more than traditional teachers due to smaller class sizes (1:19 vs 1:25 ratio). Spanish FTE costs approximately \$417 more for smaller class sizes (1:24 vs 1:26 ratio).

New procedures developed for consideration when adding/removing a special program include: Enrollment, funding, licensure, feeder schools, graduation requirements, and college requirements. Capping 1st grade Chinese Immersion enrollment at Bates Elementary to 30 for the fall of 2026. Timeline requirements are at the discretion of district leadership with Board input and must follow the timeline for a boundary change or school closure with Board approval.

Superintendent Butters explained to the Board that we needed a process for special programs moving forward. It was noted DLI was previously housed under the Curriculum Department and has now been moved under the Student Access and Opportunity Department.

Student Access and Opportunity Director Jamie Ellis explained to the Board the requests for adding/removing special programs must first be presented to the Credit Committee housed under the Students Services Department. It should include data around multiple indicators and discuss intended/unintended consequences and the committee will make a recommendation to the Board to take part in the final approval.

Superintendent Butters concluded noting that birth rate trends continue to decline and we will need a lot more data moving forward.

AGENDUM ITEM #6 – Public Comment

- Camilla Harper - Children attend Uintah Elementary. Concerned about the Chinese Immersion program being taken away from Uintah Elementary. Wants to make sure all students feel included.
- Dustin Harper - Concerned about measuring the wrong things concerning the Dual Immersion program.
- Julia Stevens - Children attend Uintah Elementary and South Ogden Jr. High. Concerned about the Chinese Dual Immersion program and additional support needed for teachers.
- Tennille Begman- Children attend Bates Elementary. Concerned about how all students are not being included and the number of students in traditional classrooms compared to Dual Immersion.
- Shelly Hall - Children attend Bates Elementary and a former 2nd grade teacher. Concerned about the larger numbers in the traditional classrooms and asked for equality.
- Quinsie Bischoff - Children attend Bates Elementary and is a former 1st grade teacher. Concerned about student to teacher ratios in the Chinese Immersion program.
- Lauren Dalpias - Children attend Bates Elementary and North Ogden Jr. High. Concerned about equity with the Dual Immersion program at Bates Elementary and the social impact and division on the children.
- Brissa Chistensen- Children previously attended Bates Elementary and now attend High Mark Charter School. Concerned about the fear of not participating in the Chinese Immersion program at Bates and how parents not in the program are viewed that they don't care about their children and worried about the division on children.

AGENDUM ITEM #6 – Discussion/Action Item

A. Establish Board Meeting Dates for 2026 & January 2027

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell explained to the Board each year we are required to set our Board meeting dates for the year. All Board meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month with the exception of Spring Break, the Budget Hearing in June and no meeting held in July.

Motion: Doug Hurst

Seconded: Janis Christensen

That the Established Board Meeting Dates for 2026 & January 2027 be approved. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Approval Plan Adjustment on Finance for the Remaining 2021 GO Bond Proceeds

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell asked the Board to consider approval of adjusting the plan of finance for the 2021 general obligation bond by adding the warehouse remodel. All projects in the 2021 bond have been completed and approximately \$5.4 million is remaining. To avoid arbitrage payments, we need to spend these down. Under Utah law, any change to a plan of finance must add one project per meeting. This is the first of two potential projects to be added into the bond. This information will be added to the website as part of State requirements to show bond progress plans.

Motion: Wyle Williams

Seconded: Jan Burrell

That the Approval Plan Adjustment on Finance for the Remaining 2021 GO Bond Proceeds be approved. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. Independent Audit Report

Accounting Director Ben Hokanson updated the Board on the final audited financial statements and results. Copies of the report was shared with each Board member. The district has received an unmodified or clean report from Squire & Company. This is the best opinion auditors can provide. Auditors also performed audit steps regarding the federal funding we receive and received a clean opinion. The third audit is related to State compliance and Weber School District has complied in all material respects with State compliance requirements. In conclusion, the entire Business Office was thanked for all they do. It was also noted the public may view all of the information on the Weber School District website.

Motion: Doug Hurst

Seconded: Janis Christensen

That the Independent Audit Report be approved. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. Approval of New Policy 8650 *Research and Proposal* – 2nd Reading

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder updated the Board on New Policy 8650 *Research and Proposal* and noted there has been no further changes since last meeting. It is recommended the Board approval New Policy 8650 *Research and Proposal* on a second reading.

Motion: Jan Burrell

Seconded: Wyle Williams

That the Approval of New Policy 8650 *Research and Proposal* be approved on a second reading. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. Approval of Revised Policy 8700 *Animals in Schools* – 2nd Reading

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder updated the Board on Revised Policy 8700 *Animals in Schools* and noted there were minor changes to ensure who the policy applies to when bringing animals into schools. It is recommended the Board approve Revised Policy 8700 *Animals in Schools* on a second reading.

Motion: Janis Christensen

Seconded: Jan Burrell

That the Approval of Revised Policy 8700 *Animals in Schools* be approved on a second reading. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

President Widdison called for a motion to adjourn the General Session of Board Meeting.

Motion: Doug Hurst

Seconded: Wyle Williams

That the General Session of Board Meeting be adjourned. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion

General Board Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.