



APPROVED MINUTES

January 2026 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular board meeting of the Piute County School District Board of Education was held on **January 13, 2026** at the Piute County Courthouse in Junction, Utah. Teresa Morgan called the meeting to order at **3:33 P.M.** Present was Teresa Morgan, Neccia Dalton, Erin Jensen, Rick Dalton, and Jeremy Pearson. Also present was Superintendent Jason Strate and Business Administrator Dallas Sylvester. Guests at the meeting were: Koby Willis, Natalie Remund, Hunter Tanner, Heather Fautin, Shauna Bagley, Jeri Sylvester, Russ Lee, Janette Lee, Tyrel Ivie, Paul James, Robert Thomas, and Julie Strate.

Present online was: Shana Shields and Stacie Gass.

Work Meeting: The board met before the normal meeting to review the superintendent and business administrator contracts.

Opening Remarks:

- President Teresa Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting. After the pledge of allegiance was recited, opening remarks were given by Teresa Morgan.

Program Reports:

- **Utah Peak Academy Update**
 - Hunter Tanner gave the board an update on Utah Peak Academy.
 - The school currently serves students from kindergarten through ninth grade.
 - There are currently 4 local students enrolled in UPA.
 - Students have 3 options for courses which are: Online, Flex, and Portfolio. All options are currently asynchronous.
 - Hunter explained how the special education program works in UPA.
 - Hunter mentioned that Jenn Finn is in charge of SPED for UPA and explained the programs that are offered to students through the program.
 - Hunter explained to the board how the state Trustlands funding is being spent at UPA this year. This includes back to school supply boxes, a digital Sora library, and 2 field trip opportunities.
 - Hunter mentioned that the UPA staff would like to discuss high school accreditation with the district and decide if that is something that they will pursue.
- **eSports Club Update**
 - Robert Thomas presented the school board with the eSports Club update.

- Robert mentioned that the club just attended the rules meeting.
 - The team is signed up for two events, Super Smash Brothers and Mario Kart Racing.
 - Students must be eligible to participate in the competitions.
 - 7 students are currently eligible.
 - Robert mentioned what upcoming events are scheduled for the club.
 - Pre-season starts next week.
 - The season will last six weeks.
 - The finals will be in person at Weber State in March.
- **Secondary Science**
 - Robert Thomas presented the board with the secondary science program report.
 - Whitney Mills would like to replace all the microscopes in the lab.
 - Robert mentioned that he uses physical copies for textbooks for Physics and Chemistry, while the rest of his classes use digital textbooks.

Public Comments

- President Teresa Morgan turned the time over to the public for public comment.
- No public comments we made.

Business Items:

- **Appointment of Superintendent and Oath of Office**
 - Dallas Sylvester presented the oath of office for Jason Strate as the superintendent of Piute County School District.
 - Jason Strate took the oath of office and was sworn in as superintendent of Piute County School District.
 - Jeremy Pearson made a motion to approve the appointment of Superintendent Strate as the superintendent for Piute County School District for a 2-year term from January 12, 2026 to January 11, 2028. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Elementary Construction Update**
 - Superintendent Strate presented the board with the elementary construction update.
 - Circleville Elementary is almost completely dried in and enclosed.
 - A crew will begin cleaning the block at Circleville.
 - The construction crew is going to be starting to lay block at Oscarson Elementary this week.
 - The district found out that it will not have to truck the asbestos containing material further than the landfill in Garfield County.
- **Softball Field Construction Update**
 - Dallas Sylvester gave the board an update on the softball field construction.
 - He mentioned that the new scoreboard has been installed.
 - All the work on the dugouts have been completed other than painting the railings and poles.
 - The bases and mound are being installed right now.
 - There is still work that needs to be completed on the fencing, which includes the gates and the backstop.

- The district is currently working on moving forward with the second phase of the project, which includes adding a restroom/concession area and other improvements.
- **Warren Archer LEA Specific License**
 - Dallas Sylvester mentioned that an LEA specific license was approved for Warren Archer in the October 2025 board meeting and no further action is needed at this time.
- **Time & Effort Policy # 6016 Revision**
 - Dallas Sylvester presented the school board with the revision for policy # 6016- Time and Effort Policy for the first reading.
 - The policy was reviewed by Diane Freeman from the state and she helped revise the policy so it is in compliance.
 - Neccia Dalton made a motion to suspend the second and third readings of the revision of policy #6016-Time and Effort Reporting and approve it on the first reading. . Rick Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Circleville Elementary Mascot**
 - Russ Lee gave the board an update on the Circleville Elementary Mascot debate.
 - Circleville Elementary School is proposing to change their mascot to the Junior T-Birds.
 - The district will continue to look into the design of the proposed mascot, The Junior T-Birds.
- **AASA Conference Out of State Travel**
 - Superintendent Strate mentioned that Superintendent Willis had already been approved to attend the AASA conference in Nashville, TN, but that the board would need to approve the out of state travel for himself as well.
 - Erin Jensen made a motion to approve out-of-state travel for the ASSA Conference in Nashville, TN for Superintendent Strate. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **2026-2027 School District Calendar 3rd Reading**
 - The board reviewed the 2026-2027 school district calendar for the 3rd reading.
 - Superintendent Strate recommended approving the calendar as-is.
 - Erin Jensen made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 school district calendar on the 3rd reading. Rick Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Day On The Hill - January 30th**
 - Teresa Morgan mentioned that the Day on the Hill will be held on January 30th, 2026.
 - The school board will continue discussing whether or not they will attend the event.
- **Approval of Minutes and Vouchers**
 - Jeremy Pearson made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes, the December payroll, the December revenues, and district vouchers 26000434-26000536. Neccia Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- **New Hires, Assignments, and Reassignments**

New Hires

- Hire Emma Davis as a substitute
- Hire Amy Bunker as a substitute
- Hire Britain Harrison as a substitute
- Hire Tera Morgan as a substitute
- Hire Madi Sylvester as a substitute
- Hire Emily Jessen as a substitute
- Hire Carlee Morgan as substitute
- Hire Jason Strate as Superintendent
- Hire Jason Morgan as Custodian/Bus Driver at CES

Resignations & Retirements

- Koby Willis as superintendent
 - Carson Westwood as CES custodian/bus driver
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- Erin Jensen made a motion to approve the new hires as presented. Rick Dalton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Information Items: None

Executive Session : at **5:13 p.m.** Erin Jensen made a motion to move into executive session for the Discussion of the Character, Professional Competence, or Mental Health of an Individual. Jeremy Pearson seconded the motion. Each individual board member was in favor of moving into executive session. Erin Jensen voted aye, Teresa Morgan voted aye, Rick Dalton voted aye, Neccia Dalton voted aye, Jeremy Pearson voted aye.

- The school board entered the executive meeting at **5:13 P.M.**
- The school board left the executive meeting at **5:44 P.M.**

Adjournment

- At **5:44 P.M.** Rick Dalton made a motion to adjourn the **January 13, 2026** meeting of the school board. Erin Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.