

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2025

Board Meeting

The Murray City School Board met in a regular board meeting on September 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Kelly Taeaolii, Jill Weight, Jaren Cooper, Kami Anderson, Elizabeth Payne, Jennifer Covington, Superintendent and Richard Reese, Business Administrator. The meeting was held at the District office, located at 5102 South Commerce Drive, Murray, UT.

Pledge of Allegiance

The audience was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Jennifer Covington, Superintendent.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2025

Claims August 2025

Checks August 2025

Financial Reports

BU 708 School Lunch – 2nd Reading

PS 417.3 Emergency Safety Interventions – 2nd Reading

SP 920.1 Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (SHiNE) – 3rd Reading

PS 449 Murray School District Graduation Requirements Repeal

Elizabeth Payne made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jaren Cooper seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Delegations

Murray Council PTA – Cheree Larson, President, spoke to the Board regarding the new “Council” organization vs “Region”. She said that nine of ten schools have thriving PTA programs. Parkside Elementary is working on ways to engage parents.

MEA – Amy Roberds, MEA Board Member, thanked the Board for their support of teachers and students. She said that MEA is grateful for supportive school communities.

MAA – Earl Kaufmann said that McMillan Elementary is grateful for funding of the walking path. He said that there is a lot of building activity and that it was a decent start to the year.

MESPA – No comments.

Foundation – Doug Perry, Director, said that Horizon, Parkside, and Hillcrest Junior High School received a combined \$45,000 grant from the Ron McBride for afterschool activities. Boeing Company also donated \$50,000 to Murray High School to kickstart the robotics program.

Mr. Perry also said that the recent golf tournament generated a record \$33,357 in net revenue to fund teacher grants.

Patron Statements – No comments.

Report of the Board

Kami Anderson – No comments.

Kelly Taoalii– Ms. Taoalii remarked that she helped at the yearbook picture day at Murray High and that she attended a great carnival at Horizon.

Jill Weight – Ms. Weight said that she is amazed at the PTA and the great work they do. She noted that she was on the committee to review teacher grant applications.

Jaren Cooper – Mr. Cooper said that he enjoyed getting out into schools and is looking forward to a great school year. He noted that it was fun to watch the progress of the two construction projects.

Elizabeth Payne – Ms. Payne said that she hoped everyone had a great start to the school year and that she did attend the “Back-To-School” night at Liberty.

Report of the Staff

MCSD Libraries: Reinigorating Reading – Bruce Eschler, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, and Carolyn Martinez-Ross, MHD Teacher Librarian, spoke to the efforts to promote reading across the district.

Bond Projects Update – Scott Taggart, Director of Auxiliary Services, said that masons have started at both sites and that all footings and slab on grades are complete. He said that Murray High addition is on schedule. He also indicated that the tilt up walls at Riverview Junior High will begin the week of September 22nd.

LEA Specific License and Endorsement Approvals – Darren Dean, Director of Personnel and Student Services, presented the applications of seventeen people. Jaren Cooper made a motion to approve the licenses and endorsements. Jill Weight seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

PS 418 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, Hazing, Abusive Conduct, and Retaliation – 2nd Reading – Darren Dean, Director of Personnel and Student Services, presented this updated policy as a second reading. No action was taken.

Firearm Safety Curriculum Grades 3, 5, 7, and 9: Becky Te’o, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, and Bruce Eschler, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, presented MCSD Firearm Safety Instruction, MCSD Let’s Stay Safe Presentation, Let’s Stay Safe Notes, Let’s Stay Safe Video, and the Parent Permission Slip for firearm safety for grades 3, 5,7, and 9. Jaren Cooper made a motion to approve the curriculum. Kami Anderson seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Reading on Grade Level Report – Becky Te’o, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, shared that the Utah State Board of Education has a goal for 70% of 3rd grade students to be reading at grade level by July 2027. Currently, 48.7% of 3rd graders statewide read at grade level while 51.6% of Murray School District 3rd graders read at grade level.

Early Learning Plan – Becky Te’o, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, shared the State and MCSD goals for Early Mathematics and Early Literacy.

PS 424 Reporting Student Progress 1st Reading – Scott Wihongi, Assistant Superintendent, presented this revised policy as a first reading.

PS 446 Murray High School Graduation Requirements 1st Reading - Scott Wihongi, Assistant Superintendent, presented this revised policy as a first reading.

PS 416.1 Drug Testing of Students 1st Reading - Scott Wihongi, Assistant Superintendent, presented this revised policy as a first reading.

FY25 School LAND Trust Funding Summary – Richard Reese, Business Administrator, shared a school by school summary of this program including carryover amounts.

FY26 School LAND Trust Advance – Richard Reese, Business Administrator, shared a memo requesting an advance of FY26 funding for four schools that overspent their allocations. These schools are Liberty Elementary, Parkside Elementary, Riverview Junior High and Murray High School. Kami Anderson made a motion to approve the advance. Elizabeth Payne seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Annual Required School Board Training – Richard Reese, Business Administrator, had previously sent annually required training modules to the school board members, Superintendent and Business Administrator to complete. The results are as follows:

	Open Meetings	Laws	Internal Audit	Audit Committee*
Kelly Taeoalii	Y		Y	Y
Jill Weight	Y		Y	
Kami Anderson	Y		Y	Y
Jaren Cooper	Y		Y	
Elizabeth Payne	Y		Y	
Jennifer Covington	Y		Y	Y
Richard Reese	Y		Y	Y

*Only audit committee members are required to complete this training.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Jennifer Covington, Superintendent

Enrollment Data – Superintendent Covington presented current enrollment data which showed the most recent number of students at 5,424.

Fee Request JV Drill Club – 2nd Reading – Jennifer Covington, Superintendent, presented the 2025-2026 JV Drill Club fee request of \$150 as a second reading. Kami Anderson made a motion to accept the fee. Jaren Cooper seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

TSSA Amendment – Viewmont Elementary - Superintendent Covington presented the proposed reallocation of TSSA funding. Jaren Cooper made a motion to accept the request. Jill Weight seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

The Board meeting was then adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Kelly Taoalii – Board President

Business Administrator – Richard Reese