



## **WORK MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - Jan 20 2026 Minutes**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 4:30 PM

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2077 West Royal Hunte Drive Cedar City, Utah

### **A. MEETING OPENING**

1. Call to Order  
President Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. Prayer or Thought  
Todd Hess offered a prayer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance  
Monica Torres led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **B. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Boundary Change  
[Elementary Enrollment Comparisons without Portables - Rolled to SY27.pdf](#) 

Mr. Taylor joined the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Business Administrator Todd Hess presented updated enrollment projection charts reflecting last month's elementary boundary modifications; no changes were made to secondary projections. He noted that open houses were held the previous week. Attendance was weak at both events. There were about 20-25 attendees at Cedar Middle School and two attendees at Canyon View Middle School. Staff members were there to answer questions and gather community feedback during the meetings. The board and

administrators discussed concerns that were noted from families in the Westview subdivision regarding reassignment from Iron Springs Elementary to South Elementary, primarily related to increased travel distance. Mr. Hess pointed out the portable classrooms will remain in place unless needed elsewhere. Based on current projections, one portable is expected to be moved to South Elementary on a temporary basis until the new school is constructed. Portables at East Elementary will be relocated following the end of the school year. Mr. Hess outlined the next steps in the process. There will be a special Public Hearing on February 17th at 6:00 p.m. The vote will happen in the regular meeting on February 24th.

Superintendent Hatch pointed out that after the board vote, state law opens a 30-day window for families to request that students remain at their current school despite the boundary change. The district will process those requests at the end of the 30 days, which is at the end of March, with the goal of accommodating all requests where possible, though placement at South may be challenging.

2. 2026-27 Calendar

[4-day Week Calendar 2026-27 - 4-Day \(1\).pdf](#) 

[ICSD School Calendar 26-27 Current Structure .pdf](#) 

At 5:03 Kevin Garrett joined the meeting.

Superintendent Hatch led a discussion on the 2026-27 school calendar. He pointed out the importance of the Board taking action on the calendar in next week's regular meeting so families know what calendar to expect next year. He stated he will support and implement whichever option the Board adopts. He explained that from discussions with board members, a "hybrid calendar" concept has emerged. Under this model, the first and third Friday of each month would be a student day focused on intervention and enrichment, with flexible attendance expectations. The second Friday would be utilized as a teacher collaboration/preparation and PD day with no students. The fourth and the occasional fifth Fridays would be off for both students and teachers. He noted this approach is still preliminary and under development. Board

members expressed support for the hybrid calendar concept. Mr. Taylor pointed out its potential benefits for arts, music, science, and younger grades by allowing longer, uninterrupted blocks of time for meaningful intervention, enrichment, and project-based learning, rather than pulling students out of class repeatedly. Mr. Eddy expressed his support for the hybrid calendar and noted that survey results showed significant parent and teacher support and should not be dismissed. He emphasized that the proposed Friday remediation day would provide targeted support for students who need it most. Mrs. Hill described the hybrid calendar as having the potential to be a win for everyone. Mrs. Christiansen expressed concern with staffing and logistics and questioned why the proposed Friday attendance would be optional. Mrs. Ralphs indicated she values the flexibility of optional Friday attendance, noting it would allow families to plan ahead while still encouraging students to attend. She expressed some concern about rolling out the model as early as fall 2026. Superintendent Hatch indicated that a variance from the state would still be required as the proposal would reduce the instructional calendar to 173 days, requiring approval for a seven day variance. He also expressed concern with the implementation timing and logistics. Board members agreed and expressed hesitation about rolling out the hybrid calendar districtwide too quickly. President Johnson suggested allowing Parowan schools to pilot the hybrid calendar for the 2026-27 school year to work out the issues on a smaller scale before approving districtwide. He praised the Board for actively seeking extensive public feedback and encouraged the public, including the critics on social media, to recognize this as a positive and transparent process. The 2026-27 school year calendar will be on the regular meeting agenda next week as an action item.

### 3. SHARP Data Report

[Iron School District Profile Report \(1\).pdf](#) 

Roy Mathews presented the SHARP (Student Health and Risk Prevention) survey data. He clarified that the data being presented is informational only and not tied to any board action item. It is considered critical for the community,

particularly for organizations like Southwest Mental Health and Southwest Behavioral Health, which rely on this information to apply for grants and plan services. The data is a public, state administered survey conducted every other year, used to track trends and improvement. The survey showed that the district is performing better than national and state averages in many areas, and showed improvement in nearly every category, which was cited as the reason for conducting the survey in the first place. Board members expressed appreciation for teachers, school leaders, and parents. They highlighted the importance of schools being safe, supporting environments for students.

4. Civics & Understanding Our Community and Tax Education in High School

Mrs. Christiansen asked for this item to be put on the agenda. She raised the question of how well high schools are teaching students about civic responsibility, community involvement, and local government - including understanding taxes, budgets, and the voting process. She emphasized the importance of preparing students to be informed, engaged citizens before they graduate, noting that many young people leave school unaware of how communities function or how to participate effectively. President Johnson highlighted the success of Parowan's youth council as a model for civic education. Superintendent Hatch noted this could be a good opportunity for teachers who teach civics to come and present in board meeting.

5. Conflict of Interest Forms

Monica Torres, Board Secretary, distributed Conflict of Interest forms to the Board. Superintendent Hatch explained that this is an annual requirement that must be turned in by the end of the month. Upon request from the Board, Monica agreed to provide board members with a digital form.

6. Board Conversation Schedule

Superintendent Hatch facilitated a discussion on creating a rotating schedule for informal board member conversations to share observations and brainstorm ideas. The Board

agreed to utilize the existing school visit schedule for this purpose. Following each tour, the two to three board members and Superintendent Hatch will remain on site to discuss observations from teachers and students. This approach eliminates the need for additional meetings, requires no formal board action, and promotes ongoing communication among board members. The next school visit is scheduled for Thursday at Canyon View High School.

7. Policy Committee

Mr. Taylor requested that the Board reinstate the Policy Committee as outlined in Policy 204 in order to create a smaller, non-quorum group of board members who would work collaboratively with district staff on policy review. He emphasized that policies should continue to be drafted and recommended by staff and stakeholders closest to the work, with the committee serving as a liaison to help vet concerns, streamline discussion, and reduce lengthy back and forth during board meetings. After discussion, it was decided that district administration will meet with a few board members to review and possibly make changes to Policy 204 Board Policy Development before bringing it to the next work meeting in February for discussion.

8. Policy 630 Credit Toward Advancement on the Salary Schedule

Human Resources Director Janette Stubbs explained proposed updates to Policy 630 Credit Toward Advancement on the Salary Schedule, in response to recent exception requests and changes in higher education timelines. She noted that employees are increasingly completing degrees at varying times throughout the year, including December, rather than only in May. She recommended allowing salary lane advancements to take effect when credits or degrees are earned, rather than delaying advancement until the next contract year. She also described a proposed clarification for employees with advanced master's degrees, such as Board Certified Behavior Analysts and school psychologists, whose programs typically require 60 or more credits. She recommended recognizing these degrees by placing eligible employees on the Master's + 30 lane rather than the standard Master's lane, better aligning compensation with credentials

and market expectations. She also noted the addition of a March 1st deadline to the existing October 1st deadline.

[630 CREDIT TOWARD ADVANCEMENT ON THE SALARY SCHEDULE](#) 

9. Policy 703 Human Sexuality Curriculum

[703 HUMAN SEXUALITY CURRICULUM](#) 

Kim Bailey presented the changes to Policy 703 Human Sexuality Curriculum. Changes are due to changes in state law and administrative rule.

10. Policy 839 Protection of Students With Head Injuries

[839 PROTECTION OF STUDENTS WITH HEAD INJURIES](#) 

Tiffany Johnson, School Nurse Supervisor, presented a change to Policy 839 Protection with Head Injuries. She proposed striking out "and entered on the Injury Report by the School Nurse" in section 3.1.9.

11. Policy 856 Medication at School

[856 MEDICATION AT SCHOOL](#) 

Tiffany Johnson, School Nurse Supervisor, reviewed the proposed changes to Policy 856 Medication at School.

**C. CLOSED SESSION**

1. Enter into Closed Session

At 6:42 p.m. Vice-President Tullis enter into a closed meeting to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation as well as to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

The meeting is being held in the boardroom at the offices of the Iron County School District.

Mrs. Christiansen seconded the motion. By roll call vote the Board members voted as follows:

Tiffiney Christiansen - aye

Megen Ralphs - aye

Stephanie Hill - aye

Ben Johnson - aye

Michelle Tullis - aye

Tyrel Eddy - aye

John Taylor - aye

*Moved by:* Michelle Tullis

*Seconded by:* Tiffiney Christiansen

### **Motion Passes**

2. Reconvene to Open Session
3. Possible Action from Closed Session

### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

1. Adjourn the Meeting

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Board President

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Business Administrator