



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - Jan 27 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

A. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
At 5:30 p.m. President Johnson called the meeting to order.
Mrs. Christiansen joined electronically.
2. Prayer or Thought
Mrs. Ralphs offered a prayer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of the _____ Regular Board Meeting
[WORK AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - Dec 16 2025 - Minutes - Html](#)
2. Audit and Approval of Warrants
[Check Register - Summary JAN2026.pdf](#)
[Check Register Detailed JAN2026.pdf](#)
3. Employment of Personnel
4. LEA Specific License Approval
5. Home School/Exemption from School Attendance

6. Recommendation for Release of Students from School (JEG-R)
7. Approval of Consent Agenda Items
Motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Moved by: Megen Ralphs

Seconded by: Michelle Tullis

Motion Passes

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Recognitions
There were no recognitions for this month.
2. Public Comment
Jeff Corry, community member and retired high school teacher, spoke against the proposed 4-day school week. He disputed President Johnson's comment that all of the competing schools that Parowan High School plays are on a 4-day schedule. He suggested that instead of adopting a 4-day week, the district could model Alpine School District's schedule, where elementary students attend school full days five days a week and secondary schools have minimal early outs, preserving instructional time.

At 5:39 p.m. Mrs. Christiansen joined the meeting.

Kim Schoonmaker, parent of students in the district, spoke about the timing of implementing the 2026–2027 school calendar in relation to the proposed 4-day school week. She emphasized that families and teachers need a finalized calendar well in advance to plan vacations, sports, and curriculum. She highlighted that uncertainty or last-minute changes—such as adjusting schedules due to the modified 4-day plan or prior ABA changes—create difficulties for both teachers and students. She urged the board to set the 2026–2027 calendar as originally proposed, out of respect for teachers, families, and the community, to provide stability

and adequate planning time.

Sara Workman, parent of students in the district, addressed the proposed boundary changes, noting that her main concern is how priorities are determined for variance requests. She explained that her nine-year-old child has type 1 diabetes and receives excellent support from staff at South Elementary. Because of this, she is hesitant to be reassigned under the new boundaries. She asked whether students with special or medical needs are given priority when variance requests are considered. Superintendent Hatch responded that such information should be included on the variance request form, as it is taken into account in decision-making.

A community member by the name of Janice shared her experience with a four-day school week in California, noting both advantages and disadvantages. She said the optional schedule allowed extra time for homework, driver's training, and personal errands, and even enabled her to graduate early. On the downside, parents faced logistical challenges with staggered schedules for multiple children, older siblings had to care for younger ones, and babysitting needs increased. She emphasized that some students benefit from the shorter week, while others may struggle with assignments or social time. Overall, she suggested that a four-day week has pros and cons, is not suitable for everyone, and ideally should offer families a choice.

Danni Brown, principal at North Elementary, asked the board to consider several factors when deciding between a four- or five-day school week. She urged that any changes not be implemented in December, as mid-year adjustments disrupt planning and family time. She highlighted the need to consider cost-of-living adjustments if teachers' workloads remain the same, and noted potential challenges for teachers with families under a hybrid or optional model. Brown also raised concerns about larger schools with high populations of low-income or homeless students, pointing out that optional attendance days could result in very low student turnout. She emphasized that demographics vary across schools and

should be taken into account.

Rebecca Guillen, a parent and teacher, shared her perspective on the proposed four-day school week. While she initially supported it for her high-achieving children—who could benefit from an extra day—she became concerned after learning more details. She cited challenges for teachers, including increased workload, lower pay, and difficulty providing meaningful instruction for students who don't attend on the optional day. She also expressed concern for her gifted fifth-grade child, emphasizing the importance of consistent learning rather than assigning children to help or idle activities. Guillen urged the board to consider the impact on teachers who are also parents and the overall educational experience, stressing that decisions should prioritize student growth and learning rather than convenience or partial solutions.

3. Business Administrator's Report

[Board Budget Report FD32 JAN2026.pdf](#) 

[Board Budget Report FD51 JAN2026.pdf](#) 

[Board Budget Report JAN2026.pdf](#) 

Business Administrator Todd Hess presented the district's budget and tax report through December, noting that 37.9% of the general fund has been expended, slightly lower than 41.8% at the same point last year. He explained that the higher spending in general district administration is due to a large insurance bill that has not yet been fully allocated and will be corrected in the next report. Mr. Hess also discussed the tax increment fund, which tracks property taxes foregone through community development agreements, primarily with solar projects, as an incentive to attract development on otherwise low-value agricultural land. Board members asked questions about expense allocation, tax agreements, and comparisons with other districts, and Mr. Hess noted that most agreements were established previously and that incentives have been decreasing due to high demand for development. Mr. Hess also reported that capital projects are progressing well, specifically the Canyon View High School

addition and East Elementary. He noted that construction is on schedule, and in some areas slightly ahead of schedule. Fencing projects are also moving forward, and he confirmed that both Canyon View and East Elementary remain within their budgets.

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hatch reported he met with Representative Walter to provide input on a bill affecting the district's online school; the bill was adjusted based on feedback and remains workable, with added accountability measures. He also met with Representative Thompson regarding attendance legislation, which could restore court-mandated actions to improve student attendance. Of 18 education bills reviewed by the joint legislative committee, nine were supported, eight opposed, one had no position, and one will return after modifications. Superintendent Hatch also noted that principal midyear check-ins are underway, reviewing school improvement plan goals with leadership teams. He praised the progress, hard work of administrators and teachers, and overall achievements seen at midyear.

5. Board Member Report

No board reports were given.

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2026-27 Calendar

President Johnson thanked board members for the time they have spent engaging with teachers and parents throughout the calendar process and expressed appreciation to the community for their input as well. Mr. Eddy stated the consideration of this issue has been an extensive and thorough process, including multiple community and school surveys, town halls, and significant public outreach. He noted that while the proposed changes to the calendar are substantial and raise many questions, the survey data showed strong support that is difficult to oppose.

Mr. Eddy made a motion that pending approval from and working with the Utah State Board of Education, the Iron County School Board adopt a modified instructional calendar

effective for the 2027-2028 school year with these features: A base 4-day week Monday through Thursday for regular instruction. We will adjust start and stop times per prior district discussion to boost total instructional time. Two Fridays per month for remediation, enrichment, supplemental activities, and post student dismissal, teacher prep, collaboration, and planning. No new curriculum on Fridays. Form a stakeholder committee to recommend Friday details, scheduling, and policy changes no later than January 2027. Use any savings from this change, including a one-year cola suspension for salaried staff with reduced hours to fund a new elementary school.

President Johnson pointed out the motion is for adopting a calendar for the 2027-2028 school year and that calendar year is not listed on the agenda as an action item, only the 2026-2027 calendar. The Board discussed approving the 2026-2027 calendar as a traditional calendar while addressing future calendar changes within the same motion.

Mr. Eddy retracted his motion.

Mr. Eddy made a motion that for the 2026-2027 school year we will remain on the traditional Iron County School District school calendar. While we are going through that year, I move that we, pending approval from and with the Utah State Board of Education, the Iron County School Board adopt a modified instructional calendar effective for the 2027-2028 school year with these features: A base 4-day week Monday through Thursday for regular instruction. We will adjust start and stop times per prior district discussion to boost total instructional time. Two Fridays per month for remediation, enrichment, supplemental activities, and post student dismissal, teacher prep, collaboration, and planning. No new curriculum on Fridays. Form a stakeholder committee to recommend Friday details, scheduling, and policy changes no later than January 2027. Use any savings from this change, including a one-year cola suspension for salaried staff with reduced hours to fund a new elementary school. There was no second to the motion. The motion failed.

Mrs. Ralphs expressed her concern about the proposed cost of living adjustment (COLA) suspension and noted the impact a four-day week could have on teachers' ability to adjust. She also expressed concern with the two Fridays a month She

proposed voting on the 2026-2027 calendar today and discussing and possibly voting on the 4-day week calendar for 2027-2028 in February.

Vice-President Tullis apologized to teachers and parents for the process taking longer than expected. Vice-President Tullis made a motion to adopt the proposed traditional calendar for the upcoming year with the intention of exploring different options for the upcoming years. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion.

Ms. Hill emphasized that if the Board seeks a state-approved variance, the plan must be carefully crafted with active participation from all stakeholders. She stressed that the Board has a mandate from the public and teachers and must proceed thoughtfully to ensure the process is done correctly.

Mr. Eddy amended the motion on the floor to include approaching the State Board of Education about a variance for a 4-day school week in 2027-2028. After discussion, he withdrew his motion for the amendment.

He requested a roll call vote.

Megen Ralphs - aye

Stephanie Hill - aye

Ben Johnson - aye

Michelle Tullis - aye

Tyrel Eddy - nay

John Taylor - aye

Tiffiney Christiansen - aye

The motion passed.

Mr. Eddy requested the 2027-2028 school calendar be included on the agenda for the February work meeting.

I motion that for the calendar year school year 2026-2027 we remain on the traditional Iron County School District school calendar. While we are going through that year, I move that we pending approval from and with the Utah State Board of Education, the Iron County School Board adopt a modified instruct in instructional calendar effective for the 2027 2028 school year with these features. The base will be a 4-day week

Monday through Thursday for regular instruction. We will adjust start stop times per prior district discussion to boost total instructional time. There will be two Fridays per month for remediation, enrichment, supplemental activities and post student dismissal, teacher prep, collaboration and planning. No new curriculum on Fridays. Form a stakeholder committee to recommend Friday details, scheduling and policy changes. no later than January 2027. Use any savings from this change, including a one-year cola suspension for salaried staff with reduced hours to fund a new elementary school.

Moved by: Tyrel Eddy

Motion dismissed due to a lack of a second.

Motion to adopt the proposed 2026-27 traditional calendar with the intention to continue exploring calendar options for future years.

Moved by: Michelle Tullis

Seconded by: John Taylor

- Aye** Stephanie Hill, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, Tiffiney Christiansen, Ben Johnson, and John Taylor
- Nay** Tyrel Eddy

Motion Passes 6-1

2. Appointment of Business Administrator and Approval of Contract

Motion to appoint Todd Hess as Business Administrator for two years beginning July 1, 2026 and approve the business administration employment contract as attached.

Moved by: Megen Ralphs

Seconded by: Stephanie Hill

- Aye** Stephanie Hill, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Ben

Motion Passes 7-0

3. March 17, 2026 Board Meeting Change
Superintendent Hatch proposed a change to the March 17, 2026 work meeting due to a conflict with a local caucus meeting. He proposed changing the meeting date, or combining the work session with the regular board meeting the following week. The Board agreed to combine the meetings on March 24th, with a revised start time of 3:00 p.m.
Motion to combine the March 17, 2026 work meeting with the regular meeting on March 24, 2026 beginning at 3:00 p.m.


Moved by: Stephanie Hill

Seconded by: Michelle Tullis



Aye Stephanie Hill, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Ben Johnson, and John Taylor

Motion Passes 7-0

E. FIRST READING

1. Policy 630 Credit Toward Advancement on the Salary Schedule
[630 CREDIT TOWARD ADVANCEMENT ON THE SALARY SCHEDULE](#) 

Janette Stubbs, Human Resources Director, indicated that there have been no changes to this policy since last week in the work meeting.

2. Policy 703 Human Sexuality Curriculum
[703 HUMAN SEXUALITY CURRICULUM](#) 
Mr. Taylor suggested moving section 3.2.5 under section 3.2.1.
3. Policy 839 Protection of Students With Head Injuries
[839 PROTECTION OF STUDENTS WITH HEAD INJURIES](#) 

Mrs. Ralphs made a motion to suspend the rules and move Policy 839 Protection of Students with Head Injuries to a second reading.

Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and the board members passed it unanimously.

Motion to approve Policy 839 Protection of Students with Head Injuries.

Moved by: Megen Ralphs

Seconded by: Stephanie Hill

Aye Stephanie Hill, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Ben Johnson, and John Taylor

Motion Passes 7-0

4. Policy 856 Medication at School

[856 MEDICATION AT SCHOOL](#) 

Mr. Eddy made motion to suspend the rules and move Policy 856 Medication at School to a second reading.

Mrs. Ralphs seconded the motion and the board members passed it unanimously.

Motion to approve Policy 856 Medication at School.

Moved by: John Taylor

Seconded by: Tyrel Eddy

Aye Stephanie Hill, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Ben Johnson, and John Taylor

Motion Passes 7-0

F. SECOND READING

1. Policy 438 School Volunteer Policy

[438 School Volunteer Policy](#) 

Janette Stubbs, Human Resources Director, informed the Board that the only change to this policy is the change the Board requested last month to move the definitions to Section 1.

Motion to approve Policy 438 School Volunteer Policy.

Moved by: John Taylor

Seconded by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Aye Stephanie Hill, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis,
Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Ben
Johnson, and John Taylor

Motion Passes 7-0

2. Policy 744 Parent/Community Grievance Procedures

[744 STATEMENT OF POLICY - PARENT/COMMUNITY
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES](#) 

Mr. Eddy proposed changing the work "must" to "should" in Section 3.1.

Motion to approve Policy 744 Parent/Community Grievance Procedures with the proposed adjustments.

Moved by: Tyrel Eddy

Seconded by: Megen Ralphs

Aye Stephanie Hill, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis,
Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Ben
Johnson, and John Taylor

Motion Passes 7-0

G. CLOSED SESSION

1. Enter into Closed Session
No closed session was held.

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

H. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjourn the Meeting
At 7:08 p.m. President Johnson adjourned the meeting.

Board President

Business Administrator