

North Sanpete School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
January 20, 2026

Minutes for the Board of Education meeting held January 20, 2026, began at 6:02 p.m. at the district office. Board President Rich Brotherson conducted the meeting and led the pledge. Superintendent O'Dee Hansen offered the prayer. Board members in attendance were President Rich Brotherson, Vice President Jeremy Madsen, Greg Bailey, Stacey Goble and Joseph Cook. Others in attendance were Superintendent O'Dee Hansen, Assistant Superintendent Rena Orton, Business Administrators Tammy Jorgensen and Koby Willis, Accountant Bryce Warby, Secretary Melanie Lee, Principals Christy Straatman, Steve Solen and Ryan Syme, UEA Representative Cindy Johansen, Dallon Sagers, Zac Dimmick, Erika Briggs, Monica Finlinson, Andy Peterson, Kami Millett, Ellie Finlinson, Tisha Young, Julie Reese, Cory Reese, Lacey Rosenlof, Kyle Parry, RL Taylor.

**BOARD RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Madsen recognized the cheer team for their regional competition in St. George this weekend and thanked them for their hard work. He also congratulated the drama club on their high school musical and shared that a judge from northern Utah gave it an excellent review.

Mr. Bailey also praised the cheer team and drama program. He recognized Tammy and thanked her for her many years of service and dedication to the district.

Mrs. Goble honored Tammy and shared that Tammy helped her get her first job. She highlighted Tammy's leadership, strong relationships, and positive influence as a role model.

Mr. Cook recognized Ellen Bird, a Moroni Elementary kindergarten teacher who passed away in November. He also recognized Mr. Willis and thanked him for being present. He acknowledged Mr. Peterson, a middle school teacher, and shared his appreciation for the dedicated people who have worked in the district and those who will continue to serve in the future.

Principal Straatman celebrated Tammy for her dedication and commitment to the district, noting that her heart has always been in her work. She praised the drama department's production of *Hadestown*, calling it exceptional, and emphasized the hard work of a small group of dedicated individuals, including Alex and Taryn Barlow, Mark and Sarah Anderson, and the Stucki family. She also recognized the cheer team for placing second overall in their division.

Principal Syme recognized Jeff Ericksen for helping make a smooth transition and shared appreciation that the middle school staff is well trained.

Ms. Johansen honored both Jeff and Tammy and shared how grateful she was to work with Tammy for 30 years. She also noted how fortunate she has been to work with all six middle school principals and praised the strong leadership in the district.

Mr. Willis shared that he has enjoyed his first couple of weeks in the district. He mentioned Melanie Smith and how excited she is to return to work, noting that it is a good sign when people are happy both going to work and going home.

Mrs. Jorgensen shared the food service motto, "We get to, not we have to." She thanked the board for their years of support during her 36½ years in the district and acknowledged the time, effort, and unity behind the scenes. She expressed confidence in the district's future, thanked O'Dee and Rena for their teamwork, and wished Mr. Willis the best of luck.

Assistant Superintendent Orton shared that Tammy will be greatly missed. She also recognized teachers, instructional coaches, and principals for their work supporting student testing efforts.

Superintendent Hansen celebrated Tammy and thanked her for leaving a lasting legacy. He shared that Tammy truly lived the district's motto of treating everyone like family and was always available to listen and support others. He also celebrated Andy Peterson as the new CUES director and noted the strong connections among education systems in the region.

Mr. Brotherson expressed that Tammy was a cheerleader 21–22 years ago and has never stopped cheering for North Sanpete. You will be missed, but we know you will be an amazing grandma. Thank you for your years of service and dedication. Best of luck!

## **OATH OF OFFICE**

New Business Administrator Koby Willis was sworn in by current Business Administrator Tammy Jorgensen.

## **FINANCIAL AUDIT 2024-2025**

The financial audit for the 2024-2025 school year was presented by James Gilbert with Gilbert and Stewart.

The audit reviews the district's financial statements and compliance processes to form an official opinion. Since auditors cannot examine every transaction, they use sampling methods, analytical reviews, inquiries, and confirmations with financial institutions, lenders, and state and federal agencies to compare records to the district's books.

The district received an unmodified opinion—the highest possible rating—on both the financial audit and the Single Audit of federal grants. Page 15 of the audit contains the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures.

## **FOCUSED GRADUATION PATHWAY**

The Focused Graduation Pathway (FGP) is an alternative pathway to a high school diploma for eligible students who are significantly behind in credits. This program utilizes a hybrid model where students demonstrate proficiency in core subjects by passing the official GED exam and complete their remaining graduation requirements through traditional coursework at Pleasant Creek School.

Principal Straatman expressed that the high school could have joined in on it but feels like Pleasant Creek is for students who are behind on credits – those are the students who will benefit from it. North Sanpete High School credits for graduation will stay the same - 28 credits.

Board members would like a report back to let the board how it is going.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Focused Graduation Pathway program. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The minutes for the December board meeting were presented to the board for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mrs. Goble to approve the consent calendar and adopt meeting minutes. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **YOUTH COURT**

- The proposed Youth Court program will handle minor misdemeanor-level offenses using a restorative justice approach rather than a punitive one.
- Students must admit guilt or plead no contest to participate, and both the student and parent must agree.
- Cases may include vaping, truancy, fighting, possession of tobacco or alcohol, and minor vandalism.
- The program will rely on trained student judges (typically 5–6 per case) with Officer McQuivey running the program.
- Students will sign confidentiality agreements and complete training, including court observations.
- Remediation may include community service, essays, or academic support, with students returning 2–4 weeks later to report on their progress.
- The goal is to support student wellbeing, provide accountability, and connect students with resources—not to punish.
- The program has strong support from local courts and has been successful in Manti, which handled about 50 cases last year.
- Most logistics are in place, and there would be no cost to the school.
- Recruitment of upperclassmen to serve as judges will be important moving forward.

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the Youth Court Proposal. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Mt. Pleasant Elementary has two boilers that work together, but only one is currently running. The other boiler is shut down because the heat exchanger failed and created a hole, making it unsafe to use.

The current boilers are no longer made and the company that installed them is out of business. The manufacturer can replace the heat exchanger for about \$41,000, but a brand-new boiler costs about the same, so replacing the boiler makes more sense.

The estimated total cost for full replacement is \$250,000–\$300,000, and a 20-year warranty is preferred.

If temperatures stay mild, the one working boiler should get the school through winter. Replacement could be done over spring break, but it would be tight. New boilers would take 6–8 weeks to build and about one week to install.

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mrs. Goble to approve \$250,000 - \$300,000 for boilers for Mt. Pleasant Elementary. Mr. Cook abstained from voting.

### **Bus Garage Lift and Addition**

Because we no longer have a working lift, bus repairs take 45 minutes to an hour longer per bus. The lift we had made us much more efficient. Meanwhile, we continue to grow and have added bus routes every year.

A proposed bus garage addition would cost about \$4.8 million and include a new building with bays, lifts, utilities, offices, conference rooms, and restrooms. However, a local contractor believes that bid may be about \$1 million too high.

We must address the broken hoist:

- A scissor lift will not work because the bus would hit the top of the door.
- A 2-post lift would be permanent and cannot be moved.
- An Eco lift is mobile and would cost about \$300,000 but it would take about 10 months to receive after ordering.
- Guston Hydraulic may need to inspect and officially condemn the current hoist. Risk Management has expressed concern but has not formally required action.

We are doing our best, but we are falling behind, especially with spring sports starting soon.

The capital budget for next year will be discussed in February/March. The boiler and the lift together would take up about half of next year's capital budget, so other projects may need to be delayed.

This is the fifth presentation to the board in five years about this issue. It can't be postponed any longer.

□ **Maintenance & Outsourcing**

- Consider subcontracting certain jobs (e.g., Sanpete Diesel, Gunnison Implement).
- Explore additional vendor options to reduce costs (possible contacts: Doyle's Diesel, Jared Eliason).
  - Have subbed out more buses than ever.
- Two buses are currently in Salt Lake City.
- Ensure safety for Dallon and Tyrel.

□ **Equipment & Warranty**

- Discussed a \$5,000, 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty (engine, transmission, rear differential).
- Last two buses did not include the warranty, but no issues have occurred.
  - Warranty wouldn't have helped us with the issues we have had.
- Guston Hydraulics (SLC) to evaluate the lift.

□ **Facilities & Planning**

- FGE may need an addition or portables for a couple of years.
- Anticipated capital budget increase with TNT did not materialize.
- Plan a comprehensive planning meeting to outline projects for the next 5–10 years.
- Develop a specific list of high-cost items with 5-year estimates.
- Implement asset management.
- Visit Nebo bus garage to review their operations and vendors (possible field trip).

□ **Financial Considerations**

- Emphasis on cost savings and economic efficiency.
- Mr. Cook expressed a desire to avoid raising taxes.
- Appreciation expressed for collaborative efforts and maintaining stability.

## **SCHOOL REPORT**

Principal Syme and Mrs. Kami Millett gave the school report on the middle school.

### Improvement Plan Overview

- Focus on student academic growth and engagement
- Targeted support for Multilingual Learners
- Expanded access to Fine Arts
- Responsible, outcomes-driven use of funds

### Goal #1: Academic Growth & Proficiency Student Outcomes

- Increase overall RISE growth by 2% for all students

- Increase proficiency by 1% in:
  - ELA
  - Math
  - Science
- Maintain a 90% or higher pass/fail rate

Goal #1: Investments That Drive Results

Total: \$91,800

- Buying prep-periods for CORE teachers
- At-risk student tracking and intervention support
- Technology training and classroom tools
- ESL staffing and Elevation professional learning

*Funding is directed toward instruction, intervention, and teacher capacity.*

Goal #2: Fine Arts Proficiency & Participation

Student Outcomes

- Increase proficiency through creating, performing, responding and connecting
- Expand equitable access to:
  - Band
  - Art
  - Theater
  - Music

Goal #2: Fine Arts & Budget Summary

Fine Arts Access & Participation

- Increased proficiency and enrollment in Band, Art, Theater, and Music
- Instruments and performance rights funded

Total: \$5,500

Total Budget & Future Considerations

Financial Summary

- Total planned expenditures: \$97,300
- Estimated Carryover: \$15,710\*\*

Future Considerations

- Orchestra instruments
- Expanded Art and Choir Support
- Additional CORE teacher prep periods

Counseling Program Review

- The Utah State Board of Education counseling program review involves a formal onsite review every 6 years with an interim review every 3 years.

Key Components to the Counseling Program Review

- Data-driven goal setting

- Evidence-based practices
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Adherence to specific state rules for accountability
- Continuous improvement

Preparation for the review requires a completed self-evaluation and an "electronic evidence box" supporting management, team effectiveness, and accountability.

#### SHARP Survey Data Review (8<sup>th</sup> grade survey only)

- Depression decreased
- Suicidal ideation decreased
- Social isolation increased
- Feeling safe at school decreased

Screentime gets in the way of:

- Sleep – 55.8%
- Time spent with family - 60.4%
- Physical exercise - 41.7%
- Time spent with friends - 30.1%

Approval of substance use:

- Parental approval – same
- Peer approval – increased
- Perception of risk of substance abuse – decreased

Skipping meals because my family didn't have money to pay for it:

- 2023 – 11%
- 2025 – 25.4%
- State Average 2025 – 12.5%

Trouble keeping up with homework because I didn't have reliable computer or internet:

- 2023 - 11.2%
- 2025 - 25.8%
- State average 2025 - 19.8%

Overall health has decreased

- Physical activity has a significant impact
  - Sleep 8 hours or more:
    - 2021 – 55.3%
    - 2023 – 40.1%
    - 2025 – 29.2%
    - State average 2025 – 46.6%
- Students reported a significant decrease in community and neighborhood attachment as a whole.
- Students reported an increase of community drug use.

Counseling program goals are made by analyzing data such as:

- SHARP survey
- End of year testing
- Teacher, parent and student surveys
- WIDA testing

## **FINANCIAL REPORT & PAYMENT REQUESTS**

Business Administrator Jorgensen presented:

1. Financial Reports.
2. December invoices that have been paid.
3. Discussed M&O and budget with Mr. Willis and Mr. Warby
4. Donation that came in today from Mt. Pleasant City \$2,594.16 council member wants to donate fees paid to Mt. Pleasant Elementary and North Sanpete High School food service to feed kids.
5. Audit – does the board want to put it out to bid?
  - a. Other districts under 30,000 students
    - i. about half are with Gilbert and Stewart
    - ii. our FY24 audit cost was \$19,950
    - iii. we are less than some, more than others
    - iv. Squire Company is significantly more than Gilbert and Stewart
    - v. Competitive pricing – overall we are doing well
  - b. Piute put out RFQ for auditors
    - i. not many auditors doing audits for school districts
  - c. State requires that we put it out to bid every 3 years
    - i. Rich will verify this
    - ii. weigh how big of a factor is the price versus the experience and quality
6. We did receive bus #2
  - a. Both buses are working great
  - b. Transportation is happy

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Madsen to approve the financial reports as part of the consent calendar. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS**

Letters of resignation from K. Tanner, E. Larsen J. and C. Dyches were presented to the board.

Letter of retirement from Tammy Jorgensen was presented to the board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the letters of resignation and retirement with early retirement benefits. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## Employees Hired:

R. Syme	Middle School	Principal
B. Holder	High School	Assistant Principal
J. Blackhurst	District	Maintenance Technician
A. Edwards	Pleasant Creek	Custodian
L. Ericksen	All Schools	Sub Teacher/TA
C. Jolley	All Schools	Sub Teacher/TA
J. Juan	All Schools	Sub Teacher/TA
T. Talbot	Transportation	Sub Bus Aide
M. Wiebenga	Transportation	Sub Bus Aide
A. Larsen	Transportation	Sub Bus Aide
B. Sorensen	All Schools	Sub Teacher/TA

## **CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Construction projects were discussed.

- High school front entrance should be completed by the middle of February
- Auto shop
  - Phase II bids were due on Friday
  - Should be able to start school in August

## **NSHS STATE TOURNAMENT FUNDING**

This will be discussed in the February board meeting.

## **SCHOOL CHOICE**

School choice requests were presented to the board for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the five school choice requests. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Middle School Gear-up is requesting overnight travel for up to 10 students to attend the GEAR UP Biotechnology Camp at Utah State University in Logan, June 1-2, 2026. All expenses are fully covered by GEAR UP. Transportation will be provided by the district. Superintendent Hansen and Principal Syme approve this request.

Choir is requesting overnight travel to attend the State Honor Choir at Herriman High School and Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City, January 23-24, 2026.

Drill Team is requesting overnight travel to attend state competition at UVU in Orem, January 29-30, 2026.

Boys Wrestling is requesting overnight travel to attend the State Wrestling Tournament at the Sevier Valley Center in Richfield, February 4-6, 2026.

Boys and Girls Basketball is requesting overnight travel to attend the state tournaments at SUU in Cedar City, February 19-21, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mrs. Goble to approve the travel requests. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **POLICIES**

The Artificial Intelligence Policy was presented to the board in first read.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the Artificial Intelligence Policy in first read. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

The Focused Graduation Pathway Policy was presented to the board in first read.

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Focused Graduation Pathway Policy in first read. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Mr. Cook abstained.

The Epidemic or Pandemic or Similar Communicable Disease Outbreak Policy was presented to the board in first read.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mrs. Goble to approve the Epidemic or Pandemic or Similar Communicable Disease Outbreak Policy in first read. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **USBA CONFERENCE**

The USBA Conference was discussed.

Mr. Willis

- Facilities efficiencies (designed elementary to be middle school – forced to build elementary directly across the street from another elementary school)
- Spent lots of time discussing portable classrooms

Mrs. Jorgensen

- Truth in Taxation class – very thorough with information that will change again
- Davis School district got a confirmation from the tax commission on every step they did

Assistant Superintendent Orton

- Portable classrooms – build doublewide that is moveable for \$200,000 (might be a solution for FGE)
- Truth in Taxation
- Admin leadership – Deloit

- Land Trust – new resources available on land trust website
- K3 reading problem

Superintendent Hansen

- Teachers struggling with morale (literacy levels aren't where they are supposed to be)
- Want parents to engage and be part of the process (First Lady Abby Cox)
- Need to give K3 teachers time to express their needs (our proficiency skills are higher than in other states)
- Need admin support for NSMS, NSHS, MPE
- Special assignment for a year (dean of students)

Mr. Madsen

- Focus on opportunities for developing leadership in the district
- Student school board – would like to discuss this and implement in our district

Mr. Brotherson

- How to use AI as a board member
- Strive to be a highly effective board member – handout was emailed to board members

Mr. Bailey

- Attendance meeting has some awesome ideas
  - will send information to Principal Straatman
- Legislative meeting
  - reminded me we are in one of the poorest districts in the state and in the country
  - we have to do more with less
  - the State needs to change the way they allocate money

Mrs. Goble

- Jordan presentation on buildings – think outside the box
- Look at the resources that we do have
- Burnout
  - difference between burnout and demoralization
  - how can we change some of these situations and boost morale?

Mr. Cook

- How to be a better board member
- Truth in taxation - we need to do things different this year
- Shout out to Jeremy – completed master board certification (should be done yearly)

## **NSBA CONFERENCE**

Flights need to be booked. Board members need to let Melanie know if they have a significant other going.

## **SCHOOL REPORTS CARDS**

School Report Cards will be released January 29, 2026, and will be discussed in next month's board meeting.

## **BOARDBOOK TRAINING**

If board members need help with the new BoardBook, call the district office.

## **MATTERS FROM THE BOARD**

- Mrs. Goble was approached by a city councilman and others from Moroni City regarding a safer solution for the elementary bus drop-off/pick-up and students crossing the street.
  - The principal has been working with the City on this issue.
  - It was suggested they visit the gate at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School as a possible model.
  - Buses cannot remain on the street with lights on, as this is against code.
- Several years ago, the board discussed requiring district vehicles to have stickers. The idea was discontinued, but there is interest in revisiting it.
- The new mayor in Moroni expressed interest in enclosing the school-owned ball diamond pavilion that belongs to the district and the City maintains
  - A request was made to have council member Jacob Bagley attend the next board meeting to discuss insulating and enclosing the pavilion.
- Mr. Cook inquired about the \$200,000 spent on the track and whether warranty coverage had been discussed.
  - It was understood the work would be a patch job.
  - Parts of the track are peeling up, and it is unclear whether the contractor will address the issue.
  - The district can follow up to ask about repairs.
- March 25, 2025 – CSI funding: The State allocated \$96,000 for the elementary school but only \$45,000 was received.
  - The State reduced the originally promised amount.
- An email was received stating that Project AWARE funding had to cease immediately under the Trump Administration.
  - This funding supports three school counselors, social workers, and outside counseling services.
  - Funding was reinstated the following day.
  - Funding is scheduled to end in September 2026.
  - Plans are already in place to fund three counselors next year, and work is ongoing to secure funding for additional positions.
- Legislative Day on the Hill – January 30.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Brotherson and seconded by Mrs. Goble exit regular session and move into executive session to discuss the character or competency of an individual. Voting went as follows:

Mr. Madsen aye

Mrs. Goble aye

Mr. Brotherson      aye                      Mr. Bailey      aye

Mr. Cook      aye

Meeting moved into executive session at 9:53 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Brotherson and seconded by Mrs. Goble to exit executive session and return to regular session. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting returned to regular session at 10:59 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Mr. Brotherson and seconded by Mrs. Goble to adjourn. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.