

**Uintah School District
Board of Education
Uintah County, Utah**

Approved Business Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: 826 South 1500 East, Naples, Utah

Board Members Present:

- Dave Chivers, President
- Tawnya McKee, Vice President
- Todd Massey
- Denise Maynard
- Robin McClellan
- Paisley Bell, Student Board Member
(Non-Voting Member)

Executive Staff Present:

- Dr. Rick Woodford, Superintendent
- Troy Timothy, Business Administrator
- Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Human Resources
Director
- Mindy Merrell, Support Services Director
- Jayme Leyba, Elementary Education
Director

Others Present:

Minutes recorded by Sarah Fluckiger, Business Administrator's Secretary.

1. Introduction

1.01 Welcome/Call to Order

Troy Timothy welcomed attendees and introduced the Board. President Dave Chivers offered opening remarks and called the business meeting to order at 6:00 p.m..

1.02 Reverence

The reverence was offered by Kyle Allred.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Kache Barney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 Student Board Member Report – Paisley Bell

Paisley reported recent recognitions, training participation, and upcoming attendance at the National Student Council Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., along with involvement in the Night to Shine event. Uintah High students recently held their Winter Ball and are preparing for Preference. Winter athletics concluded with strong basketball, swimming, and

wrestling performances, including new records and numerous state qualifiers. The drill and cheer teams achieved state-level success, while a student athlete signed to play football at Snow College. As winter sports end and spring sports start, appreciation was given to supporters.

1.05 Celebrations - Students of the Month

The following students were recognized as Students of the Month by their teachers and/or administrators:

- Paisley Florence – Central Cove Early Learning Center
- Dayra Ontiveros – Ashley Elementary
- Stryker Perrigo – Davis Elementary
- Avery Phillips – Discovery Elementary
- Cedar-Ann Checora – Eagle View Elementary
- Melanie Allred – Lapoint Elementary
- August Batty – Maeser Elementary
- Verity Judd – Naples Elementary
- Logan Turner – Uintah Middle School
- Landen Rogers – Vernal Middle School
- Lydia Mathis – Uintah High School
- Whitnee Oaks – AVEC / UON

1.06 School Reports

Presenter: Principal Mallory Hoffart

Mallory Hoffart, in her first year as principal, reported that Maeser Elementary continues to demonstrate strong academic performance while honoring its long-standing traditions and community culture. She highlighted the school's consistent excellence in ELA, math, science, and early literacy outcomes, noting particularly strong mid-year reading proficiency rates, including high kindergarten performance. Rather than changing direction, her leadership focus has been on listening, protecting what already works, and strengthening instructional practice through teacher collaboration and effective intervention systems. She emphasized the importance of care, consistency, and community as the drivers of success, and shared plans to restore and display Maeser's original school bell as a symbol of the school's enduring legacy and commitment to excellence.

1.07 Patron Input

The board received two in-person comments. No online comments were received.

In-Person Comments:

Alisha Barney spoke to the board as a parent and community member, voicing concerns about hiring athletic leaders from outside the district and highlighting the benefits of coaches familiar with local student athletes.

Kache Barney spoke to the board about concerns regarding last year's coaching and shared his desire for a local football coach in the future.

Input given in accordance with Board Policy 002.0720.

2. Business/Action Items

2.01 Consent Calendar

- A. Minutes**
- B. Contracts Needing Board Approval**
- C. Monthly Board Financial Update**

President Chivers briefly explained meeting procedures for the benefit of the public, noting that Board work occurs throughout the month, and in the work session prior to the business meeting, allowing the business portion to proceed efficiently.

Motion: Member Robin McClellan moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, which includes the amended December 10, 2025 business meeting minutes, January 14, 2026 work session and business meeting minutes, and the financial update. Seconded by Member Todd Massey.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.02 Policies for Approval on First Reading

A. 010.0700 Video and Audio Surveillance

Motion: Member Denise Maynard moved to approve the policy. Member Todd Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.03 Policies for Approval on Second Reading

A. 007.0405 Uintah School District Concurrent Enrollment

Motion: Vice President Tawnya McKee moved to approve the policy. Member Robin McClellan seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. 005.0100 Employee Conflict of Interest (NEW)

Motion: Member Denise Maynard moved to approve the policy. Vice President Tawnya McKee seconded the motion.

Dr. Mistalyn Leis confirmed that all requested revisions to section 2.1 from the work session have been completed, and the updated policy is now accessible on Diligent Community.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously

C. 010.1000 School Safety (NEW)

Motion: Member Robin McClellan moved to table the policy. Member Denise Maynard seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

The board noted that tabling the policy would provide the committee with an opportunity to thoroughly review the requested updates and present the revised policy at the next board meeting.

2.04 Personnel Changes

Motion: Vice President Tawnya McKee motioned to approve the recommended personnel changes, Member Denise Maynard seconded the motion. .

Dr. Mistalyn Leis spoke to the board and answered any questions they had about the personnel changes.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Informational / Discussion Items

3.01 School Security Update

Mindy Merrell provided a school safety update, referencing recent state legislation and the district's ongoing efforts to meet safety requirements. She highlighted four key areas: the assignment of school safety and security specialists in every school; implementation of the

Standard Response Protocol (SRP) to create shared emergency language across the district and with first responders; the school guardian program and current School Resource Officer (SRO) coverage; and a large-scale safety exercise scheduled for March 20 focused on student reunification.

Mindy explained that community emergency partners will be part of the exercise, and students from grades 6 to 12 will take part in a virtual learning day so staff can attend training. The board members talked about how extensive this drill will be and pointed out that it is the district's biggest safety exercise so far.

3.02 Purchases Over \$50,000

Troy Timothy reviewed a purchase from Basin Wholesale for \$100,000 intended for the foods department, which supplies food for our school nutrition program.

All purchases were included in the approved budget.

3.03 Calendar Items

Superintendent Rick Woodford directed the Board to the Diligent calendar for upcoming events.

Additional highlights included:

- Parent-teacher conferences underway, a conference trade day this Friday, and no school Monday for Presidents' Day, resulting in a four-day weekend for some.
- A professional development day on February 27, with continued focus on safety and staff training.
- Annual AVEC at-risk conference with strong regional participation, along with multiple fine and performing arts events and fundraisers, highlighting appreciation for arts programs and their teacher advisors.

3.04 Superintendent and/or Board President follow up or clarification on items discussed during the meeting.

Board Member Comments:

Member Todd Massey noted enthusiasm for an upcoming conference featuring strong and inspiring guest speakers. They also emphasized the importance of community support for high school athletics, describing the school as a central gathering place for the community, similar to a local college, especially around Friday night sports. The remarks closed with appreciation for community pride, home-court support, and excitement around students competing in a current state basketball event.

Member Robin McClellan expressed appreciation for community members who spoke up and emphasized the importance of engagement in creating change. She acknowledged that this time of year can be challenging for teachers and administrators due to fatigue and seasonal factors and

offered thanks and encouragement. The remarks concluded with well wishes for the long weekend, Presidents' Day, and Valentine's Day.

Member Denise Maynard thanked community members for attending and sharing their concerns, particularly regarding football, and acknowledged how difficult it can be to speak publicly. She emphasized that the board listens and values community input, while noting that hiring decisions follow a committee process. The remarks closed with appreciation for the district's ongoing efforts to improve and gratitude to principals, teachers, and staff for their work.

Vice President Tawnya McKee thanked community members for attending, participating in the pledge, and sharing their perspectives, acknowledging the courage it takes to speak publicly. They emphasized the importance of community engagement and expressed shared passion and support for the school's football program. While noting that outcomes may not always be perfect, Vice President Tawnya McKee affirmed that the board genuinely cares about students and values continued community involvement.

Troy Timothy shared a personal perspective as a longtime community member, expressing appreciation for passionate families and understanding the impact of coaching changes on student-athletes. He acknowledged the excitement and importance of students competing at the state level and recognized concerns about losing valuable seasons. Troy Timothy also noted that it has been a difficult month for the high school, and expressed gratitude for the resilience, service, and positive efforts of those working within the schools.

Superintendent Rick Woodford praised the school report and highlighted the district's strong traditions and consistent excellence across schools, expressing appreciation for the leadership provided by principals. He thanked community members for attending and acknowledged a personal passion for football and support for the program's success. Superintendent Rick Woodford also celebrated students of the month and emphasized the joy and value of visiting classrooms, particularly early elementary settings, as a reminder of the positive impact of teaching and learning. The remarks closed with thanks to the board for their work on policies and overall leadership.

President Dave Chivers expressed appreciation for community members who attended and participated, including lighthearted remarks about historical photos and recognition of strong school leadership. He reflected on past efforts to study effective preschool models and bring those ideas back to improve early education locally, noting pride in the district's strong early literacy outcomes. President Dave Chivers reported that a visiting school district praised Central Cove Early Learning Center for its strong culture, staff, and learning environment, rather than its facilities. The remarks concluded with pride in the community, the quality of education being provided, and gratitude for everyone—from taxpayers to staff—who contributed to student success.

4. Adjournment

4.01 Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Member Todd Massey moved to adjourn the meeting, and Member Denise Maynard seconded.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

DATE: February 11, 2026

TO: UTAH BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Director of Human Resources

RE: Board Approval Request for **February 11, 2026:** Board Approval of New Hires, Notification of Separations of Employment

Superintendent Woodford requests Board approval of the following individuals for hire/assignment to new positions:

NEW HIRES – BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED:

Name	Position	Assignment	FTE	Education/ Training	Source of Funding
Francine Peterson	Sweeper	CEC	0.7375	All Required	Program 0285 Maintenance Operations
Ella Vance	SpEd Speech Aide	CEC	0.4875	All Required	Program 1215 SpEd Preschool
Rebekah Essington	Kindergarten Aide	Discovery	0.7375	All Required	Program 0183 Specialists and Aides
Wendy Sandoval	Kindergarten Aide	Discovery	0.7375	All Required	Program 0183 Specialists and Aides
Elizabeth Griffis	Part Time Secretary	EVE	0.7375	All Required	Program 0305 and 5678 School Administration & TSSA
Miranda Storer	Grade 5 Teacher	Maeser	1.0	Bachelor of Science Major: Human Development and Family Studies	Program 0050 Classroom Teacher Salaries
Kaylee Labrum	Intervention Aide	Naples	0.7375	All Required	Program 5678 TSSA
Samantha Rasmussen	Intervention Aide	VMS	0.7375	All Required	Program 5678 TSSA
Aileen Boren	SpEd Bus Aide	Transportation	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On

NEWLY HIRED EXTRACURRICULAR COACHES:

Name	Program	School	Years of Service
Ashley Berrett	Assistant Drill Team Coach	UHS	1
Ramsay Taliaferro	50% Stipend Assistant Baseball Coach	UHS	1