

DRAFT

February 24, 2026 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meetings (Tuesday, February 24, 2026)

Study Session

Action: 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Action: 2. Board Member Roll Call

Members present

Board President, Kim Dickerson

Board Vice President, Cory Holmes

Board Member, Jake Collett

Board Member, Breanne Dedrickson

Board Member, Brad Ehler

Superintendent, Dr. Garrick Peterson

Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

Discussion: 1. Policy Review: Dr. Eric Campbell, Director of Student Services

*Dr. Campbell presented an updated district policy that had previously been placed on a **30-day public review period**. No public comments were received during the review period. The policy formatting was updated to align with district standards, and revisions were made to **Section J to clarify and streamline the process for requesting surveillance footage**. Dr. Campbell also noted that district leadership had discussed the policy with the employee union, which expressed support for the policy as a measure to help protect students and staff in areas where surveillance cameras are installed. Board members did not raise specific concerns regarding the policy. **Board President Dickerson** thanked Dr. Campbell for the update and confirmed the item had completed the review process and was ready to move forward for Board consideration.*

Discussion, Information: 2. Wasatch School District Daycare: Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Education

*Ms. Discher provided an update on plans to explore the creation of a **district childcare program at Deer Creek High School**. The proposed program is intended primarily to support **teacher recruitment and retention** by providing convenient childcare options for district employees. Preliminary planning indicates space that could support approximately **36 children**, depending on age groups and required staffing ratios. A recent staff interest survey received responses from **46 employees**, representing infants through preschool-aged children. District staff are currently evaluating licensing requirements, facility needs, equipment, staffing, safety procedures, and estimated costs. The program would begin as a **pilot model**, with potential expansion to other district sites depending on demand and available space. Board members expressed strong support for exploring the program. **Board Member Dedrickson** stated that she was excited to see the district considering this option and noted that childcare access is a significant need for many families. She asked questions regarding staffing, safety requirements, and whether the program would be available to employees districtwide. **Board Member Ehler** asked questions regarding capacity and enrollment, noting that interest currently exceeds the projected number of available slots. He expressed concern about using a lottery system and suggested that, if possible, the district should explore ways to provide enough capacity so interested staff members could participate. **Superintendent Peterson** added that the program could help retain high-quality educators who might otherwise leave the workforce due to childcare costs, sharing an example of a teacher who indicated she would return to teaching if childcare were available. **Board President Dickerson** and other Board members expressed appreciation for the work being done to explore the concept and encouraged staff to continue evaluating the feasibility and report back with additional information.*

Discussion, Information: 3. District Data Review: Dr. Garrick Peterson, Superintendent

*Superintendent Peterson provided an update on district academic data and reviewed recent **state legislative proposals related to early literacy**, including a bill that could require retention of third-grade students who do not meet reading benchmarks. He explained that the proposal has been modified to include multiple exemptions, including students with individualized education programs, English learners, or students demonstrating progress through individualized reading plans. The Superintendent reviewed Wasatch's approach to literacy instruction, explaining that the district emphasizes **reading comprehension and rigorous grade-level texts**, rather than focusing primarily on fluency-based assessments. District data show that while Wasatch may rank lower on some fluency indicators, student performance on **RISE assessments and other college-readiness indicators is significantly stronger**, suggesting strong comprehension and long-term academic preparation. Board members asked questions regarding how reading benchmarks are measured and how the district's approach compares with other districts. **Board Member Ehler** shared personal concerns about mandatory retention policies, noting that holding students back can have long-term social and*

emotional impacts. **Board President Dickerson** indicated she shared similar concerns about retention practices. **Superintendent Peterson** emphasized that the district's focus will remain on ensuring students receive targeted support and individualized reading plans so that students continue progressing without needing to be retained.

Discussion: 4. Bond Refinance Discussion: Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator

Dr. Watt presented information regarding the potential **refinancing of existing district bonds** due to improving market conditions. Current projections suggest the district could realize approximately **\$1.4 million in net present value savings**, even after accounting for approximately **\$128,000 in associated refinancing fees**. If the Board elects to move forward, financial advisors and bond counsel would monitor market conditions and execute the refinancing when interest rates are most favorable. Board members discussed the potential savings and timing considerations. **Board Member Dextrickson** noted that, while she does not have a finance background, the projected savings appeared to make the refinancing worth exploring. **Board Member Collett** expressed appreciation for the flexibility to monitor the market before finalizing a refinancing decision. **Board Member Ehlert** asked clarifying questions about how fees would be calculated and whether additional underwriting costs could apply. He also noted that broader economic conditions could influence interest rates and suggested the district monitor market timing carefully. Board members generally agreed the proposal should move forward for further consideration and potentially be placed on a future Board meeting agenda as an action item.

B. Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Member Dextrickson

3. Board Member Roll Call

Members present

Board President, Kim Dickerson
Board Vice President, Cory Holmes
Board Member, Jake Collett
Board Member, Breanne Dextrickson
Board Member, Brad Ehlert

Superintendent, Dr. Garrick Peterson
Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

C. Celebrations/Information

Discussion, Information: 1. Celebrate Rocky Mountain Middle School Model PLC Recognition

Principal Lana Wright introduced staff, students, and administrators from Rocky Mountain Middle School to celebrate the school's recognition as a **Model Professional Learning Community (PLC)** by Solution Tree. She explained that the PLC framework focuses on collaboration among educators, collective responsibility for student learning, and measurable results. The recognition reflects sustained evidence that the school's PLC processes are improving student outcomes. Principal Wright and several staff members shared examples of how PLC practices have strengthened instruction and student learning. Staff highlighted improvements in academic performance, including Rocky Mountain's rise among comparable schools in the state to **#1 in English Language Arts, #2 in mathematics, and #4 in science**. Teachers discussed strategies used to increase rigor, align assessments with grade-level standards, and focus instruction on essential learning targets. Staff also described how the PLC process supports **all students**, including students receiving special education services and emerging bilingual students. Administrators shared that collaborative planning and targeted intervention strategies help ensure that students receive additional support when needed and opportunities for enrichment when they are ready. An eighth-grade student shared her personal experience of growth in English and mathematics through teacher support and goal-tracking systems. Staff also demonstrated **student progress trackers**, which allow students to monitor their own progress toward mastery of essential standards. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and congratulated Rocky Mountain staff and students for their achievement. Board **President Kim Dickerson** praised the collaborative culture and dedication of teachers working to support every student. **Board Member Dextrickson** shared her excitement about the work being done at the school and noted she was confident sending her own child to Rocky Mountain. **Board Member Ehlert** reflected on the impact the school has had on his daughter's confidence and learning experience and thanked teachers for their commitment to the whole child. **Board Member Collett** also expressed gratitude for the educators' work and recognized the significance of the PLC recognition. A parent of the student who presented also thanked the school and teachers for supporting her daughter's growth and confidence.

D. Community Comment

Discussion, Information: 1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

E. Consent Items

Action (Consent): 1. Consideration of Consent Items

Consideration and Approval of Consent Items E 2. - E9.

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. School Board Meeting Minutes - January 27, 2026

Consideration and Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes - January 27, 2026

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action (Consent): 3. Deer Creek High School Change Orders

Consideration and Approval of Deer Creek High School Change Orders

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action (Consent): 4. Financials

Consideration and Approval of financials for January 2026.

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action (Consent): 5. Employee New Hires

Consideration and Approval of Employee New Hires

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action (Consent): 6. Employee Separations

Consideration and Approval of Employee Separations

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action (Consent): 7. Employee Early Retirement

Consideration and Approval of Employee Early Retirement

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action (Consent): 8. Homeschool Affidavits

Consideration and Approval of Homeschool Affidavits

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action (Consent): 9. School Choice Applications

Consideration and Approval of School Choice Applications

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

F. Action Items

Action: 1. Consideration to Approve the 2025 Financial Audit Report - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator

*Dr. Watt introduced representatives from Eide Bailly, the district's independent auditing firm, to present the results of the district's annual financial audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Auditor Paul Skeen reported that the audit resulted in an **unmodified (clean) opinion**, meaning the district's financial statements are materially accurate and compliant with applicable accounting standards and government regulations. No findings or material weaknesses were identified in internal controls or compliance reviews. The auditors explained the scope of the audit, which included review of district financial statements, internal controls, and compliance with federal and state requirements. Additional attention was given to major financial areas such as the construction of the new high school and federal program expenditures. Board members asked questions regarding the audit process and the importance of auditor independence. The auditor explained that rotating audit staff and maintaining professional skepticism helps ensure objectivity and thorough review. Board members expressed appreciation for the district's strong financial management. **Board Member Holmes** asked how common it is for districts to receive a clean audit and was informed that Wasatch's results are exceptional compared to many similar organizations. **Board Member Dedrickson** emphasized the importance of transparency and fiscal responsibility for taxpayers and thanked district leadership for maintaining strong financial oversight.*

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 2. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of Swim Starting Blocks for Wasatch Aquatic Center - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Bredsguard presented a proposal to replace the swim starting blocks at the Wasatch Aquatic Center. He explained that the current blocks are deteriorating due to the harsh pool environment and heavy use. The replacement blocks will also allow the facility to display both **Wasatch High School and Deer Creek High School branding** as the district transitions to two high schools. Mr. Bredsguard recommended accepting a quote from **CEM Aquatics in the amount of \$54,790**, which includes the cost of the blocks and necessary installation modifications. Board members asked clarifying questions about the function of swim starting blocks and their role in competitive swimming and timing systems.

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 3. Consideration to Approve the Video Surveillance Policy - Dr. Eric Campbell, HR/Student Services

Dr. Campbell presented the district's proposed Video Surveillance Policy, which had previously been reviewed by the Board and placed on public review for approximately 30 days. He explained that minor revisions were made to align formatting with other district policies and to clarify language regarding **requests for video recordings and procedures for securing video evidence**. Dr. Campbell thanked members of the district's policy committee for their work in reviewing and updating the policy. Board members did not raise additional concerns.

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Jake Collett.

G. Board Report

Information: 1. Updates/Information

Board members shared updates from recent school and community activities. **Board Member Ehlert** reflected on conversations with teachers and expressed appreciation for the work being done to prepare students for graduation, particularly as the district approaches the transition to two high schools. **Board Member Dedrickson** reported on her role serving on the **Mountainland Technical College (MTECH) Board**, noting that construction on the Heber Valley campus is progressing on schedule. She also recognized elementary schools for hosting literacy nights and engaging families in reading initiatives.

H. Superintendent Report

Information: 1. Updates/Information

Superintendent Peterson and district leadership shared brief updates and recognized staff for their continued efforts supporting students and district initiatives. Board members also expressed appreciation for district employees whose work supports the district's financial and operational success.

I. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

J. Executive Session

Action: 1. Section 52-4-205 of the Open Meetings Act identifies the topics that may be discussed in a closed meeting. Discussion to purchase, exchange or lease of real property; character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; and or collective bargaining.