

November 18, 2025 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meetings

Members present

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

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

A. Study Session - 5:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Discussion, Information: 1. School Calendar Proposals for 2026-2027

Elementary Education Director **Stephanie Discher** presented proposed school calendars for the **2026-27** and **2027-28** school years, based on positive feedback from the current 2025-26 calendar and prior community input.

Key Elements of Calendar Design

- **Shortened Fall Break:**
 - Previously, fall break + PD days created an 8-11 day stretch away from school, which families found too long.
 - The 2025-26 model (shorter student break + PD days placed Monday/Tuesday) has been well received.
- **Two Weeks at Christmas Break:**
 - Strong support from staff and families, including visiting teachers who travel over the holidays.
- **Full Week of Spring Break:**
 - Consistent community preference.
 - Academically beneficial because it occurs after two full instructional weeks in March.
- **Professional Development Days:**
 - Two PD days after each term remain essential to PLC work and student achievement.
 - These days allow grade-level teams to collaborate and align curriculum, assessments, and intervention plans.
- **Term Balance:**
 - Terms differ in length but align with assessment windows and instructional pacing, particularly for elementary testing.
- **Graduation Date:**
 - Grad will continue to fall on the Wednesday before the last day of school—integrated into each proposed year.

Community Feedback to Date

- WPN representatives reviewed the format and generally approved:
 - Positive reaction to simplified layout design.
 - Support for calendaring two years in advance.
 - Appreciation for shortened fall break, two-week winter break, and full spring break.
 - Requests to end school before Memorial Day—achieved in upcoming years due to calendar alignment.

Board Discussion

- Board members expressed appreciation for the thoughtful balance of instructional needs and family preferences.
- Questions centered on:
 - Fall break length and potential teacher reactions.
 - January PD placement (Jan. 5-6) and community perception.
 - Aligning spring break with Easter—only misaligned in 2028.
 - Term balance and instructional integrity.
- General consensus:

The proposed calendar mirrors the community-informed model now functioning well.

Next Steps

- The Board will **publish the proposed 2026-27 and 2027-28 calendars for 30-day public review.**
- Feedback will be collected and incorporated before a final vote.

Discussion: 2. Opening Timeline for Deer Creek High School

Superintendent **Dr. Garrick Peterson** shared an extensive overview of the cross-department transition plan for the August 2026 opening of **Deer Creek High School.**

Key Milestones and Processes

Staffing & Leadership

- **Assistant Principal Assignments:**
 - Only **one new AP will be hired** due to strategic staggered hiring over previous years.
 - Candidate pool includes past applicants and new applicants to ensure depth.
- **Team Lead Selection** (critical step):
 - Departments will be anchored by strong team leads in **both** schools.

- o Team composition prioritizes instructional stability, PLC structure, and curricular alignment.
- o A small number of teachers may be placed based on programmatic need rather than preference.
- **Teacher Placements:**
 - o Expected to be largely finalized by **February 2026**, with some adjustments based on enrollment projections and support class needs.

School Choice Process

- **First Window Closes:** December 5, 2025
- **Second Window:** Late February–April 5, 2026
- Families may submit early intentions; submissions can be revised.
- Counselors will review choice options with all students through PCCRs.
- Communications include a video walk-through, bilingual instructions, QR-code form links, and schoolwide distribution via math classes for maximum reach.
- **Not First-Come, First-Served:**
 - o All choices considered equally until capacity is reached.

UHSAA Athletics & Activities

- District has met with the **Utah High School Activities Association:**
 - o Seeking January scheduling approvals.
 - o Full activities and sports schedules expected by spring.

Student Leadership & Culture

- **Student Body Elections:** March 2026
 - o Both Wasatch High and Deer Creek High will run elections concurrently.
- Cultural development will be coordinated through:
 - o Joint Monday PLC meetings for at least the first year.
 - o Program alignment to maintain equitable rigor, assessment standards, and opportunities across schools.

Facilities & Move-In

- **Expected Building Access:** May 1, 2026
 - o Teachers will move after the school year ends.
 - o District will support moving logistics (boxes, transport, departmental coordination).

Student Orientation & Community Outreach

- Middle-to-high school transition planning underway:
 - o Likely window for first student-facing activities: **January 2026.**
 - o Considering transporting Rocky Mountain MS students to Deer Creek for building tours.
 - o Justin Kelly (principal) has launched an active social media series ("Deer Creek Official") with video walkthroughs of construction progress.

Parent Community Requests

- District has received ideas for:
 - o Elementary-to-middle school "sister school" bridging activities
 - o Parent-led community-building events

These will be explored and coordinated with school leadership teams.

Information: 3. Round Table Discussion

- Board President Dickerson asked whether the Board wished to prioritize further engagement with the New London Group's CRA proposal. **Board Consensus:** The proposal **is not a priority** at this time.
- Board Member Dedrickson asked about timelines for releasing updated **Safe Routes** for the 2026–27 school year.
 - o Operations Director **Shawn Kelly** noted ongoing coordination with the city regarding new roads and intersections.
 - o Timeline remains **undetermined** but planning is active.
 - o

Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

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

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson

3. 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 Ehlert

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

C. Celebrations/Information

Discussion, Information: 1. We Rise and Working to Excel (WE) Celebration

Presented by Kim Danley, College Success Advisor

Mrs. Danley presented an overview of Wasatch High School's **College Success (We College) program**, an accelerated early-college pathway that prepares students for postsecondary success. She explained that students take up to **15 college credits** during high school—often completing their college math, English, and science requirements before graduation. The program also includes a **College & Career Readiness** course she helped develop, now used statewide. Mrs. Danley outlined the support system behind the program: rotating teachers who provide targeted help in core subjects, structured time for completing college and scholarship applications, resume building, FAFSA help, college visits, and mentoring. Students are selected based on GPA, course performance, ACT benchmarks, and teacher/counselor recommendations, with the message that the district believes strongly in their potential. She also shared data showing exceptionally high pass rates in concurrent enrollment courses and highlighted statewide recognition and grants the program has received. The effort is supported through a collaborative partnership with UVU's college access programs and the **We Rise First-Generation Scholarship**, administered through the Wasatch Education Foundation. Several students spoke about how the program improved their confidence, academic skills, and ability to navigate the college application process—underscoring the program's impact on student success and access to opportunity.

D. Community Comment

Discussion, Information: 1. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.

The Board heard from about a dozen parents, students, and community members, with most comments focused on the implementation of the new high school boundaries. Speakers expressed interest in ensuring equity between the two schools, clarity on programs and staffing, and flexibility in the school-choice timeline. Others shared appreciation for the Board's outreach to neighborhoods, attention to proximity and safety, and efforts to maintain strong opportunities for all students across the district.

E. Consent Items

Action (Consent): 1. Consideration of Consent Items

Resolution: Consideration and Approval of Consent Items E 2. - E10.

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. Special Study Session and Special Board Meeting Minutes - November 5th, 2025

Consideration and Approval of Special Study Session and Special Board Meeting Minutes - November 5th, 2025

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent), Minutes: 3. Special Board Meeting Minutes - October 28, 2025

Consideration and Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes - October 28, 2025

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent), Minutes: 4. Special Board Meeting Minutes - October 30, 2025

Consideration and Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes - October 30, 2025

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 6. Deer Creek High School Change Orders

Consideration and Approval of Deer Creek High School Change Orders

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 7. Employee New Hires

Consideration and Approval of Employee New Hires

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 8. Employee Separations

Consideration and Approval of Employee Separations

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 9. Staff or Student Travel

Consideration and Approval of Staff or Student Travel

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action (Consent): 10. Financials

Resolution: Recommendation to approve the October 2025 Financials

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

F. Action Items

Action, Discussion, Information: 1. Consideration to Approve the School Calendar Proposals for 2026-2027 - Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Education

*Elementary Education Director **Stephanie Discher** presented the proposed school calendars for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 school years, noting they reflect extensive past community and staff feedback. She highlighted adjustments made in response to prior surveys—including modifying the length of Fall Break—and shared that the calendars were redesigned for clarity and released as a two-year set, per community request. Mrs. Discher recommended sending the proposed calendars out for public input ahead of final approval on December 16. **Discussion:** Board Member **Ehlert** expressed appreciation that key dates such as high school graduation are now included to help families plan.*

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Breanne Dedrickson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 2. Consideration to Purchase two (2) School Buses to Add to the District Fleet - Shawn Kelly, Director of Operations

*Operations Director **Shawn Kelly** recommended the purchase of **two (2) new Bluebird school buses** from Bryson Sales under State Contract MA812 for a total of **\$462,636**. He noted that the buses will bring the district fleet to 50, allowing WCSD to adequately support transportation needs for two high schools, including more than **350 annual activity trips**. The district maintains a standardized Bluebird fleet to streamline maintenance and parts. Board members briefly discussed rising bus costs and expressed appreciation for proactive planning to ensure smooth transportation during the transition to two high schools. It was noted that newer buses used for long trips include **Wi-Fi**, supporting students' academic needs while traveling.*

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 purchase of the Sound Systems for Deer Creek High School - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor

*Maintenance Supervisor **Zach Bredsguard** recommended approving the purchase of state-of-the-art sound systems for the **main auditorium, little theater, and commons** at Deer Creek High School. He explained that these systems were intentionally removed from the general contractor's original bid so the district could select higher-quality, updated equipment through FF&E funds. The proposed contract from **Atkinson Sound**, under state pricing, totals **\$604,649.82**, which is below the district's original estimate. During discussion, Board Member **Ehlert** confirmed the purchase fits within the FF&E budget and suggested pursuing additional price negotiations with manufacturers to maximize savings. Mr. Bredsguard agreed to follow up.*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Jake Collett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Action: 4. Consideration to Approve the EMS LINQ Time Clock System - Shawn Kelly, Director

*Operations Director **Shawn Kelly** recommended **tabling** the approval of the EMS LINQ Time Clock System, noting that negotiations with the vendor were still in progress and additional time was needed to secure improved pricing.*

Motion to table by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

G. Board Report

Information: 1. Updates/Information

***Board Member Dedrickson** attended a graduation at the county jail for an Adult Education participant and praised the life-changing impact of the program. She also reported from the MTECH strategic planning committee, noting that a new marketing campaign launches in December and that staffing and programs are being finalized for the Wasatch*

Campus. **Board Member Collett** highlighted recent CAPS activities, including students dissecting a pig heart with fourth graders. He emphasized how CAPS pushes students to take on real-world learning and how younger students were energized by the experience. **Board Member Ehlert** requested an update on which MTECH programs will be offered at the Wasatch Campus and suggested making that information available to help families understand future opportunities. **Board President Dickerson** closed by expressing appreciation for the Board's teamwork over a challenging year and for Superintendent Peterson's community-focused leadership. She also thanked district staff working behind the scenes to support students and families.

H. Superintendent Report

Information: 1. Updates/Information

Superintendent Peterson thanked the Board, staff, and community for their dedication during the boundary process and emphasized the important work still ahead—especially ensuring program access, student connection, and smooth transitions for both middle and high schools. He praised the valley's parents and students for their professionalism and engagement, and recognized the "army" of employees—from transportation to nutrition to maintenance—who support students every day. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and for the collective commitment to helping every student dream big and succeed.

I. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Cory Holmes

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

J. Executive Session

Action: 1. Section 52-4-5 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.