# WORK MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - Feb 17 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 4:30 PM

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

## A. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
   Vice-President Tullis called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. President Johnson was excused from the meeting, and Mrs. Ralphs joined electronically.

2. Prayer or Thought
   Mrs. Hill offered a prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance
   Mr. Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## B. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Boundary Change
   Business Administrator Todd Hess led a discussion on the proposed boundary changes. He reported that no significant changes have been made to the proposed boundaries. Meetings have been held with elementary principals to review projected enrollment numbers in order to plan for upcoming staffing needs. Following the Board's vote next week, if approved, families will have 30 days to submit out of boundary transfer requests. Staffing decisions will be finalized after reviewing those requests. He noted it is possible that if hiring is needed before enrollment numbers

are confirmed, teachers may be hired without a specific school assignment until placements are determined.

Questions were raised about whether affected families will be directly notified that their enrollment will change unless a transfer is requested. Superintendent Hatch indicated that a final plan has not yet been determined; however, it is likely that the schools will communicate the information directly to parents. He reported that efforts have been made to widely communicate information about the public hearing and the timeline for submitting variance requests. Those who have filled out a boundary waiver will not be contacted until after the 30 day wait period after the Board's vote. Once those parents are contacted, that completes the process for the boundary change.

2. Open Enrollment Designation

Open Enrollment Website Information - Website (1).pdf

Superintendent Hatch reviewed projected enrollment under the proposed boundary changes, explaining that school capacity is determined by state law using the greater of 90% of maximum capacity or maximum capacity minus 40 students to determine whether a school is considered open or closed. He pointed out that South Elementary is expected to be near capacity, though its current numbers don't yet reflect the addition of a portable classroom that will be relocated from East Elementary, which will slightly increase South's capacity. He noted that class sizes and grade-level enrollment will be closely reviewed when considering variance requests.

3. 2027-2028 School Year Calendar

Superintendent Hatch led a discussion on the 2027-28 school year calendar. He requested clarification from the Board regarding the next steps. He referenced prior discussion about submitting a waiver request in anticipation of potentially moving to a four day school week in the 2027-28 school year. He asked for Board direction on whether to move forward with the waiver process or delay action, noting that much of the required data and justification has already been prepared. Board members discussed the feedback they've received from community members about the possible four-day week schedule. Overall, there were strong opinions both in favor and opposed. The Board expressed support for submitting a waiver application to the state to determine whether a four-day schedule would be approved before continuing further investigation, discussion, and community input regarding potential implementation in the 2027-2028 school year, or possibly the 2028-2029 school year. They also discussed the possibility of forming a committee to help develop the waiver proposal. It was suggested that the committee include representation from various school levels and possibly board members. Superintendent Hatch offered to prepare a draft waiver application for review at the March work meeting, noting the April 10 submission deadline.

4. Student Vector Training

Superintendent Hatch presented Student Vector Training modules to meet state-mandated bullying prevention requirements and to provide targeted educational interventions for students who violate district policies. Selected trainings will be reviewed by board members prior to adoption, with implementation anticipated for the next school year. Cost information will be provided once specific modules are identified.

5. Alternative Investment Opportunities

Business Administrator Todd Hess discussed alternative investment opportunities for excess district funds, including a proposal from Cache Valley Bank to offer a money market account earning five basis points above the Public Treasurer's Investment Fund (PTIF) rate, with funds fully FDIC insured. Board members expressed general support for exploring diversified, secure investment options to maximize interest earnings while maintaining liquidity. Mr. Hess will prepare a proposal for possible board approval at a future meeting.

6. Legislation: SB241 Early Literacy

SB0241.pdf

Superintendent Hatch gave a quick update of the legislative session. The Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) has taken positions on multiple education-related bills. Over 1,300 bills were introduced this session, with approximately 25% related to education. He encouraged board members to reach out with questions regarding specific legislation. Superintendent Hatch also highlighted key priorities within the proposed Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee (PEA) budget recommendations, particularly tied to the Early Literacy bill (SB241). The top priority identified in the bill is funding for K-3 paraprofessionals to support early grade literacy instruction. He also noted that although cuts have been recommended, none of them were from the flexible allocation.
Superintendent Hatch discussed concerns related to third grade retention provisions within the Early Literacy bill, noting research showing significantly higher dropout rates among students who have been retained. He emphasized that Senator Milner engaged educators throughout the drafting process, incorporating feedback and adding safeguards to the retention component, including parental involvement and additional factors in decision-making. While retention remains a concern, he indicated the safeguards make the provision workable. The Board expressed strong support for the bill while acknowledging manageable concerns within specific provisions.

7. Policy 204 Board Policy Development

204 BOARD POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Superintendent Hatch presented a draft policy establishing a formal Policy Committee to streamline review and development of board policies. Under the proposal, one board member would be appointed as chair, with up to two additional board members serving on the committee. He proposed standing members to include the superintendent, business administrator, district directors, one teacher representative selected by the Iron County Education

Association, one full-time classified employee, and one school principal. Additional participants, such as students, parents, or community members could be invited as needed depending on the topic under review. The committee's purpose would be to receive concerns, determine whether revisions are necessary, and develop and refine proposed policy changes before bringing them to the full board. The draft policy also includes a provision allowing minor policy updates required by changes in law to bypass the committee process and be brought directly to the Board for approval. The Board discussed the importance of transparency, particularly if a policy proposal is reviewed and rejected at the committee level. It was suggested that documentation or recorded discussions be made available so all board members are aware of proposals considered and the rationale for decisions. Overall, the Board expressed that the committee structure would likely improve efficiency and effectiveness of board meetings.

8. Policy 645 Administrative & Supervisory Coaching Prohibitions

645 Administrative & Supervisory Coaching Prohibitions

Roy Mathews, Executive Director of Secondary Education, presented a new policy consolidating longstanding practices related to administrative and supervisory coaching prohibitions. He pointed out Section 2.1 reiterates the established practice that secondary and elementary principals, assistant principals, and deans of students are prohibited from serving as coaches. Section 2.2 introduces new language expanding the prohibition to district-level directors, supervisors, coordinators, and board members who have evaluative or budgetary oversight, preventing them from holding coaching or extra duty assignments. This policy applies only to Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) sanctioned and district sanctioned activities. It does not restrict administrators from coaching non-district community programs outside contract hours. Roy encouraged the Board to review and provide feedback.

9. Policy 905 - Parent and Family Engagement

905 PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Steve Burton, Executive Director of Elementary Education, outlined Policy 905 Parent and Family Engagement. This is a new policy required for Title I compliance. He explained that as a part of the Title I review that occurs every five years, the district must document how it engages families and parents according to federal Title I laws.

10. Policy 712 Academic Eligibility Extra-Curricular Activities

712 Copy of ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Roy Mathews, Executive Director of Secondary Education, presented revisions to Policy 712 Academic Eligibility Extra-Curricular Activities. He noted that while the policy has existed, updates were made to clarify language and address emerging situations, such as clarifying what qualifies as a full time student, particularly for homeschool and online students who wish to participate in district extracurricular activities. The policy establishes a minimum eligibility standard of a 2.0 GPA, consistent with Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) requirements. Language regarding tardies and absences was clarified to specify that it applies to practices rather than class attendance. Roy also mentioned the policy references a district extracurricular participation contract, which is currently in draft form and included for the Board to review.

## C. CLOSED SESSION

At 5:53 p.m. Mr. Eddy made a motion to postpone the closed meeting until after the public hearing. Mrs. Christiansen seconded the motion and the board members passed it unanimously.

1. Enter into Closed Session

   At 6:22 p.m. Mrs. Christiansen made a motion to enter into a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual. This meeting is being held in the boardroom at the offices of the Iron County School District. Mrs. Hill seconded the motion.

   Roll call vote-

   Tiffiney Christiansen - aye

   Stephanie Hill - aye

   Michelle Tullis - aye

   Tyrel Eddy - aye

   John Taylor - aye

   Megen Ralphs - aye

2. Non-Renewal of Contracts

3. Reconvene to Open Session
   Motion to come out of the closed session at 6:34 p.m.

   *Moved by:* John Taylor
   *Seconded by:* Tiffiney Christiansen

   **Aye:** Stephanie Hill, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, and John Taylor

   **Motion Passes 6-0**

4. Possible Action from Closed Session

## D. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjourn the Meeting
At 6:35 p.m. Vice-President Tullis adjourned the meeting.

Board Vice-President

Business Administrator