

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
March 4, 2026

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Study Session in the Board Room at 5320 Adams Avenue, Ogden, Utah. The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Paul Widdison	Board President
Doug Hurst	Board Vice President
Janis Christensen	Board Member
Bruce Jardine	Board Member
Jan Burrell	Board Member
Kelly Larson	Board Member
Wyle Williams	Board Member
Gina Butters	Superintendent
Clyde Moore	Assistant Superintendent
Dave Hales	Assistant Superintendent
Brock Mitchell	Business Administrator

Board President Paul Widdison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board Member Janis Christensen updated the Board on legislative items and noted there was a total of 1,016 bills and resolutions this year. The JLC supported 42, opposed 33 and had a no position on 23 bills. Funding updates include \$25 million for At Risk Students, \$16 million for Early Literacy, \$25 million for Catalyst, \$5 million for Grow Your Own Education and \$17 million regarding school fees. There was \$18.3 million cut from the Digital Teaching and Learning grants. This Friday following the close of the legislation session, the JLC will begin analysis on this year's impact. The USBA Spring Regional Meeting will be held on March 12th. Everyone was encouraged to continue to advocate and build relationships with legislators.

Superintendent Butters highlighted the following bills:

SB69 – *School Device Revisions* is the ban on student cell phone use from bell to bell. We will have flexibility as an LEA and will review with our policy committee. Exemptions may include students on an IEP or 504 accommodations.

SB241 *Early Childhood Literacy*. Sponsored by Senator Ann Milner; by July 1, 2030, 80% of 3rd grade students must be reading at grade level. The fiscal note attached is \$16 million to use toward training educators. There is concern about retention for students not meeting the benchmark.

Board Member Kelly Larson shared updates from the Finance Committee on budgetary concerns and reductions. It was noted the district will not open any new positions at this time. There has been some miscommunication with displacement of part time teachers because of

declining enrollment. We are working on changing student to teacher ratios in secondary schools and align courses that are underenrolled.

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell explained that the junior high student ratios are being set to 1:28, and high schools 1:31 and adding in some CTE. Looking into possibly using capital funds for chrome books.

Superintendent Butters explained to the Board student enrollment for elementary going back five years. It shows a decrease of 1,470 students the last five years in elementary. This number is comparable to the size of Bonneville High School. Only two elementary schools are currently growing in enrollment, Haven Bay and West Weber Elementary. Birth rates are projected to affect lower grades and continue up to higher grades. Only two secondary schools are gaining enrollment, West Field High and Mountain View Jr. High. Weber District has had a decrease of 184 secondary students the last five years.

Superintendent Butters highlighted a few positive things going on around the district. Four of Weber School District's high schools were recognized by USBE with Certificates of Excellence for EL student academic performance. The Dual Language Immersion Program recently held a Chinese New Year Celebration. Athletic highlights include: Fremont High Girls Basketball – 5A State Tourney Semi-Finalists, Roy High Boys Basketball – 5A State Tourney Quarterfinalists, and Wahlquist Jr. Boys Basketball – undefeated, District Champions!

Assistant Elementary Education Director Kirt Swalberg and Assistant Secondary Education Director Rob Lake updated the Board on the School Land Trust Program. There are five different areas the Board is responsible for.

1. Set Policies and Timelines: It is important to be aligned across the board with our Trust Land Plans, Elevate 28 Strategic Plan and SSP Plans. School councils hold elections in the Fall or the Spring.
2. Conduct Annual Training: The district rotates every other year where the State comes in and the District conducts training the other years. The State training will be held September 22, 2026. All community council chairs are invited as well as the Board.
3. Oversee Program Implementation: Monitor fund usage and program compliance.
4. Review Final Reports: For the 2025 school year, and make sure money is spent on what was in the plans.
5. Approve Plan and Forms: They are reviewed and approved by Elementary Education Assistant Director Kirt Swalberg and Secondary Education Assistant Director Rob Lake.

The School LAND Trust Timeline was explained and how plans will be sent to the Board to review prior to recommended approval in April's Board Meeting.

Special Education Director Juliana Woodbury updated the Board on a special class informational overview and explained special class as a location, not placement. Other names for “special class” include; Diagnostic Kindergarten, Life Skills, and Social Emotional Learning. An overview of which schools hold special classes in the district for elementary and secondary was shared.

Life Skills trends was shared across the district with the trend for elementary seeing an increase. Jr. high is showing a down trend and high school showing some growth. SEL trends were shared with growing capacity over time and noted an SEL class was added at Roosevelt, North Ogden Jr. High, and a Life Skills class at Country View Elementary. Special education is holding steady on enrollment.

Assistant Technology Director Casey Dalpiaz updated the Board on the school safety timeline and the funding challenges. It was noted we are 60% complete in our schools with panic alert buttons from Audio Enhancement. It was noted after the grant application closure, the State went out to RFP for vendors that will tie directly to dispatch. Audio Enhancement continues to work with us as we are waiting for the grant to open again.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.