

NORTH SANPETE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
April 21, 2026

Minutes for the Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, April 21, 2026, began at 6:03 p.m. at the North Sanpete High School Band Room. President Richard Brotherson conducted the meeting and led the pledge. Board Member Stacey Goble offered the prayer. Board members in attendance were President Richard Brotherson, Vice President Jeremy Madsen, Stacey Goble and Joseph Cook. Others in attendance were Superintendent O'Dee Hansen, Assistant Superintendent Rena Orton, Business Administrator Koby Willis, Accountant Bryce Warby, Secretary Melanie Lee, Principals Christy Straatman, Ryan Syme, Allynne Mower, Robyn Cox, Natalie Stansfield, Stacey Peterson, John Thomas, Steve Solen, and UEA Representative Cindy Johansen. Others in attendance were Wayne & Lannette Nielson, Kaitlin Jenkins, Bill & Hayley Pollock, Jori Turpin, Preston Cox, Miley & Tonya Clawson, Tori Shirley, Darin & Lori Johansen, Matt & Sarah Mitchell, Kortney Mitchell, Ann-Marie Shirley, Mary Ivory, Talia Casares, Martha de la Rosa, Jessica Madsen, Lacey Rosenlof, Julie Reese, Rhett Larsen, Tisha Young, Angela Thompson, Cameron & Libby Murphy, Mason Murphy, Abby Ivory.

**BOARD RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Madsen celebrated the drama department for being nominated for excellence in their programs and congratulated them on their success.

Mrs. Goble recognized the outstanding achievements and accomplishments teachers make. She expressed appreciation for the work they do.

Mr. Cook recognized all the teachers and the students they serve, noting that it takes a special person to be a teacher.

Principal Straatman celebrated our Sterling Scholars and their teachers, Jori Turpin and Tyler Bailey, noting that we had four Region winners and three runners-up this year, with half of our participating students receiving top honors. Winners were Madison Shelley-English, Mylee Clawson-General, Sage Ivory-Art, Mason Murphy-Trade and Tech. Runners-up were Quincy Benson-Science, Tori Shirley-Social Science and Kortney Mitchell-Foreign Language. Principal Straatman thanked the teachers and parents who helped the Sterling Scholars prepare their portfolios and shared that these students have very bright futures ahead of them.

Principal Syme celebrated that, according to the office calendar tracking interruptions, there was one full week without any disruptions—allowing teachers to focus on teaching students the entire time.

Ms. Johansen celebrated the music department's success at state and recognized the talented students. Mr. Kidder also visited the middle school to conduct auditions for next

year's classes. Additionally, the middle school and high school will hold a combined band concert next week.

Business Administrator Willis shared that secondary schools have had to transition to new accounting software and gave a shoutout to the secretaries who are working hard learning the difficult new system and making it work.

Assistant Superintendent Orton recognized Sarah Mitchell who is retiring after more than 32 years of service, noting her valued partnership as an instructional coach and the opportunity to work alongside her in the classroom. She also expressed appreciation for Miss Melanie who will be leaving, thanking her for her contributions, sharing that she will be missed, and wishing her well in her next chapter. Additionally, she acknowledged Mr. Willis for the positive changes he has made so far and extended best wishes as he begins a new opportunity, noting that he, too, will be missed.

Superintendent Hansen marked the conclusion of end-of-year testing by thanking teachers for their hard work, commending their dedication, and emphasizing that regardless of the results, they are among the very best. He also recognized Melanie, noting her journey from the high school to the district office and her consistent commitment and strong work ethic. In addition, he highlighted the Mt. Pleasant Elementary Spelling Bee, where he and Assistant Superintendent Orton served as judges, describing it as a spirited and challenging competition in which students tackled both familiar and unfamiliar words. The winner was Sadie Sorensen, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

Mr. Brotherson highlighted the Sterling Scholar program, noting that the General Sterling Scholar winner is only the third recipient ever in that category. He also shared that this is his favorite meeting of the year and expressed appreciation for the district's teachers.

### **CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR**

Fairview Elementary - Fiona McVay  
Fountain Green Elementary - James Swapp  
Mt. Pleasant Elementary - Kaitlin Jenkins  
Moroni Elementary - Talia Casares  
Spring City Elementary - Lori Johansen  
North Sanpete Middle School - Wayne Nielson  
North Sanpete High School - Bill Pollock  
Pleasant Creek School - Clint Olmstead

District Teacher of the Year - Talia Casares

### **SCHOOL REPORT**

Principal Cox presented the school report for Fountain Green Elementary.

## We Are the Dragons and We ROAR!

- We are Respectful – On Task – Always Safe – and Responsible
  - 178 students in:
    - Two Preschool Sessions
    - One All-day Kindergarten Session
    - One 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sessions
    - Art, Music, STEM, and PE Specials

## Our Amazing Team

- All staff members (teachers and support staff) stayed the same this year
- (2) New Apprentices, who are incredible assets

## Current Goals

- Language Arts
  - During the 2025-2026 school year, 70% of students will read on grade level (blue, according to Acadience) by the end of the year.
- Math
  - During the 2025-2026 school year, Fountain Green Elementary will use the iReady math growth score to show that 70% of students will make typical or better growth before the end of the school year.

## Testing from 2024-2025

- RISE Language Arts – 58% which is 14% higher than the state average
- RISE Math – 54% which is 9% higher than the state average
- RISE Science – 57% which is 6” higher than the state average
  - Achievement was at a typical level, and growth was at the commendable level
  - 62% of our kiddos are making typical or better progress at reading on grade level

## What do our kiddos do with this data?

- Students use a data folder to track the goals they set at the beginning of the year (BOY) and reflect on their end-of-year (EOY) progress and growth.

## Completed Safety Grant Checklist

- Microphone system in all classrooms
- Emergency radios in all classrooms
- Medical supplies in all classrooms
- Keyless entry (I have a bid to add more)
- Front office remodel
- Protective glass

## Safety Grant Items Still Needed

- Additional Cameras

### Discussions / Issues Moving Forward

- Gearing up to hire a new secretary (shoutout to Jene and her 24 years spent at FGE)
- We are using every available space, NEED, NEED, NEED more space
- We need a fully functioning Special Education classroom
- Our building is aging
- New preschool and kindergarten playground

### Biggest class sizes?

- Kindergarten – 25 students
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 27 students
- Only allow 14 in preschool
  - cap in case students move in that are at-risk
    - classroom can't hold more than 16
  - always have a wait list for preschool
- No dedicated Special Ed classroom

### **PCBL 2025-2026**

Efforts related to the strategic plan, including the work taking place at each school, were discussed. This marks the fifth year of the PCBL grant. A date has been set—May 27—for Gregory Fern to visit the district and assist in developing a new strategic plan; board members are invited to attend.

This year's focus centered on engaging both parents and all teachers. Eight days of sessions were held across all school buildings, with topics tailored to meet the unique needs of each site—an approach developed by Assistant Superintendent and Instructional Coaches. The topics are available on the district website, and a total of 64 meetings were conducted with schools. Leadership development was aligned with PCBL training efforts.

Looking ahead, the district plans to prioritize reading, identified as the greatest area of need.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The minutes for the March 17 and April 7, 2026, board meetings were presented to the board for approval.

Business Administrator Willis presented:

1. Financial Reports
2. March invoices that have been paid
3. Charly's Angels Foundation donated \$3,572 to Moroni Elementary for various playground and classroom equipment and supplies
4. Accounting software change at middle school and high school is a work in progress

- a. better to go through the process now than at the beginning of the school year
- 5. Preparing for preliminary budget for next month and negotiations
  - a. Two budgets will be needed
- 6. Updated checklist for Truth in Taxation was discussed
  - a. Process will start May 1<sup>st</sup>

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mrs. Goble to approve the consent calendar. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

**RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS**

Letters of resignation from Audrae Edwards, Koby Willis and Melanie Lee and letters of retirement from Sarah Mitchell and Jene Omer were presented to the board for approval.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the letters of resignation for Audrae Edwards and Koby Willis and letters of retirement Sarah Mitchell and Jene Omer with requested benefits. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Employees Hired:

J. Anderson	Transportation	Sub Bus Driver
S. Shaffer	Transportation	Sub Bus Driver
A. Jensen	Transportation	Sub Bus Driver

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

- Auto Shop construction should be complete by the end of May
- High School Front Entry
  - There are issues with front the doors, only 1 door is currently operational
  - Occupancy requirements call for more than one functioning door
  - This summer, the railings will be removed to allow for the installation of ADA-compliant bump shields at the base
  - Concrete has been chipped and will be repaired and replaced
- Site Survey was awarded to Atlas Engineering

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The capital projects list for the 2026-2027 school year was discussed.

- The capital needs list continues to expand, with projected annual costs now closer to \$2 million rather than the \$1.5 million approved in previous years
- Asphalt projects should move forward provided oil prices remain reasonable
- A simple solution for the FVE preschool crossing is to install a crosswalk and have teachers assist with supervision

- Bus parking requires resurfacing, as the old tennis court concrete—only about three inches thick—is deteriorating under the weight of buses

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mr. Brotherson to approve up to the \$2.2M capital list for the 2026-2027 school year, looking closely at the Fairview Elementary asphalt project. Voting went as follows:

Mr. Madsen    aye                      Mr. Brotherson            aye

Mrs. Goble    aye                      Mr. Cook            nay

### **SCHOOL LAND TRUST 2026-2027**

School Land Trust Plans for the 2026-2027 school year were presented to the board for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the School Land Trust Plans for the 2026-2027 school year. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

### **TSSA PLANS 2026-2027**

TSSA Plans for the 2026-2027 school year were presented to the board for approval.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Madsen to approve the TSSA Plans for the 2026-2027 school year. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

### **SCHOOL CHOICE**

School choice requests for the 2026-2027 school year were presented to the board for approval. Principal Cox asked the board to wait until August to approve Fountain Green Elementary requests.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Madsen to approve the school choice requests above the green line. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

### **DUAL IMMERSION**

Dual Immersion requests were presented to the board for approval for the 2026-2027 school year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the Dual Immersion requests for the 2026-2027 school year. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PROGRAM**

Mr. Madsen presented a proposal outlining how the North Sanpete Student Board Member program could function, emphasizing the need to begin a competitive selection process as soon as possible. Student council members could participate on the selection committee, and two students would serve as non-voting members with a seat at the table.

Their responsibilities would include participating in discussions, offering input when appropriate, listening, and occasionally presenting items on the agenda. In accordance with Utah statute, they would not have voting rights or attend executive sessions. The proposal included forming a student advisory council that would meet monthly with the student board members to discuss topics to bring forward to regular board meetings. Additional ideas included integrating the program into a leadership class, encouraging student participation in community council meetings, and supporting involvement at events such as the USBE Conference.

It was noted that students often bring forward valuable ideas, and Principal Straatman is supportive of the initiative. Next steps include refining the program details, developing the selection process for the upcoming school year, and obtaining application materials from districts with similar programs.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mrs. Goble to approve the Student School Board Member Program beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

## **TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Drama requested overnight travel to attend the state competition April 16-18, 2026, in Cedar City, UT.

Baseball is requesting travel to attend state competition playoffs the week of May 11, 2026. This request may be overnight depending on what time and where they play.

## **POLICIES**

The D61 E04 Sexual Harassment Policy was presented to the board in second read.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the D61 E04 Sexual Harassment Policy in second read. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

The D-18 Physical Examination for Personnel Policy and D-40 Professional Growth Leave Policy were presented to the board in first read.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Madsen to approve the D-18 Physical Examination for Personnel Policy and the D-40 Professional Growth Leave Policy in first read. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

The Transgender Policy was discussed. Verify alignment with HB 257 due to recent legislative changes. Board members will review the parent recommendation and attorney feedback and bring the policy back for further discussion at next month's board meeting.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT CROSSING**

UDOT and Moroni City met to discuss a traffic study for the crossing entering Moroni from the south and east, including possible speed limit reductions. They are considering installing lighted warning signs near the gas station and the orthodontist office.

Although there is currently a sign for drivers coming from Chester, many vehicles accelerate quickly while rounding the corner and heading toward Chester. Officer Peterson has parked in the area several times to help slow traffic.

The goal is to have safety measures in place before school begins in August.

### **NSBA CONFERENCE**

Assistant Superintendent Orton shared information from a class she attended on resilience and referenced a quote from Shaun Buchanan: "Kids who are chronically absent come to school when they want to come to school." The discussion focused on the idea that chronic absenteeism is often connected to students not wanting to attend school.

Superintendent Hansen shared information from a Family and Community Engagement session, including ideas for hosting "Let's Talk" events where community members can meet with school board members, principals, or administrators to discuss concerns and provide feedback.

He also discussed a district model that encourages student involvement by having students create videos highlighting district goals, strategic plans, and the school or district motto to help increase student buy-in and engagement. These videos could be featured on school websites and displayed throughout schools.

Additional discussion focused on the importance of highlighting positive things happening within the district and sharing reasons families should choose to enroll their students in the public education system. Board meetings were identified as an opportunity to showcase these successes and strengthen community support.

Business Administrator Willis discussed a class focused on measuring student success after high school graduation. One district shared that, for the past 13–15 years, it has centered its definition of success around graduates and their post-secondary outcomes.

The discussion emphasized that, beyond earning a diploma, districts often lack meaningful measures to determine whether they have fully achieved their mission and vision for students. In one example shared, every senior reported having a plan for after high school.

Additional trainings focused on how schools connect students with post-secondary education opportunities, while noting there has been less emphasis on preparing students for direct entry into the workforce. One district addressed this by assigning a teacher to build partnerships with local employers and develop apprenticeships and employment opportunities for students immediately after graduation. Their goal was for every student to gain in-depth exposure to at least one profession.

The conversation also centered on how districts can better measure long-term success related to their mission and vision. One idea discussed was conducting informal follow-up surveys with graduates a year after graduation to ask how they are doing, what they are currently pursuing, and whether they are still following the plans they identified during high school. It was noted that districts currently have limited data and statistics regarding students who enter the private sector or workforce directly after graduation.

Mrs. Goble shared information from several classes she attended, including discussions about how school boards are increasingly competing for students and the importance of making districts more attractive to families and the community.

Several recommendations for school boards were discussed, including reading the district mission statement at the beginning of each board meeting and dividing responsibilities among board members so projects, events, and areas of investigation are shared more evenly and do not become overwhelming. The importance of clearly identifying district goals and ensuring board decisions align with and guide the district toward those goals was also emphasized.

The board member also shared highlights from CTE meetings, where discussions focused on high-demand industries and ways to better promote Career and Technical Education opportunities while still maintaining a balance for students who plan to attend universities.

Additional conversations centered on bond planning, including ideas for building momentum and preparing for a successful bond approval process when the district reaches that stage.

Mr. Cook toured a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) school, Mark Twain DLI, which is ranked #1 in the nation. The K–8 magnet school reported a 90% pass rate on AP exams.

He also spent time with the Superintendent and board members from Wasatch County, where all five elementary schools operate as DLI programs. A key takeaway was the “aha moment” that learning is not valuable unless it is applied, emphasizing the importance of implementation and continuous improvement. Mr. Cook noted that while our schools are doing well, there is always room to build on current success.

Mr. Cook described the conference as motivating, particularly due to the strong youth leadership presence. Students were encouraged and invited to attend board meetings to further engage in the work of the district.

Mr. Brotherson shared information from a class on bonds and noted several ideas that may be helpful for future planning. He also discussed an artificial intelligence class and its potential use for self-improvement and increasing efficiency in daily work.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Brotherson and seconded by Mrs. Goble to exit regular session and move into executive session to discuss the character or competency of an individual, negotiations and a pending legal matter. Voting went as follows:

Mr. Madsen aye                      Mr. Brotherson      aye

Mrs. Goble aye                      Mr. Cook      aye

The meeting moved into executive session at 9:18 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mr. Cook to exit executive session and return to regular session. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting moved back into regular session at 11:14 p.m.

### **LETTER OF RESIGNATION**

A motion was made by Mrs. Goble and seconded by Mr. Cook to approve Melanie Lee’s letter of resignation. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Mr. Madsen and seconded by Mrs. Goble to adjourn. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 p.m.

