

Garfield County School District Work
Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026 3:00 PM Mountain

Escalante High School
800 UT-12
Escalante, UT 84726

I. Work Meeting

I.A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM. All Board members were present including April Lefevre, Ralph Perkins, Myron Cottam, Jared Brems, and Curtis Barney. Superintendent John Dodds and Business Administrator Lane Mecham were also present.

I.A.1. DC Recommendation

Ryan Bytheway requested, on behalf of all the schools, that the DC trip be approved for the upcoming year.

II. Discussion Items

II.A. Promoting Garfield County and Garfield County School District

Superintendent Dodds discussed the drop in enrollment and the ongoing decline. He reported that the County Economic Development Director had reached out to ask the District to partner with them on marketing the school district and affordable housing. He asked the Board about the District reaching out to PR firms to research marketing potential.

II.B. Formal process for moving teachers from provisional to career.

The superintendent led a discussion about the process for moving a teacher from provisional to career status. Superintendent recommended changing the process from letting the status move automatically to the Board having to approve their status.

II.C. Staffing

III. Board Training

The Board took a second to discuss the Master Board Award program and progress. April volunteered to follow-up with USBA to see why it's not been working. The Board also had discussion about the topics covered during a rural schools conference. The Board discussed technology changes in law and looking ahead to policies that will need to be in place.

IV. Review Board Agenda

A motion was made to go into executive session for items 1, 4, and 5. This motion, made by Myron Cottam and seconded by Curtis Barney, Carried.

Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

V. Executive Session

1. Discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.
2. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems.
3. Strategy to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.

4. Strategy sessions to discuss collective bargaining.
5. Strategy to discuss the purchase, exchange or lease of real estate.
6. Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal conduct.

A motion was made to leave executive session. This motion, made by April LeFevre and seconded by Myron Cottam, Carried.

Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.

VII. How are we going to communicate changes to parents that we will have to make because of legislation?

VIII. Where are we with developing/updating our technology policy. This year bills passed more technology than any other year. Bell to Bell, Cell phone, etc.