Garfield County School District Board Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026 5:00 PM Mountain

Escalante High School
800 UT-12
Escalante, UT 84726

I. Regular Board Meeting

I.A. Welcome

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda with the correction being made to the namings on the positions. This motion, made by Myron Cottam and seconded by April LeFevre, Carried.
Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0
The meeting was called to order at 5:04 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.

II. Consent Agenda Items

II.A. Approve School Board Meeting Minutes

II.B. Approve Financial Reports

II.C. Approve Hiring Recommendations

II.D. Letters of Resignation

II.E. Enrollment Report

II.F. Home School Affidavits

II.G. Sports and Transportation Approvals

II.H. Other Travel Approval

II.I. Trust Lands/TSSA

III. Public Comment

http://www.online-stopwatch.com/

The Board cannot allow members of the public to talk about the deficiencies of others in a public meeting because the Board could be seen as facilitating the public in a slander setting. Remarks of this nature are inappropriate to bring up in the public comment and will not be allowed by the Board. If you have those concerns, you can address them up with the Superintendent.

IV. Reports

IV.A. School Board Report
The Board reported on their various Board activities since the prior meeting.

IV.B. Superintendent Report
Supeintendent reported on the upcoming meetings and other happenings across the district.

IV.C. Business Administrator Report
Lane updated the Board on construction and funding business..

V. Board Discussion

V.A. Review Exchange Student Policy
The board had discussion about exchange student policies and funding.

V.B. M&O Budget Recommendation
Lane reported that funding is currently projected to be down for the online school and only moderate increases in the brick and mortar schools. He reported that he was waiting for benefits final rates and funding final estimates before giving M&O recommendations.

V.C. CTE APEX Center
Lane provided a report on the Apex center and the process for applying for the grant.

VI. Board Business

VI.A. Future Board Items
The Board reviewed the upcoming agenda items.

VI.B. Set Upcoming Board Meetings
The Board set the meeting for May 28, 2026.

VII. Public Comment

Jenny Evans expressed concerns that the computer science program might be eliminated next year. She requested the Board consider ways to keep the computer science program active if the funding is eliminated.
Rowdy Miller requested the Board consider recognizing the Sterling Scholars through some level of compensation.

VIII. Board Action Items

VIII.A. Final Reading: Fee Schedule
April made a motion to approve the final reading of the fee schedule. This motion, made by April LeFevre and seconded by Ralph Perkins, Carried.
Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0
Lane reported there was only one change to football.

VIII.B. Superintendent Contract
A motion was made to move the item to the end of the meeting. 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
A motion was made to approve a 2.0% step increase, a 3.0% COLA, and a schedule that matches the teacher weekly schedule on a 2-year contract. This motion, made by Curtis Barney and seconded by April LeFevre, Carried.
Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0
Ralph reported that the Board was not ready to take action just yet. April suggested that the Board go into executive session and come back to finalize the negotiations.

VIII.C. Data Review for Instruction in Health
A motion was made to accept the data. 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

VIII.D. Washington DC Trip Approval
A motion was made to approve the schools to plan the DC trip contingent on them returning to the Board for final approval prior to leaving for the trip. This motion, made by Ralph Perkins and seconded by April LeFevre, Carried.
Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VIII.E. Bus Purchase
A motion was made to approve the purchase of the bus. This motion, made by Myron Cottam and seconded by April LeFevre, Carried.
Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0
A motion was made to approve the purchase of the bus. This motion, made by Myron Cottam and seconded by April LeFevre, Carried.
Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VIII.F. Fleet Purchases
Lane described the condition of the current fleet and the need to make some catch up purchases.

VIII.G. Approve Busses for Event
A motion was made to approve the use of a school bus. This motion, made by April LeFevre and seconded by Ralph Perkins, Carried.

Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VIII.H. Rental Fee Waiver
A motion was made to approve the waiver of the fees for the use of PHS and its track. This motion, made by April LeFevre and seconded by Ralph Perkins, Carried.
Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VIII.I. Year End Bonuses
A motion was made to approve the year end bonuses. This motion, made by Myron Cottam and seconded by Ralph Perkins, Carried.
Curtis Barney: Yea, Jared Brems: Yea, Myron Cottam: Yea, April LeFevre: Yea, Ralph Perkins: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0
Lane reported on the condition of the budget and reported that it was healthy and recommended approval of the bonus. He thanked the teachers for their flexibility in negotiating the bonus and that it's provided the district a lot of flexibility for the district.

IX. 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 go into executives session for item 4. This motion, made by April LeFevre 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
A motion was made to leave executive session. This motion, made by Ralph Perkins 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

X. Adjournment