

**Uintah School District
Board of Education
Uintah County, Utah**

Approved Business Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Uintah School District
826 South 1500 East, Naples, Utah

Board Members Present:

- Dave Chivers, President
- Tawnya McKee, Vice President
- Todd Massey
- Denise Maynard
- Robin McClellan
- Paisley Bell, Student Board
Member (Non-Voting Member)

Executive Staff Present:

- Dr. Rick Woodford, Superintendent
- Troy Timothy, Business Administrator
- Christy Nerdin, Director of Secondary Education
- Jayme Leyba, Director of Elementary Education
- Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Human Resources Director

Minutes recorded by Sarah Fluckiger, Business Administrator's Secretary.

1. Introduction

1.01 Welcome/Call to Order

Business Administrator Troy Timothy welcomed attendees and introduced the board. President Dave Chivers offered opening remarks and called the business meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.02 Reverence

The reverence was offered by Jill Timothy.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Josh Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 Student Board Member Report – Paisley Bell

Paisley Bell presented her final Student Board Member Report and introduced Sam Shiner as the incoming student board member. She reported on Uintah High School year-end activities and student accomplishments, including state and postseason participation in boys soccer, boys tennis, girls golf, baseball, softball, track and field, and girls lacrosse; recognition of student athletes receiving academic honors; and notable success in FFA, DECA, the art program, the musical *Six*, Special Olympics, and senior academic and athletic awards. She also highlighted upcoming events, including choir and band concerts, senior ball, and graduation, and concluded

by thanking the Board and district for the opportunities and support provided to students throughout the year.

1.05 Celebrations

A. UHS FCCLA Nationals Qualifiers

Heather Moulton, FCCLA advisor, recognized UHS FCCLA students for their success at the state competition and announced national qualifiers. Students recognized included Ruby Glazier, who placed second in Fashion Construction; Anna Buhler, who placed second in Event Management; Kaila Reynolds, who placed first in Sports Nutrition; the parliamentary procedure team of Sidney Anderson, Addie Foley, Spencer Foley, Taylee Wells, Bethany Neilson, and Rebecca Hermann, which placed third; and Ashley Caldwell, who placed first in Fashion Design. Moulton reported that Ashley Caldwell, Kaila Reynolds, Anna Buhler, and Ruby Glazier will represent Uintah High School at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., July 5–11.

B. UHS Student Council

Blaire Martindale, Student Council advisor, recognized the Uintah High School Student Council for earning the National Student Council of Excellence Gold Award for the third consecutive year and noted that Uintah High School is the only public school in Utah to receive that recognition. Martindale also recognized Evan Lewis and Paisley Bell for earning the Distinguished Leader Award at the national level and commended the student council members for their work assembling the portfolio, completing service projects, and representing the school well.

C. UHS FFA Nationals Qualifiers

Dave Wilson, FFA advisor, recognized Uintah High School FFA students for their success at the state level and for qualifying to compete at the national level. He highlighted multiple Career Development Event teams, including the soils team, which competed nationally at the Land, Soils, and Range Evaluation event. The Board commended the students and advisor for their leadership development, competitive achievements, and representation of Uintah High School through the FFA program.

D. UHS DECA Chapter of the Year/Nationals qualifiers

Kami Elison, DECA advisor, recognized Uintah High School DECA students for earning Chapter of the Year honors and for qualifying to compete at the national level. The Board commended the students and advisor for their professionalism, leadership development, and strong representation of Uintah High School through the DECA program.

E. Caleb Harrison, UHS Theatre Best Supporting Actor Award

Caleb Harrison was recognized for receiving the Best Supporting Actor award through the state high school theatre program for his role as Olaf in the musical *Frozen*. Theatre advisor Chris Piner commended Caleb for his performance and contributions to the Uintah High School theatre program. The Board congratulated Caleb on his achievement and recognized the continued success of the UHS theatre program.

F. Aubrey McCarrel, USEA ESP of the Year

Aubrey McCarrel was recognized by the Utah School Employees Association (USEA) as the Support Staff Professional of the Year. The award was presented by Karyn Harvey, who highlighted McCarrel's dedication, professionalism, leadership, and positive impact on students and staff. The Board congratulated McCarrel on this state-level honor and expressed appreciation for his continued service to Uintah School District.

G. Robin McClellan, USEA Honorary Award – Aubrey McCarrel

Robin McClellan was recognized by the Utah School Employees Association (USEA) with the 2026 Honorary Award. The award was presented by Aubrey McCarrel, who spoke to McClellan's longstanding respect for and dedication to education, her support of education support professionals, and her commitment to listening to, advocating for, and valuing district employees. The Board congratulated McClellan on this state-level recognition and expressed appreciation for her dedication and continued service to Uintah School District.

H. Dr. Laura Foley, Volunteer Brigade

Dr. Laura Foley was recognized for her leadership and long-standing service with the district's Volunteer Brigade. Foley, a former district employee, was acknowledged for her continued service following retirement and for leading the Volunteer Brigade for nine years. She was commended for organizing, promoting, recruiting, and training volunteers, as well as for collaborating with school administrators and principals to support students across the district. The Board expressed appreciation for Foley's dedication and for the positive impact the Volunteer Brigade has had on students and schools throughout Uintah School District.

I. Students of the Month

The following students were recognized as Students of the Month by their teachers and/or administrators:

- Kieran Richens – Central Cove Early Learning Center
- Ethan Arnold – Ashley Elementary
- Vanessa Aparicio Ocampo – Davis Elementary
- Nolan Papez – Discovery Elementary
- Kai Gingell – Lapoint Elementary
- Navy Smuin – Maeser Elementary
- Colton Horrocks – Naples Elementary
- Devri Morphy – Uintah Middle School

- Landon Hatch – Vernal Middle School
- Easton Durrant – Uintah High School
- Kyler Massey – AVEC / UON

1.06 School Reports

Presenter: Amanda Brown, UHS Principal

Amanda Brown, Principal of Uintah High School, presented the school report and shared updates on graduation, service learning, assessment data, and student supports. Ms. Brown reported that, as of the meeting date, 368 students were on track to graduate with credits earned through Uintah High School, and 503 students were included in the graduating group when students who had earned credits through Ashley Valley Education Center were also counted. She also noted that four juniors are graduating early this year.

Ms. Brown reported that all clubs and athletic programs were asked to complete at least one service project during the year, with many groups completing more than one. She highlighted projects including Trees for Charity, Check Your Change, youth camps led by athletic programs, drill team service at the dinosaur roundup and Special Olympics, food drives benefiting the community and the teen center, the foster care giving tree, and the Little Red Barn project connected to the Uintah County Fair.

Ms. Brown also reviewed spring assessment data and reported that Uintah High School students, particularly at the tenth-grade level, performed well in comparison to state averages, with tenth-grade students exceeding the state in math, reading, and science. She noted areas the school is continuing to strengthen, particularly among ninth-grade students. She added that the school is looking forward to transitioning to RISE testing for ninth and tenth grades, which will allow testing to occur closer to the end of instruction and in students' regular classroom settings.

Ms. Brown also gave an update on the teen center, which recently received the Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award in the government, education, and community leadership category. She explained that the center has become an important resource for students by providing food, snacks, hygiene products, and support during difficult circumstances. She noted that Vernal Middle School students had helped assemble food bags for students to take home and that the center also provided meaningful support to students during a period of significant grief at the high school, including a visit from Whitney Phillips of Ashley Valley Funeral Home and therapy dog Max.

Ms. Brown reported 1,615 teen center service interactions during first trimester, 2,223 during second trimester, and 3,368 interactions between March 3 and April 27 of third trimester. She said the center has also received strong community support through donations of food, supplies, and financial contributions. Board members thanked Ms. Brown for the report and expressed appreciation for the work being done to support students at Uintah High School.

1.07 Patron Input

No one signed in to address the Board in person. Four patron comments were received online, and Dr. Woodford provided them to board members by email.

Input given in accordance with Board Policy 002.0720.

2. Business/Action Items

2.01 Consent Calendar

A. Minutes

Motion: Member Denise Maynard moved to approve the consent calendar as presented, which includes the April work session and business meeting minutes, and the March and April financial updates. Member Robin McClellan seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.02 Policies for Approval on First Reading

A. 006.0700 Approval of Programs and Activities

B. 006.0430 Regular Student – Home or Hospital Services

C. 004.0200 Purchasing Policy

Motion: Vice President Tawnya McKee moved to approve all policies on first reading. Member Denise Maynard seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.03 Policies for Approval on Second Reading

A. 007.0505 School Fee Policy

Motion: Member Denise Maynard moved to approve the policy on second reading. Member Todd Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. 006.0420 Married/Pregnant Students

Motion: Member Robin McClellan moved to approve the policy on second reading. Member Todd Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. 003.0600 School Community Council

Motion: Vice President Tawnya McKee moved to approve the policy on second reading. Member Todd Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. 005.0500 Meet and Confer

Motion: Member Denise Maynard moved to approve the policy on second reading. Member Todd Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.04 Approval of Foreign Exchange Students

Motion: Member Robin McClellan moved to approve six 2026-2027 foreign exchange students.

Amendment: Member Robin McClellan amended her motion to increase the number of 2026-2027 foreign exchange students to eight.

Member Todd Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.05 Approval of 2026-2027 School Land Trust Plans

Motion: Member Robin McClellan moved to approve the 2026-2027 School Land Trust Plans. Member Denise Maynard seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.06 Approval of the Updated IPP

Motion: Member Denise Maynard moved to approve the updated IPP (Indian Policies and Procedures). Member Robin McClellan seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.07 Personnel Changes

Motion: Vice President Tawnya McKee moved to approve the recommended personnel changes.

Board Discussion:

Board members discussed the recommended personnel changes, including the number of new hires, reassignments, extracurricular coaching positions, and separations from employment. Dr. Leis reported that the district continues to see strong applicant pools, including several hires resulting directly from recent recruiting fairs, and noted that administrators are receiving highly qualified candidates for open positions. During discussion, Member McClellan expressed concern about the loss of elementary school social workers and stated that she did not agree with eliminating those positions because of the Board's prior commitment to student mental health, safety, and well-being supports in schools. She explained that she supported the personnel recommendation overall but wanted her concern regarding those specific positions noted in the public record. Dr. Woodford responded that the decision had not been made lightly and explained that the district had carefully reviewed data, staffing needs, and declining enrollment while working through difficult personnel decisions.

Member Todd Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Informational / Discussion Items

3.01 Purchases Over \$50,000

Mr. Timothy reviewed five purchases over \$50,000, including a food and supplies purchase through Basin Wholesale West; playground equipment for Ashley Elementary from Big T Recreation; new wrestling mats for Uintah High School from Resilite Sports Products; a replacement maintenance truck purchased through Ken Garff; and annual pavement

maintenance, seal, and striping work through Morgan Pavement Maintenance. Mr. Timothy noted that all purchases were included in the approved budget.

3.02 Statement on FY27 Tentative Budget

Mr. Timothy read the state's required statement regarding the FY27 tentative budget and the proposed judgment levy. He explained that the judgment levy process is required to recover approximately \$838,000 in local property tax revenue that would otherwise be lost because of a state-directed adjustment related to centrally assessed property valuations. Mr. Timothy stated that the public hearing on the proposed tax increase will be held on August 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the district office, with an option for virtual participation. He also emphasized that the district cannot allow nearly \$1 million in local revenue to be lost and that the judgment levy is necessary to recover those funds.

3.03 2025-2026 Proposed Amended Budget

Mr. Timothy presented the proposed amended budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 and explained that the district updates the original budget each year to reflect changing conditions, carryover funds, one-time federal and state revenues, and other necessary adjustments. He reported that budgeted revenues increased by \$2,041,911 and said the amendments allow the district to remain compliant with legal requirements while accurately reflecting the district's current financial position. Mr. Timothy reviewed the amended totals for the district's major funds and reported a total amended budget of \$103,027,323.

3.04 2026-2027 Tentative Budget

Mr. Timothy presented the tentative budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 and reviewed major assumptions and priorities, including enrollment trends, weighted pupil unit funding, employee compensation and benefit adjustments, and other budget planning factors. He reported that the budget includes a 3 percent cost-of-living increase for employees, funding for eligible step and lane advancements, and adjustments for increased benefit costs. He explained that the tentative budget does not include a permanent property tax increase beyond the certified rate, but it does include the one-year judgment levy adjustment. Mr. Timothy reported that the total tentative budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 is \$99,673,300.

3.05 Calendar Items

Dr. Woodford directed the Board to the Diligent calendar for upcoming events.

Board discussion:

Board members reviewed upcoming events listed in Diligent Community, including end-of-year school programs, community council meetings, and graduation activities. Dr. Woodford highlighted several upcoming events, including Uintah High School senior ball, elementary school programs, Ashley Valley Education Center graduation, and Uintah High School

graduation. Board members acknowledged the busy end-of-year schedule and the many activities taking place across the district.

3.06 Superintendent and/or board president follow up or clarification on items discussed during the meeting.

Board member comments:

Member McClellan noted that Teacher Appreciation Week was an important reminder of how much teachers and support staff do for students and schools each day. She also said Aubrey McCarrel's recognition was well deserved and expressed appreciation for the many employees throughout the district who work hard, often behind the scenes, to support students, families, and schools.

Member Massey reflected on attending the recent awards assembly and said it was a privilege to see the strength of the district's students and the quality of their accomplishments. He expressed appreciation for the work teachers and staff are doing to prepare students and said he continues to be impressed by the knowledge, skills, and growth students demonstrate. He also thanked district leadership for their continued work and support.

Member Maynard reflected on the evening's celebrations and said it was humbling to be surrounded by so much greatness across the district. She expressed appreciation for the many employees, families, and community members who contribute to student success and noted the significance of closing out the school year with graduation and the many end-of-year activities.

Vice President McKee expressed appreciation for the employee appreciation banquet and for the teachers and administrators who invest significant time and care in supporting students. She said she was grateful for the many ways district employees influence students' lives and for the commitment they show in helping students succeed.

Mr. Timothy reiterated his appreciation for the support provided throughout the district and said it is rewarding to see improvement and progress across schools and programs. He noted that board meetings provide a meaningful opportunity to recognize student growth and success and expressed gratitude for the many employees and community members whose efforts continue to make a difference for students.

Dr. Woodford said he appreciated the many celebrations during the meeting and the opportunity to recognize successful students across the district. He expressed appreciation for the work being done in schools and said he is encouraged by the academic growth taking place, including gains in assessment data. He noted that the district continues to make progress because of the collective efforts of employees throughout the system.

President Chivers expressed appreciation for the progress being made across the district and said he is pleased with the direction of the schools and the continued effort to improve. He also congratulated Member McClellan on her recognition, thanked her for the perspective she brings

to board discussions, and expressed appreciation for Shawwna Muhme and the many ways she supports the Board and district operations.

4. Closed Session

President Chivers stated the need to enter closed session.

Motion: Vice President McKee moved to enter closed session for the following purposes:

- Discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical/mental health of an individual.

Member Denise Maynard seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

McClellan – Aye
Massey – Aye
Maynard – Aye
McKee - Aye
Chivers – Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Member Todd Massey moved to return to open session. Member Denise Maynard seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

The board returned to open session at 10:01 p.m. and resumed the business meeting.

5. Approval of Superintendents' and Business Administrators' Contracts

Motion: Vice President Tawnya McKee moved to approve both contracts. Member Todd Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Adjournment

6.01 Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Member Todd Massey moved to adjourn the meeting, and Member Robin McClellan seconded.

Vote: Five in Favor: Members Chivers, McKee, Massey, McClellan, and Maynard.

The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

DATE: May 13, 2026

TO: UINTAH BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Director of Human Resources

RE: Board Approval Request for **May 13, 2026:** Board Approval of New Hires, Newly Assigned Employees; Notification of Separations of Employment

Superintendent Woodford requests Board approval of the following individuals for hire/assignment to new positions:

NEW HIRES – BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED:

Name	Position	Assignment	FTE	Education/ Training	Source of Funding
Robyn Specht	SpEd Preschool Aide	CEC	0.4875	All Required	Program 1215 SpEd Preschool
Mary Neilson	SpEd Preschool Aide	CEC	0.4875	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Mariah Woodford (2026-2027 school year)	Library/Media Specialist	Ashley	1.0	Bachelor of Arts Major: Elementary Education	Program 0580 Instructional Media Centers
McKala Serrano (2026-2027 school year)	Kindergarten Teacher	Discovery	1.0	Bachelor of Science Major: Elementary Education	Program 5201 Class Size Reduction K-8
Brooklyn Burr (2026-2027 school year)	Kindergarten Teacher	Maeser	1.0	Bachelor of Science Major: Elementary Education	Program 0050 Regular Education
Nancy Araujo Ochoa	Food Service Worker	Maeser	0.4875	All Required	Program 8000 School Foods Program
Ashton Wachter	SpEd Aide	Maeser	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Gretel Fillerup	SpEd Aide	Maeser	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Mikayla Filfred (2026-2027 school year)	Grade 6 ELA Teacher	UMS	1.0	Bachelor of Arts Major: English Teaching Minor: American Indian Studies	Program 0050 Regular Education

Kalli Calder (2026-2027 school year)	SpEd Teacher	UMS	1.0	Bachelor of Science Major: Special Education	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Andrew Bolton	Sweeper	UMS	0.4875	All Required	Program 0285 Maintenance Operations
Robert Goble	Sweeper	VMS	0.4875	All Required	Program 0285 Maintenance Operations
Gregorio Gonzalez Perez (2026-2027 school year)	DLI Spanish Teacher	VMS	1.0	Master's Degree in Education	Program 0050 Regular Education
Arlene Southam (2026-2027 school year)	Grade 6 Math Teacher	VMS	1.0	Master of Science Major: Curriculum & Instruction	Program 0050 Regular Education
Gloria Antillon	Food Service Worker	UHS	0.40	All Required	Program 8000 School Foods Program
Brennan Moon	Geography Teacher	UHS	1.0	Bachelor of Science Major: Social Studies Composite Teaching	Program 0050 Classroom Teacher Salaries
Anna Weston	ELA Aide	UHS	0.7375	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands
Jose Hernandez	Seasonal Landscape Maintenance Worker	Mainten ance	1.0	All Required	Program 0285 Maintenance Operations
Mitch Richardson	Seasonal Landscape Maintenance Worker	Mainten ance	1.0	All Required	Program 0285 Maintenance Operations
Landen Winn (2026-2027 school year)	Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)	USD	1.0	Master of Arts Major: Applied Behavior Analysis	Program 0308 Special Services Director

NEWLY ASSIGNED EMPLOYEES – BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED:

Name	Former (Current) Assignment	New Assignment	Effective Date
Jeremy Catron	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach (0.30 FTE) @ VMS	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach (0.30 FTE) @ UHS	4/2/2026
Evelyn Grammer	Intervention Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Naples	SpEd Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Ashley	4/13/2026
Merisa Beasley	SpEd Aide	Intervention Aide	4/27/2026

	(0.7375 FTE) @ Naples	(0.7375 FTE) @ UMS	
Jordan Robbins	Bus Driver (0.75 FTE) @ Transportation	Bus Driver (0.875 FTE) @ Transportation	5/4/2026
Crystelle Bitton	SpEd Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ Discovery	Grade 1 Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ Discovery	8/17/2026
Karli Brown	Half-Time Grade 2 Teacher (0.50 FTE) @ Ashley	Grade 2 Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ Discovery	8/17/2026
Rebekah Essington	Kindergarten Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Discovery	Grade 1 Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ Discovery	8/17/2026
Alisa Cook	BTS Dance Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ Ashley/Davis	Grade 8 Language Arts Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ UMS	8/17/2026
Lisa Middleton	Grade 1 Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ Davis	Earth Science Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ UHS	8/17/2026

NEWLY HIRED EXTRACURRICULAR COACHES:

Name	Program	School	Years of Service
Adam Madsen	Assistant Football Coach	UHS	1
Clint Sampson	Assistant Football Coach	UHS	10
Jayden Taylor	Assistant Football Coach	UHS	1
Curt Hoffart	Game Day Coordinator	UHS	Stipend: four payments of \$3,000 each