June 16, 2026 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Public Budget Hearing and Regularly Scheduled Meetings (Tuesday, June 16, 2026)

Members present
Board President, Kim Dickerson
Board Vice President, Cory Holmes
Board Member, Jake Collett
Board Member, Breanne Dedrickson
Board Member, Brad Ehlert

Superintendent, Dr. Garrick Peterson
Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

A. Study Session - 5:00 p.m.

Discussion, Information: 1. Budget Amendment Discussion for FY2025-2026 and Budget Adoption Discussion for FY2026-2027: Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator
The Board of Education held a study session focused on the proposed FY2027 budget and FY2026 budget amendment. Board President Kim Dickerson opened the meeting by highlighting the extensive budget review process conducted throughout the year and the Board's commitment to transparency and careful fiscal oversight.

Budget Hearing Notice and Timeline
Business Administrator Dr. Jason Watt reviewed the statutory requirements for noticing a budget hearing, explaining that the required public notice was posted on June 4, 2026, in accordance with state law. He clarified that confusion regarding the posting date resulted from subsequent updates to the regular board meeting agenda, which changed the displayed modification date on the Utah Public Notice Website. Board members expressed appreciation for community members who asked questions and reaffirmed the district's commitment to transparency. President Dickerson recommended postponing action on the FY2026 budget amendment and FY2027 budget adoption until after the public hearing to allow additional time for community feedback. Board members reached consensus to hold a special meeting on June 29, 2026, to consider both budget action items.

FY2027 Budget Overview
Dr. Watt presented an overview of the proposed FY2027 budget, noting that the district is prepared to open Deer Creek High School while maintaining two comprehensive high schools without pursuing a Truth-in-Taxation increase. He reviewed the proposed $11 million increase in General Fund expenditures, driven primarily by employee compensation, staffing for the second high school, transportation, utilities, custodial services, and other operational costs. He also noted that approximately 90 percent of General Fund expenditures support salaries and benefits.

Community Priorities, Enrollment, and Staffing
Board Member Breanne Dedrickson emphasized that budget decisions reflect community priorities by supporting educator compensation, student opportunities, and two comprehensive high schools. Board members also discussed declining elementary enrollment and responsible staffing adjustments through attrition. Dr. Watt reviewed staffing plans for Deer Creek High School, including approximately eight additional teaching positions and essential support staff, while Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson discussed balancing fiscal responsibility with maintaining strong academic programs and student services. District leaders also reviewed plans for limited teacher and student travel between campuses in specialized programs to preserve equitable access while maximizing efficiency. The Board reaffirmed that increased student connection, expanded opportunities, and equitable programming remain primary goals of the two-high-school model.

Construction, Capital Planning, and Operational Updates
Dr. Watt reported that Deer Creek High School remains on track to finish below the guaranteed maximum construction price and reviewed project funding sources. Board Member Dedrickson requested future discussions regarding long-range capital planning, and Superintendent Peterson supported additional strategic planning before the start of the school year. The Board also discussed Food Service operations, special education funding, and employee health insurance costs. Dr. Watt reviewed efforts to improve Food Service sustainability through operational efficiencies, discussed ongoing challenges associated with special education funding, and reported an approximate 8 percent increase in health insurance costs while explaining the value of the district's rural insurance consortium.

B. Public Budget Hearing - 6:30 p.m.

Procedural: 1. Call to Order
Board President Dickerson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Procedural: 2. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Board President Kim Dickerson

Procedural: 3. Board Member Roll Call
Members present
Board President, Kim Dickerson
Board Vice President, Cory Holmes
Board Member, Jake Collett
Board Member, Breanne Dedrickson
Board Member, Brad Ehlert

Superintendent, Dr. Garrick Peterson
Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

Discussion, Information: 4. Budget Presentation - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator
The Board conducted the required public hearing on the proposed FY2027 budget and FY2026 budget amendment. Board President Kim Dickerson opened the hearing by emphasizing the extensive review process undertaken by the Board and administration, including months of budget discussions, individual meetings, public outreach, and ongoing communication with community members. She encouraged continued public engagement and noted the district's commitment to transparency throughout the budget process.

Business Administrator Dr. Jason Watt presented an overview of the proposed FY2027 budget, including district revenues, expenditures, fund balances, enrollment trends, staffing plans, and financial preparations associated with the opening of Deer Creek High School. Dr. Watt reported that the district is able to fund the opening of the second comprehensive high school using existing revenues and prior financial planning without pursuing a Truth-in-Taxation increase. He also reviewed projected increases related to employee compensation, benefits, transportation, utilities, custodial services, and instructional staffing.
Board members discussed enrollment trends, staffing adjustments, educator recruitment and retention, food service operations, special education funding, and district efforts to maintain two comprehensive high schools while remaining fiscally responsible. Board members highlighted the connection between budget decisions, student achievement, educator quality, and community priorities.

Dr. Watt also clarified questions regarding public notice requirements, confirming that the budget hearing was properly noticed on June 4, 2026, in compliance with state law and published through all required channels. He explained that confusion regarding posting dates resulted from later updates to the regular board meeting agenda, which altered the displayed modification date on the Utah Public Notice Website.

Discussion, Information: 5. Community Comments on Budget
Two individuals addressed the Board during the public hearing. Wasatch High School teacher Kody Clyde expressed appreciation for the Board's continued investment in educators and pledged teachers' continued commitment to student achievement. Deer Creek High School Assistant Principal Drew Camps Swafford thanked the Board for prioritizing students, educators, and opportunities associated with the opening of Deer Creek High School, noting the positive impact on both students and staff.

Following public comment, the Board discussed providing additional time for public review and consideration of community feedback. The Board voted to table consideration of both the FY2026 amended budget and the FY2027 proposed budget until June 29, 2026, when the Board will reconvene to consider final adoption.

Action, Procedural: 6. Adjourn Budget Hearing
Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

C. Board of Education Meeting

Action: 1. Call to Order
Board President Dickerson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Procedural: 2. Board Member Roll Call
Members present
Board President, Kim Dickerson
Board Vice President, Cory Holmes
Board Member, Jake Collett
Board Member, Breanne Dedrickson
Board Member, Brad Ehlert

Superintendent, Dr. Garrick Peterson
Business Administrator, Dr. Jason Watt

D. Community Comment
Discussion, Information: 1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.
There were no community comments.

E. Consent Items

Action (Consent): 1. Consideration of Consent Items
Consideration and Approval of Consent Items E2. - E9.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett
Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. School Board Meeting Minutes - May 26, 2026
Consideration and Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes - May 26, 2026.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett
Action (Consent): 3. Deer Creek High School Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment
Consideration and Approval of Deer Creek High School Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett
Action (Consent): 4. School Choice Applications
Consideration and Approval of School Choice Applications.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett
Action (Consent): 5. Homeschool Affidavits
Consideration and Approval of Homeschool affidavits.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett
Action (Consent): 6. District Travel
Consideration and Approval of District Travel.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett
Action (Consent): 7. Financials
Consideration and Approval of May Financials.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett
Action (Consent): 8. Employee New Hires
Consideration and Approval of Employee New Hires.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett
Action (Consent): 9. Employee Separations
Consideration and Approval of Employee Separations.
Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

F. Action Items

Action: 1. Consideration to Approve the Amended Budget for FY2025-2026 - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator
Board President Kim Dickerson presented a recommendation to postpone action on the FY2026 budget amendment until the June 29, 2026, Board meeting to allow additional time for community review and feedback following questions regarding the budget hearing notice. Board members discussed the importance of transparency and providing additional opportunities for public input before taking final action. The Board unanimously approved tabling consideration of the FY2026 budget amendment until June 29, 2026.
Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *President Dickerson explained that postponing action would provide additional time for community members to review the budget and offer public comment.*

- *Dr. Jason Watt clarified that the June 29 meeting would include consideration of the budget amendment and budget adoption.*
- *Board members agreed that allowing additional public review supported the district's commitment to transparency.*

Motion to table by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 2. Consideration to Approve the Proposed Budget for FY 2026-2027 - Dr. Jason Watt, Business Administrator
The Board considered postponing adoption of the proposed FY2027 budget until June 29, 2026. Board members discussed the district's efforts to maintain transparency throughout both the boundary and budget processes and expressed appreciation for the community members who had shared questions and feedback. The Board unanimously approved tabling adoption of the proposed FY2027 budget until June 29, 2026.
Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- Board Member Breanne Dedrickson highlighted the Board's commitment to transparency, noting the efforts made to answer questions, meet with community members, and ensure constituents felt heard throughout the budget process.
- Board Member Brad Ehlert noted that other public meetings occurring the same evening may have prevented some community members from attending and supported providing additional opportunities for public comment.

Motion to table by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 3. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of a Plasma Table for Deer Creek High School - Weston Broadbent, CTE Director
*CTE & CAPS Director Weston Broadbent presented a proposal to purchase an Arc Light Dynamics plasma table for Deer Creek High School using Catalyst Grant funding. Mr. Broadbent explained that the selected equipment is considered the industry standard, offers greater ease of use, utilizes readily available third-party components, and provides lower long-term maintenance costs. The Board approved the purchase for **$56,172**.*
Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *Board Member Breanne Dedrickson asked why staff recommended the higher bid, and Mr. Broadbent explained the long-term value and industry preference.*
- *Board Member Brad Ehlert commented on the popularity and value of the program for students.*

Motion by Jake Collett, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 4. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of Sewing Machines for Deer Creek High School - Weston Broadbent, CTE Director
*CTE & CAPS Director Weston Broadbent recommended purchasing 26 Bernina sewing machines from Dave's Bernina to support the Clothing, Textiles, and Design program at Deer Creek High School. Although not the lowest bid, the recommendation reflected the vendor's educator training, service support, and long-standing partnership with the district. The Board approved the purchase for **$20,774**.*
Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *Board Member Cory Holmes asked about pricing differences between vendors, and Dr. Jason Watt explained the educational discount and ongoing service provided by Dave's Bernina.*
- *Board Members Breanne Dedrickson and Kim Dickerson discussed the curriculum and growing student interest in industrial design pathways, including connections to Utah State University's design programs.*
- *Board Member Brad Ehlert confirmed the machines would match those currently used at Wasatch High School.*

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Breanne Dedrickson.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 5. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of Apple iMacs for School Computer Labs – Dustin Miller, Director of Technology
*Technology Director Dustin Miller presented a proposal to purchase Apple iMac computers to replace aging broadcasting lab computers at Wasatch High School and equip new broadcasting labs at Deer Creek High School. The Board approved the purchase for **$209,800**.*
Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *President Dickerson confirmed the computers would support district broadcasting programs.*
- *Board Member Brad Ehlert asked whether the computers were being purchased outright rather than through the district's lease program.*

Motion by Brad Ehlert, second by Breanne Dedrickson.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 6. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of Computer Lab Equipment for Deer Creek High School – Dustin Miller, Director of Technology

*Technology Director Dustin Miller presented a proposal to purchase desktop computers for engineering, architecture, and computer programming labs at Deer Creek High School. He explained that the high-performance computers support specialized software used in Career and Technical Education programs. The Board approved the purchase for **$129,528**.*

Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *Board Member Breanne Dedrickson asked how the computers would be used in engineering and programming courses.*
- *Board Member Brad Ehlert discussed the importance of providing students with industry-standard Windows-based systems for computer-aided design and engineering coursework.*

Motion by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 7. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of Projectors for Daniels Canyon and Old Mill Elementary - Dustin Miller, Director of Technology

*Technology Director Dustin Miller presented a proposal to replace aging classroom projectors at Daniels Canyon Elementary and Old Mill Elementary. He explained that the new laser projectors offer improved brightness, longer life, and compatibility with existing mounting systems, reducing installation costs. The Board approved the purchase for **$124,893.44**.*

Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *Board Member Brad Ehlert discussed pricing, installation, and the advantages of retaining projectors rather than interactive flat panels in elementary classrooms.*
- *Board Member Cory Holmes asked about future projector replacement needs at other schools.*
- *Mr. Miller explained that principals selected projectors based on instructional preferences and classroom needs.*

Motion by Breanne Dedrickson, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 8. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of an Acoustical Wall Panel - Zach Bredsguard, Maintenance Supervisor

*Maintenance Supervisor Zach Bredsguard presented a proposal to install acoustical wall panels in the West Campus gymnasium to improve sound quality following removal of damaged ceiling materials. The Board approved the purchase for **$18,300**.*

Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *Board Member Breanne Dedrickson discussed the difficulty hearing during previous events held in the gym.*
- *Board Member Brad Ehlert asked about future uses of West Campus. Shawn Kelly and Dr. Jason Watt explained that the facility will continue serving JROTC, Wasatch Alternative High School, district technology services, transition programs, online learning staff, and other district operations.*

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Jake Collett.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 9. Consideration to Approve the Playground Equipment for Deer Creek High School Child Care Center - Stephanie Discher, Director of Elementary Edu.

*Elementary Director Stephanie Discher presented a proposal to purchase playground equipment for the new Deer Creek High School Child Care Center. Mrs. Discher explained that the selected equipment meets Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) standards, supports active learning, and provides developmentally appropriate opportunities for children ages two through five. The Board approved the purchase for **$55,840**.*

Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *Board Member Breanne Dedrickson asked whether the playground would provide sufficient opportunities for preschool-aged children. Mrs. Discher explained that the surrounding open play space is intentionally designed for outdoor learning and exploration.*
- *Board Member Jake Collett asked about the playground surfacing, and staff confirmed the project includes poured-in-place rubber surfacing.*

Motion by Jake Collett, second by Cory Holmes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

Action: 10. Consideration to Approve the Purchase of Real Property Identified as Parcel #00-0007-6427, Located Adjacent to State Road 113 - Shawn Kelly, Director of Operations

The Board considered a proposal to purchase property adjacent to State Road 113. Dr. Jason Watt explained that additional work remained to finalize the agreement, and President Kim Dickerson recommended postponing action until negotiations were complete. The Board unanimously approved tabling the item until a future meeting.

Board Member Discussion & Questions:

- *Dr. Watt explained that delays were related to parties involved in finalizing the agreement.*
- *Board Member Brad Ehlert asked whether postponing action would impact the project schedule, and staff indicated there would be no anticipated delays.*

Motion to table by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Breanne Dedrickson.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

<u>G. Board Report</u>

Information: 1. Updates/Information

Board members shared updates on recent district activities and future priorities. Board Member Breanne Dedrickson reported that the Policy Committee is exploring opportunities to accelerate policy review work over the summer and discussed plans to address several time-sensitive policies before the start of the school year. She also shared positive feedback received regarding graduation ceremonies and noted that concerns related to sound quality are being addressed.

- *Board Member Brad Ehlert highlighted the expanding opportunities available through MTECH, including programs that align with district Career and Technical Education pathways and industry certifications. He also emphasized the value of community feedback and encouraged continued efforts to identify ways the district can improve processes and communication.*
- *Board Member Jake Collett expressed appreciation for the Wasatch Education Foundation, recognizing the significant contributions of volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community members who support students through foundation programs and events.*

<u>H. Superintendent Report</u>

Information: 1. Updates/Information

Superintendent Dr. Garrick Peterson thanked students, staff, families, and community members for a successful school year and reflected on recent graduation ceremonies and year-end celebrations. He also reported that preparations for the opening of Deer Creek High School continue to progress positively, commending administrators, counselors, teachers, and staff for their collaborative efforts to split one high school into two while maintaining strong academic programs, student opportunities, and districtwide collaboration. Dr. Peterson noted that educators are actively engaged in curriculum planning, course alignment, professional collaboration, and preparation for the upcoming school year. He further provided an update on recent district leadership meetings focused on student achievement, school improvement planning, and the district's strategic goals. He highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen student connection and belonging, increase participation in extracurricular activities, and maintain Wasatch's strong academic performance. Dr. Peterson concluded by expressing appreciation for the dedication of district employees and their commitment to making the upcoming school year the district's strongest yet.

<u>I. Adjournment</u>

Action, Procedural: 1. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Cory Holmes, second by Brad Ehlert.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Cory Holmes, Kimberly Dickerson, Brad Ehlert, Breanne Dedrickson, Jake Collett

<u>J. Executive Session</u>

Action: 1. Section 52-4-5 of the Open Meetings Act identifies the topics that may be discussed in a closed meeting. Discussion to purchase, exchange or lease of real property; character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; and or collective bargaining.