DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

June 3, 2026

District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah

OFFICERS: President Brandon Bench presided with Board Members Emilee Wells, Mark Thacker, Tony Smith, and Don Busenbark present, as well as Superintendent Jason Young and Business Administrator Dee E. Miles.

VISITORS:

Heather Cook	Kendra Embleton	Bobby Drake	Julie Seeley
Phillip Bertoch	Nichole Aldridge	Bruce Guymon	Sharon Smith
Mike Ross	Piper Riddle	Jim Freston	David Law
Jenn Tuckett	Lisa Drake	Samantha Suter	Jim Marshall

WORK SESSION: The Board discussed the new State citizenship program and school performance.

REGULAR SESSION: President Bench called the regular session to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Wells offered prayer. Mr. Thacker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

MINUTES: Mr. Busenbark moved and Ms. Wells seconded to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held May 7, 2026; voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Audio recording is available at: https://www.utah.gov/pmn.

RECOGNITION: The community partner award was presented to Utah State University Uintah Basin, and the Extra Degree Award to Lisa Drake as Teacher of the Year for their exceptional contributions to student success. Piper Riddle announced Lisa is also NUES region teacher of the year.

OPEN TIME: At 7:16 p.m. President Bench opened the meeting for those who signed up for public comment. Julie Seeley commented on the policy passed last month coordinating school bus routes and expressed four-day week concerns. Sharon Smith expressed concern for an A/B schedule combined with the four-day week. President Bench closed open time at 7:21 p.m.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

1. Budget Hearing – Mr. Miles reviewed the proposed budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year, and the final budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The WPU value increased 4%, but enrollment declined 2% with that trend expected to continue due to lower birth rates. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve the budgets and noted the District had not raised taxes in over a decade. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
2. Travel Requests – Superintendent Young reviewed overnight and out-of-state requests. Mr. Smith moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
3. Buildings/Construction – Superintendent Young reported much of the paving was completed and the buildings are looking great. Work continues to finish the inside. The High School gymnasium should be usable by August. The Tabiona Track bid opening is scheduled for June 16th.
4. Personnel – Mr. Busenbark moved to approve the new teachers for hire. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
5. Policy 2nd Reading: 6.0100.01 Presentation and Hearing Procedure – Superintendent Young noted updates on how to handle complaints. Mr. Thacker moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
6. Assessment and Accountability Report 2025-26 (Preliminary Data) – Kendra Embleton reported on student proficiency from benchmark testing and celebrated gains with many above average. Some of the testing is changing which included new standards with new rigor.

7. DCSD Goals for 2025-26 and 2026-27 – Superintendent Young reported the goals have been Reading and Engagement. The scoreboard showed great results. Areas to improve were also identified including graduation rates. New goals for next year were reviewed and adjusted by the Board.
8. Strategic Plan/ABCs Update – Superintendent Young reported on the strategies to reach the goals. Citizenship is now called accountability with increased reporting and clarifications on student report cards. The focus is to Be Present, Be Engaged, Behave. After several years of preparation, credit will now not be granted with unsatisfactory accountability. The grade/attendance matrix is driven by PowerSchool data. The four square compact gives students specific measures to improve conduct. The Vital Competencies drive extensive interventions before a student is held back. The eighth grade will now present evidence of learning. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded, and noted it was fantastic; passed unanimously.
9. Policy 2nd Reading: 4.0520 Accountability Graduation Requirements – Mr. Thacker moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Policy 1st Reading: 5.0620 Student Memorials – Superintendent Young noted the long-standing guideline would now become policy. These situations are highly emotional and need a balance of sensitivity for the grieving process of all involved.
2. Policy 1st Reading: 4.0540 Online Courses – Superintendent Young noted the requirement for a policy. Bruce Guymon noted that Districts are now held to higher standards than other online providers. Proctoring tests is required.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel and property at 8:55 p.m,; aye votes: Mr. Bench, Mr. Busenbark, Ms. Wells, Mr. Smith, Mr. Thacker. Nay votes: none. Motion passed. Ms. Wells moved and Mr. Busenbark seconded that the Board go out of executive session at 9:40 p.m.; passed unanimously. Mr. Busenbark moved to adjourn, Mr. Thacker seconded, passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT / FUTURE PLANNING: The meeting stood adjourned. The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, July 30, 2026, at the District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah.