

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
August 5, 2026

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Study Session in the Board Room at 5320 Adams Avenue, Ogden, Utah. The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Paul Widdison	Board President
Doug Hurst	Board Vice President
Janis Christensen	Board Member
Bruce Jardine	Board Member
Kelly Larson	Board Member
Wyle Williams	Board Member
Gina Butters	Superintendent
Dave Hales	Assistant Superintendent
Brock Mitchell	Business Administrator

President Widdison welcomed everyone to the meeting and excused Board Member Jan Burrell. It was noted there will be a Special Board Study Session on Friday, August 28th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The agenda will be available soon.

Superintendent Butters shared with the Board the 2026-2027 WSD Organizational Chart, administrator assignments and calendar. It was noted there has been a restructure for the superintendency due to the retirement of Assistant Superintendent Clyde Moore.

All of the upcoming school year kick off events are included on the agenda.

Senate Bill 241 *Early Literacy* funding and staffing was explained and noted that a letter will be sent out to employees and parents regarding this bill. We have received a \$1.3 million allocation to be used only for hiring paraprofessional literacy professionals and two to three literacy certified coaches to support our efforts. Individuals will be interviewed by the Curriculum & Instruction team and principals. Also, a postcard has been sent out to parents promoting reading this year.

Communications & Community Engagement Administrator Ryan James shared with the Board a communications update. Last year, the main goal was to establish a social media foundation (Instagram, Facebook etc.), both have received more viewers. This year, we wanted a campaign so the community would know all the advantages Weber School District has and what we bring to the community. “*WSD Advantage*” will highlight all of these great things throughout the year. A video example was shared with the Board. It was noted every post will include some form of “Remind and Invite”. It will also feature Board members throughout the year. Our websites will have more of a marketing edge to them to help invite people back to our district.

Superintendent Butters shared she was recently notified of some exciting news on the raw graduation data and how Weber School District went from 88.57% to 91.04%, per Assessment and School Improvement Director Dr. Bryan Becherini.

Student Services Director Jennifer Warren updated the Board on the new graduation credit requirements. Currently our graduation requires 27 credits. Back in December 2024, it was proposed to move to a block schedule for junior highs and also suggested to increase the required credits from 27 to 28 beginning with students entering 9th grade during the 2025-2026 school year. USBE decided to move from U.S. Government and Citizenship to American Constitutional Government & Citizenship for 1.0 credit. It is proposed 9th & 10th graders this year will be required to have 28 credits to graduate.

Technical Services Director Dr. Jennifer Boyer-Thurgood updated the Board on Weber Online and how its purpose is to provide flexibility and high-quality learning opportunities for students that are demanding and also be competitive. Weber Online does not impact students' home school finances, but does pay for students to take courses through other State programs. Eight teachers have been hired full time to teach online, and 23 teachers paid a stipend teaching from other buildings. Paired with magnet courses at Weber Innovation and those in person are true Innovation High students. Updates for this year include content improvements, structural continuity, renewed focus on academic proficiency in core classes, training, work sessions, and support. We have Weber Online 7-12 and in addition we have Innovation Online (SOEP Program), Weber Online Elementary is housed in the Innovation Center. There are currently three teachers for grades K-6 grades.

PCBL Director Nicki Slauch and CTE Director Rod Belnap shared updates on the catalyst center and noted "Your Future Flies Here" is the moto. The team of eight was introduced for each of the academies. Phase 1 progress included hiring teachers, pathway completor magnet classes selected, construction & architect meetings, academy advisory teams created, 3 full days professional learning, teachers meet with advisory teams, marketing for new magnet courses offered for all WSD students, junior and high school counselor training, one on one meeting with teacher and principal reviewing proficiency scales, and enrollment has increased from last year. It was explained in Phase 1, a full-time student's day is online self-paced learning in the morning, and afternoons include academy classes. This will give students more collaboration, stronger connections, real skills, and real futures. It was explained students do not have to leave homeschools to attend Innovation, but they will attend for two hours in the afternoon in pathway classes. 9th grade classes will be the freshman academy, where they can attend for a semester.

Planning for the future, we will start purchasing the technology through our Perkins Grant this year in our current building. In September, we will request approval from the Board to begin the naming process for the catalyst center.

Facilities Executive Director Larry Hadley updated the Board on the catalyst building progress. The timeline was explained beginning from the early meetings back in August of 2025 up to the design package and renderings for the inside of the building.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.