

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION – JULY 16, 2026

The Board of Education of the Aspen Peaks School District met in a study session on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 4:00 pm. The study session took place in Room 100 at the Alpine School District office in American Fork, UT.

Board members present: Board President Diane Knight, Vice President Amber Bonner, Nicki Brammer, Jeanne-Marie Burrows, Jason Hart. Jason Theler arrived at 4:01pm. Steve Sparti arrived at 4:03pm. Also present: Superintendent Perkins and Business Administrator Bea Twede. There were approximately 10 others in attendance.

Agenda Items

1. Space Center Update - James Porter
 - a. Located at Central Elementary
 - b. Thousands of students visit us every year. (Last year 12,492)
 - c. 100 volunteers at the Space Center who work with our summer camps
 - d. 40 part-time staff members at the Space Center
 - e. We have a full dome planetarium, space simulator
 - f. Through the high school CTE internship program we have interns who help build our shows at the Space Center.
 - g. The Space Center is used for field trips, birthday parties, laser and planetarium shows
 - h. Questions
 - i. Will Aspen Peaks students be able to use the Space Center after the split?
 1. Yes - The Space Center will continue to allow Aspen Peaks students to attend even though we are not in the boundary of its district.
 - ii. Will Timpanogos District fund the cost of the Space Center?
 1. James is a TSA so his salary is funded through the school district. The Space Center creates revenue through its show and parties which cover most of the other costs.
2. Capital Planning - Ideal Sizes/Boundary Studies - David Ludwig and Doug Webb
 - a. Transportation update
 - i. 14 new drivers in training
 1. 2026 - 265 drivers (projected)
 2. 2025 - 255 drivers
 3. 2024 - 274 drivers
 - b. Boundary Study Committee
 - i. The committee included elementary principals, secondary principals, transportation, facilities and supervisors
 - ii. Considerations
 1. Impacts on educational programs and outcomes
 2. School capacity utilization over time
 3. Proximity to schools
 4. Keeping neighborhoods/communities together
 5. Impacts on transportation
 6. Competing criteria
 - iii. Study Process
 1. Phase 1: Internal Review
 2. Phase 2: Board and Community Engagement
 - iv. Timeline
 1. July - Preliminary Study
 - a. Form an Internal Committee
 - b. Establish criteria for the study (enrollment, capacity, etc...)
 - c. Study criteria and constraints
 - d. Report preliminary findings in July Study Session
 2. August - Consideration of Formal Study

- a. Continue study of preliminary findings
 - b. Present additional findings for school board consideration of a formal study
 - c. If appropriate, establish a formal boundary study
3. August / September - Formal Study
 - a. If a formal study is approved - establish main objectives, dates, timelines and main objectives of the formal study
4. February - Community Notification
 - a. Board consideration of boundary adjustments, if any
 - b. Community and School Notification
- v. Next steps
 1. July - form preliminary committee, identify “hot spots”
 2. August - begin preliminary “what if” boundary scenarios, refine enrollment scenarios, continue analysis of capacity and feeder impacts, present information for board consideration
 3. Phase 2 - **if approved**, establish Formal Boundary Study Committee, prepare for community engagement, include school board and community representatives
- vi. Study update
 1. Enrollment and building capacities
 2. Ideal school sizes
 3. Feeder patterns and enrollment trends
 4. District-wide vs. targeted study options
 5. Additional factors: growth, transportation, future development
 6. Building capacity for elementary schools (small, medium, large schools)
 - a. Small (350 - 600)
 - b. Medium (600 - 800)
 - c. Large (800 - 950)
 - d. Hot spots
 - i. Eastside - decreasing numbers - Barratt, Deerfield, Cedar Ridge
 - ii. Westside - increasing numbers - North Point
 7. Collaboration Teams
 8. Administrative Support
 9. Amenities (lunch room, bathrooms, etc...)
 10. Building capacity for junior high schools
 - a. 1,050 - 1,800 students
 - b. Comprehensive school (without district subsidy)
 - c. Hot spots
 - i. Timberline, Viewpoint, Mountain Ridge, Lehi Jr and AF Jr
 11. Value of an informal study
 - a. Room to consider current and projected numbers of schools
 - i. Letters that were sent to the communities of PG and AF
 - b. Need to wait and see how many students stay with us
 - c. Our current numbers fall within our “portrait of a school”
 12. Perfect feeders
 - a. Since that’s not possible, pursue a minimum percentage of feeders so that students aren’t isolated when they move through the schools
- vii. Recommendation
 1. Continue informal district-wide boundary study for **elementary schools**
 2. Continue informal district-wide boundary study for **middle/junior high schools**
 3. No comprehensive **high school** boundary study is recommended at this time
 4. No **school closures** are recommended at this time

- viii. Should we send surveys to different communities that may be affected by a boundary change?
 - 1. YES - they want to be heard.
 - ix. In August the committee will have numbers, lines and more specific areas that need to be addressed.
 - 1. Can we see percentages of capacity for schools? - YES, the committee will have those percentages in August.
 - x. Statutory deadlines
 - 1. Boundary changes - no deadline tied to the school year start
 - 2. School closures - entire process must be completed by December 31 of the previous year
 - xi. Committee feels that Aspen Peaks is in a GREAT position
3. OPMA and GRAMA Training - Doug Larson
- a. Social Media Guidance for School Board Members Related to OPMA
 - i. Objectives
 - 1. Discuss basic principles of open public meetings.
 - 2. Explain how GRAMA and social media apply to OPMA.
 - 3. Explain how interactions online create problems for Board members.
 - 4. Explain First Amendment limits related to the use of social media.
 - 5. Provide practical counsel to Board members.
 - ii. Meetings
 - 1. Core rule: OPMA ensures that meetings are conducted, and board actions are taken, in the open. Meetings are specifically defined.
 - 2. Key point - Meetings are:
 - a. A convening of the board by an individual with authority to convene the public body.
 - b. With a quorum present
 - c. To discuss, deliberate and receive public comments
 - d. Act upon a matter over which the Board has jurisdiction or advisory power.
 - 3. Key point: A meeting is not a meeting if:
 - a. No funds are expended
 - b. Discussion is only for the purpose of administrative or operational matters where no formal actions are taken, and/or
 - c. It constitutes a chance or social gathering.
 - iii. Unintentional Meetings
 - 1. Core rule: A meeting can occur regardless of the location of board members or their intent to convene a quorum of board members.
 - 2. Core rule: Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrict a member of a public body from communicating via digital means with other members of the public body at a time when the public body is not convened in an open meeting.
 - 3. Key point: Replies, likes or comments by enough members can create an un-noticed electronic meeting (quorum trap). Even asynchronous exchanges or group chats that discuss business may violate OPMA (serial meetings).
 - iv. Notice
 - 1. Core rule: Notice requirements:
 - a. Provide at least 24 hours notice of date, time, place
 - b. Include an agenda that is reasonably specific
 - c. Post notice to pmn.Utah.gov and district website
 - d. Post annual schedule
 - 2. Core rule: With a majority vote, the board may convene an emergency meeting without 24 hours notice to discuss matters of an urgent nature if the board approves the meeting and gives as much notice as practicable.

3. Key point: Under OPMA, any meeting must be publicly noticed any time a quorum of board members are discussing board business.
- b. GRAMA
 - i. Core rule: Under Utah law, a record includes any information “prepared, owned, received, or retained” by the District, in any form and “a record is public unless otherwise expressly provided in statute”.
 - ii. Key point: Emails, social media posts, texts, comments, DMs, and threads that discuss district business are public records, even on personal accounts, and will be subject to GRAMA and records retention.
 - c. Public Forum - referenced 2 cases in 2024
 - i. Core rule: Board members’ social media accounts may be considered “public forums” (state vs. private speech).
 - ii. Two-prong test
 1. Possess actual, legally grounded authority to speak on the government’s behalf on that particular matter (actual authority) and
 2. Purported to exercise that specific governmental authority within the relevant social media posts (purported exercise).
 - iii. Key point: Deleting comments or blocking individuals for expressing personal viewpoints can be considered unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination (First Amendment) - must allow criticism, but can block threats, obscenity, and spam (moderation standard).
 - d. Takeaways
 - i. Do not engage in group discussions about Board business outside board meetings (with a quorum) and be careful about conference calls or “responding to all” in emails.
 - ii. Never engage with other board members on social media about district business - avoid the “quorum trap” and “serial meeting” by moving all substantive discussions to noticed meetings.
 - iii. Keep separate social media accounts and profiles.
 - iv. Remember that social gatherings do not constitute a quorum but keep those social gatherings social.
 - v. Think before posting. Think about the content and the forum. Once a social media post is out there, it is difficult to retract.
 - vi. Treat every public facing communication (somehow tied to the District) as a public record under GRAMA that may be requested and scrutinized.
 - vii. Work with District staff to maintain social media posts about district business according to retention schedules.
 - viii. Work with District counsel to post a clear moderation policy.
 - ix. Work with District counsel before removing comments or blocking individuals from an account. Log all removals.
 - e. Counsel Summary
 - i. Maintain separate social media accounts (personal and official profiles). Avoid posting official business on personal accounts.
 - ii. Maintain Board pact to “look but don’t touch”. Avoid responding to posts of one another, and do not conduct business online.
 - iii. Avoid direct messaging on official profile; redirect inquiries and other communications to District channels.
 - iv. Work with counsel to post disclaimers:
 1. Personal viewpoints are NOT official Board positions.
 2. Content may be subject to GRAMA.
 3. Moderation language

The meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.