WORK MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND BUDGET HEARING- June 16 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2077 West Royal Hunte Drive Cedar City, Utah

A. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

   At 3:00 p.m. President Taylor called the meeting to order.

B. TRAINING

1. Modules 8-13

   President Taylor led a training on modules 8-13 in the Robert's Rules training.

C. WORK MEETING ITEMS

1. E-Rate Resolution

   Randy Yardley, IT Supervisor, explained that the district has successfully used the E-Rate program for more than 20 years to help fund technology infrastructure in schools. Through the program, the district receives reimbursement for eligible networking equipment such as wireless access points, cabling, and switches. Funding is based on district demographics, including student enrollment and free/reduced lunch participation. He outlined the application process, which includes budgeting, issuing an RFP, selecting a vendor, purchasing equipment, and applying for reimbursement. The district works with Kellogg & Sovereign Consulting to ensure compliance with program requirements. Participation also requires adherence to internet safety and filtering standards under CIPA. Randy emphasized that while participation in E-Rate is optional, it has been a valuable resource that helps the district maintain and improve its technology infrastructure while reducing costs. He noted that the district has entered a new five-year funding cycle and is seeking funding this year for network switches. He also informed the Board that additional details will be presented during the August work meeting. A board resolution related to the application is expected to be brought forward for approval at the August regular board meeting.

2. IT - Parent Portal Discussion

   Randy Yardley, IT Supervisor, and Jason Gurr, Network and Security Manager, provided an update on the implementation of Utah's SB88 Parent Portal legislation, which requires increased transparency regarding student internet activity and content filtering. Randy informed the Board that the new system will allow parents to view their student's internet usage, including websites accessed, blocked content, and time spent online.

Jason Gurr explained that Utah's new parent portal legislation is separate from the student phone restriction policy and requires the district to replace its current internet filtering system because the existing platform does not provide parent portal functionality. The new system will allow parents to view their students' internet activity and usage. Jason reviewed the district's filtering groups:

- Probation
- Special Education
- Canvas Only

He explained that elementary students have the most restrictive filtering settings, with restrictions gradually decreasing at higher grade levels. Parents may request placement in specific filtering groups based on their preferences. He noted that the district has spent years refining its current filtering system and had recently completed the request for proposal (RFP) process before the new legislation required a restart of that work. The district is now participating in a statewide effort to identify a compliant filtering solution and must have the new system in place before the start of the school year. He added, board members may be asked to assist in reviewing and potentially renaming filtering categories as implementation moves forward.

3. Economic Development Presentation

President Taylor offered information on federally designated Opportunity Zones within Iron County, which are identified using criteria such as median family income, poverty rates, and population data. These zones are evaluated for potential eligibility in federal incentive and grant programs that support development. Dave Johnson, Economic Development Director for Iron County and Cedar City, and Daisy Burns explained the federal Opportunity Zones program, which encourages investment in designated areas through capital gains incentives. Their presentation focused on the potential long-term effects of business growth, housing development, and future school enrollment. They informed the Board that Iron County is evaluating potential Opportunity Zone designations and seeking input from local stakeholders. They identified the three priority areas as having the greatest potential for development over the next ten years and noted that recommendations will be submitted through a competitive state process. Dave explained that the current recommendations are preliminary and that any proposed Opportunity Zones would undergo additional review and community input before final decisions are made. He noted the purpose of this discussion was to gather feedback and increase awareness of areas where future economic development may occur so the district can consider potential long-term impacts on planning and growth. He encouraged board members to share additional input before recommendations are submitted to the state.

4. 2027-28 School Calendar

ICSD-USBE Agreement for Waiver June 2026.pdf

Superintendent Hatch reported that the Utah State Board of Education approved the district's waiver request to waive the 180-day school requirement for all district schools. The waiver was approved following recommendation from the Board's Law and Licensing Committee and becomes effective for potential implementation no earlier than the 2027–2028 school year. The waiver expires at the end of the 2030–2031 school year, after which the district would need to reapply if it wished to continue the waiver. The waiver requires the district to provide reports requested by the State Board, including an initial report approximately 90 days after implementation if a four-day week is adopted. Superintendent Hatch emphasized that the district has not adopted a four-day calendar; however, planning for the 2027–2028 calendar must begin soon. He advised that implementing a four-day week would require significant preparation and recommended that the Board begin discussions as early as August so staff can either proceed with detailed planning or redirect efforts if the Board chooses not to pursue the four-day schedule.

5. Resolution on Assessment

Resolution Supporting Meaningful Reform of Utah's State Assessment System (3).pdf

Superintendent Hatch reported that he revised the wording of the proposed assessment related resolution based on previous board feedback. He indicated that he had scheduled time with the superintendents in his state meetings to discuss the proposal and gauge statewide interest in addressing concerns related to student assessments. He clarified that the intent of the request is not to eliminate assessments, but to encourage the Utah State Board of Education to re-evaluate the existing assessment system and consider concerns that have been raised by educators and stakeholders. He explained that the immediate next step is to gauge statewide interest in the proposed resolution before finalizing it. He indicated that a formal proposal could potentially be brought forward as early as August, but his preferred approach is to begin broader discussion through Utah School Boards Association meetings in the fall. He suggested that continued statewide conversation would allow the issue to gain traction and be refined over time, with the goal of elevating it as a priority item for a future legislative session rather than the upcoming one. He noted, it could be formally recognized as a priority by the USBA and superintendent association by this time next year. He emphasized that allowing the proposal to circulate and be discussed widely would improve its quality and increase engagement across stakeholders.

6. Board Meeting Calendar

Two Additional Meetings Proposed

- November 10 at 4:30 PM
- December 8 at 4:30 PM

Superintendent Hatch noted that combining work meetings and regular meetings in the same month has become increasingly difficult, particularly in months with only one scheduled meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts around holidays, only one meeting is currently planned for both November and December. He proposed adding two additional work meetings, one on November 10th and one on December 8th, while keeping the existing meetings as regular board meetings. The calendar amendment will be an item on the regular meeting agenda in August.

7. Policy 413 EMPLOYEE AND K-12 STUDENT RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

413_EMPLOYEE_AND_K-12_STUDENT_RESPONSIBLE_USE_POLICY_

Superintendent Hatch reviewed revisions to Policy 413 Employee and K-12 Student Responsible Use of Technology Resources. The changes are in response to new state legislation addressing student use of personal electronic devices, including cell phones, smartwatches, AI glasses, and other emerging technologies. He noted it is largely already in compliance due to prior proactive policy updates, with only minor adjustments required. Superintendent Hatch also pointed out the change in the title, from Responsible Use Policy to Responsible Use of Technology Resources. The policy will return for a first reading in the next meeting.

D. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

5:00 p.m.

2. Prayer or Thought

Ms. Hill offered a thought.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

President Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. BUDGET HEARING

1. Budget Presentation

2026-27 Tentative Budget and 2025-2026 Proposed Amended Budget (Presented in May Meeting).pdf

2026-27 Proposed Budget and 2025-2026 Proposed Amended Budget.pdf

FY26-27_Budget_Presentation.pdf

Business Administrator Todd Hess presented the adjusted tentative budget, which includes both final amendments for FY25-FY26 and highlights for the proposed FY26-FY27 budget. He pointed out the revised FY25-FY26 budget reflects updates made since May, including adjustments to better align year end estimates and ensure compliance with state requirements. For FY25-FY26, total estimated revenues decreased by approximately $3.25 million, primarily due to a reduction in local revenue after a tax increase was not certified by the Utah State Tax Commission. State and federal revenues also saw small decreases. These reductions primarily reduced previously projected surplus funds rather that creating a deficit. He reported that expenditures were increased by approximately

$1.4 million to provide additional flexibility for end of year costs, grant-related spending, and potential audit adjustments, ensuring the district remains in compliance with balanced budget requirements. He also proposed a $6 million transfer to the Capital Projects Fund, which the Board approved in the fall, designed for the construction of a new South Elementary School. He noted this transfer appropriately moves the funds from the General Fund into the Capital Projects Fund to account for construction related expenditures. Within the Capital Projects Fund, expenditure estimates were adjusted to align with actual progress on bond-funded projects. Projects not completed by the end of the fiscal year will carry forward into the FY26-FY27 budget. Todd reported that the Preschool Fund is expected to end the year with expenditures exceeding revenues, which will reduce an existing fund balance. He noted that future adjustments will be needed to maintain the program's financial sustainability while continuing to provide preschool services.The Debt Service Fund is projected to end the year with approximately $15 million in fund balance, generated through interest earnings and property tax collections exceeding annual debt payment requirements. He explained that these funds may be used for debt payments, certain technology-related capital expenditures, or potentially to help finance portions of the new South Elementary School through a short-term debt strategy that could avoid additional tax increase. The Food Service Fund is expected to spend more than it receives in revenue during the year as the district intentionally reduces fund balances that exceed federal guidelines.

Todd reviewed the proposed FY2026-FY2027 budget and explained that adopting the certified tax rate allows the district to receive the same propoerty tax revenue as the prior year, plus revenue from new growth, without triggering the Truth in Taxation process. He reported that new growth generated nearly $1 million in additional revenue, while relatively flat property values resulted in a slight decrease in tax rates. He emphasized that the district is not proposing a property tax increase and is past the legal deadline to do so this year. Todd also reviewed how certified tax rates work, noting that increases in property values alone do not generate additional revenue beyond the certified rate unless Truth in Taxation is completed. He highlighted that Iron County School District continues to have one of the state's lowest local tax rates and lowest taxable value per student, while acknowledging that long-term inflationary pressures may eventually require additional revenue sources.

Todd presented a proposal to reallocate a portion of the certified tax rate from the Capital Levy to the Board Local Levy and Voted Local Levy, increasing the Board Local Levy to 0.00146 and the Voted Local Levy to 0.00080. The adjustment would not change the overall certified tax rate for taxpayers or require Truth in Taxation, but would shift approximately $990,000 in additional state guarantee funding that it has previously forfeited. He explained that the district has sufficient capital resources to support the change and that the strategy is most beneficial in years when property values remain relatively stable. Board members discussed the long-term sustainability of the proposal, including the potential impacts on future capital needs, inflation, facility maintenance, and property value changes. Todd noted that the district currently has the flexibility to transfer funds between the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund as needed, but cautioned that reducing the Capital Levy too far over time could limit future funding options, sharing an example of another district that ultimately needed to increase taxes after relying on a similar strategy.

Todd continued his presentation by highlighting the district's planned capital projects and the status of several revenue funds. The Capital Projects Fund includes funding to:

- Complete construction of East Elementary
- Complete the new Transportation Facility, which is expected to be finished by next summer.
- Allocate $15 million to begin construction of the new South Elementary School.
- Continue several projects carried over from the previous fiscal year while initiating new capital improvements listed in the project's detailed budget schedule.

Todd noted the additional capital projects which include:

- Parking lot improvements and expansions at several schools, including the Three Peaks Preschool, where additional parking is needed to improve student safety and reduce traffic congestion.
- Upgrading auditorium lighting at all three district high schools to improve aging facilities.

Todd also reviewed the district's remaining major funds:

- The Debt Service Fund budget continues to provide for scheduled payments on the district's general obligation bonds.
- The Food Service Fund will continue spending down its excess fund balance to remain within federal reserve limits.
- The Non-K-12 Fund will continue using a portion of its existing fund balance, though less than in the previous year, with additional Medicaid reimbursements helping maintain the fund's financial stability.

He concluded by noting that the annual budget presentation is one of the most comprehensive reports presented to the Board each year. The Board thanked him for his presentation.

2. Public Hearing for FY26 Amended Budget and the FY27 Preliminary Budget

Public Comment Specific to the FY26 Amended Budget and the FY27 Preliminary Budget

There were no comments.

3. Adopt the FY26 Amended Budget

Motion to adopt the amended FY26 Amended Budget

Moved by: Helaman Haynie; seconded by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

4. Adopt the FY27 Budget and Final Property Tax Rates

PT-800 Resolution Adopting Final Tax Rates and Budgets.pdf

2026-27 Proposed Budget and 2025-2026 Proposed Amended Budget.pdf

Motion to adopt the FY27 Budget and Final Property Taxes

Moved by: Michelle Tullis; seconded by: Megen Ralphs

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

F. REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order

At 5:42 p.m. the Board moved into the Regular Meeting.

G. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of the May 12, 2026 Work & Regular Meeting, and Public Hearing, and the May 26, 2026 Special Meeting

WORK AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - May 12 2026 - Minutes - Html

WORK AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - May 12 2026 - Minutes - Html

SPECIAL MEETING - May 26 2026 - Minutes - Html

SPECIAL MEETING - May 26 2026 - Minutes - Html

2. Audit and Approval of Warrants

Check Register June2026 Summary.pdf

Check Register June2026 Detailed.pdf

3. Employment of Personnel

MAY 2026 RECOMMEND FOR HIRE .pdf

4. LEA Specific License Approval

LEA Specific Licenses - 2025-2026 (1).pdf

5. Home School/Exemption from School Attendance

Home School Exemptions 26-27 - JUNE.pdf

6. Recommendation for Release of Students from School (JEG-R)

7. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Moved by: Tyrel Eddy; seconded by: John Taylor

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Regular Public Comment

Jeff Corry expressed concern regarding the four day school schedule.

2. Business Administrator's Report

Budget Report All Funds June 2026.pdf

Budget Report Fund 32 June 2026.pdf

Budget Report Fund 51 June 2026.pdf

Retirees

Budget Reports

I. ACTION ITEMS

J. FIRST READING

1. Policy 413 EMPLOYEE AND K-12 STUDENT RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

413 EMPLOYEE AND K-12 STUDENT RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY

Motion to move Policy 413 Employee and K-12 Student Responsibility Use of Technology Resources into a second reading

Moved by: John Taylor; seconded by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

K. SECOND READING

1. Policy 622 Employee Leave

622 EMPLOYEE LEAVE

Motion to adopt Policy 622 Employee Leave

Moved by: Megen Ralphs; seconded by: Michelle Tullis

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

2. Policy 724 Student Fees

724 STUDENT FEES

Motion to adopt Policy 724 Student Fees

Moved by: Tyrel Eddy; seconded by: Helaman Haynie

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

3. Policy 439 Limited Entry Points

439 Limited Entry Points

Motion to adopt Policy 439 Limited Entry Points

Moved by: Tyrel Eddy; seconded by: Michelle Tullis

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

4. Policy 440 Internal Classroom Locks

440 INTERNAL CLASSROOM LOCKS

Motion to adopt Policy 440 Internal Classroom Locks

Moved by: John Taylor; seconded by: Helaman Haynie

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

5. Policy 442 School Safety and Security Support Staff (S5)

442 SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY SUPPORT STAFF (S5)

Motion to adopt Policy 442 School Safety and Security Support Staff

Moved by: Megen Ralphs; seconded by: Tyrel Eddy

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

6. Policy 444 Substantial Threat Reporting

444 SUBSTANTIAL THREAT REPORTING

Motion to adopt Policy 444 Substantial Threat Reporting

Moved by: Tyrel Eddy; seconded by: John Taylor

Aye: Stephanie Hill, Tiffiney Christiansen, Tyrel Eddy, Megen Ralphs, Michelle Tullis, John Taylor, and Helaman Haynie

Motion Passes 7-0

L. CLOSED SESSION

1. Enter into Closed Session

At 6:06 p.m. President Taylor made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. The meeting was held in the board room at the Iron County School District offices.

Roll call vote:

Tiffiney Chirstiansen - aye

Megen Ralphs - aye

Stephanie Hill - aye

Helaman Haynie - aye

Michelle Tullis - aye

Tyrel Eddy - aye

John Taylor - aye

Present in the closed session : Mrs. Christiansen, Mrs. Ralphs, Ms. Hill, Mr. Haynie, Vice-President Tullis, Mr. Eddy and President Taylor.

Moved by: John Taylor; seconded by: Tyrel Eddy

2. Reconvene to Open Session

Motion to come out of the closed session at 8:02 p.m.

Moved by: Megen Ralphs; seconded by: Michelle Tullis

Roll call vote:

Tiffiney Christiansen

Megen Ralphs

Stephanie Hill

Helaman Haynie

Michelle Tullis

Tyrel Eddy

John Taylor

3. Possible Action from Closed Session

M. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjourn the Meeting

President Taylor adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Motion to adjourn

Moved by: Megen Ralphs; seconded by: Tiffiney Christiansen

Board President

Business Administrator