

**Uintah School District
Board of Education
Uintah County, Utah**

Approved Business Meeting Minutes

Date: August 12, 2026
Time: 6:10 p.m.
Location: Uintah School District
826 South 1500 East, Naples, Utah

Board Members Present:

- Dave Chivers, President
- Tawnya McKee, Vice President
- Todd Massey
- Denise Maynard
- Robin McClellan

Executive Staff Present:

- Dr. Rick Woodford, Superintendent
- Troy Timothy, Business Administrator
- Mindy Merrell, Support Services Director
- Ryan Maughan, Special Services Director
- Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Human Resources Director
- Christy Nerdin, Director of Instruction

Minutes recorded by Business Administrator's Secretary Sarah Fluckiger.

1. Introduction

1.01 Welcome/Call to Order

Business Administrator Troy Timothy welcomed attendees and introduced the board. President Dave Chivers offered opening remarks and called the business meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

1.02 Reverence

The reverence was offered by Vice President Tawnya McKee.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Member Todd Massey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 School Reports

Presenter: Central Cove Early Learning Center Principal Erin Brown

Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford introduced Ms. Brown and commended her leadership and her staff during the transition to the new building. Ms. Brown reported that Central Cove served 341 students during 2025-2026 and ended the year with 314 enrolled, including 207 special education students. She highlighted the school's highest overall DOT (Developmental Observation Tool) performance in four years, improved literacy results, and numeracy performance reaching 75% at benchmark.

Ms. Brown explained that Central Cove continued strengthening instructional structures, collaboration, and student supports so every child has a meaningful place in the program. She outlined partnerships with the Pyramid Consortium and Utah State University, increased family engagement through Family Fridays and the parent partners group, and priorities focused on collaboration, family relationships, and staff capacity. During discussion, Ms. Brown addressed tuition, tuition assistance, university partnerships, and school improvement goals. Board members praised the staff, facility transition, inclusive program, and Ms. Brown's leadership.

1.05 Patron Input

In-Person and Online Comments:

The patron input related to Policy 007.0250 Electronic Devices in Public Schools was moved to later in the meeting to coincide with consideration of that policy agenda item.

No online patron comments were received.

Input given in accordance with Board Policy 002.0720.

2. Business/Action Items

2.01 Consent Calendar

A. Minutes

B. Contracts Needing Board Approval

C. Monthly Board Financial Update

D. 2026-2027 Board Leadership Governance Calendar

Motion: Member Maynard moved to approve the consent calendar, including the June 17, 2026, work session and business meeting minutes; the June 25, 2026, special board meeting minutes; the June and July monthly board financial updates; and the 2026-2027 Board Leadership Governance Calendar. Member McClellan seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in favor: President Chivers, Vice President McKee, Member Maynard, Member McClellan, and Member Massey.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.02 Policies for Approval on First Reading

A. 007.0310 Student and Family Privacy

B. 007.0230 Bullying and Hazing

C. 007.0250 Electronic Devices in Public Schools

D. 005.0050 Knowledge of Policies and Procedures

Motion: Member Maynard moved to approve Policy 007.0310 Student and Family Privacy, Policy 007.0230 Bullying and Hazing, and Policy 005.0050 Knowledge of Policies and Procedures on first reading. Vice President McKee seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in favor: President Chivers, Vice President McKee, Member Maynard, Member McClellan, and Member Massey.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vernal Middle School Teacher Kimberly Hawks shared her perspective as a member of the policy committee. Ms. Hawks supported continuing the current middle and high school approach rather than implementing a bell-to-bell restriction. She said the current approach allows parents to communicate with their children while limiting classroom disruptions and avoiding additional enforcement burdens and inconsistencies for teachers and students.

Dr. Woodford clarified that Option 1 would establish a bell-to-bell restriction for middle schools, while Option 2 would generally continue the current middle and high school approach and apply a bell-to-bell restriction at the elementary level. He noted that state law requires access at a designated time and place when requested by a parent and discussed possible fairness and enforcement concerns.

Member Maynard supported giving teachers and administrators additional time to implement and improve the current approach, with the option to revisit a bell-to-bell restriction if concerns continued. Member McClellan expressed support for a bell-to-bell restriction for kindergarten through eighth grade, citing student age and the goal of maintaining healthy learning environments.

Motion: Vice President McKee moved to approve Policy 007.0250 Electronic Devices in Public Schools, Option 2, on first reading. Member Massey seconded the motion.

Vote: Four in favor: President Chivers, Vice President McKee, Member Maynard, and Member Massey. One opposed: Member McClellan.

The motion carried 4-1.

2.03 Policies for Approval on Second Reading

A. 007.0420 Parent/Teacher Conference Policy (For Elimination)

Motion: Member Maynard moved to approve the elimination of Policy 007.0420 Parent/Teacher Conference Policy on second reading. Member McClellan seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in favor: President Chivers, Vice President McKee, Member Maynard, Member McClellan, and Member Massey.

The motion carried unanimously.

2.04 Personnel Changes

Motion: Member Massey moved to approve the recommended personnel changes. Member Maynard seconded the motion.

Human Resources Director Dr. Mistalyn Leis reviewed the personnel memorandum, which included 10 new hires, nine reassigned employees, three extracurricular coaching appointments, and 20 separations. Dr. Leis reported that the district was entering the school year in strong staffing condition, with approximately 90% retention among full-time employees, strong applicant pools, fewer unlicensed teachers, and no administrative turnover. She also noted that the number of summer separations was slightly lower than in the previous year.

Vote: Five in favor: President Chivers, Vice President McKee, Member Maynard, Member McClellan, and Member Massey.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Informational / Discussion Items

3.01 Purchases Over \$50,000

Mr. Timothy reported four Food Services purchases over \$50,000: \$200,000 to Basin Wholesale West, \$100,000 to Sysco Intermountain, Inc., \$64,000 to Gold Creek Foods, LLC, and \$52,000 to Yang's 5th Taste.

All purchases were included in the approved budget.

3.02 Calendar Items

Dr. Woodford reviewed upcoming calendar items, including employee contract start dates, new employee orientation, Opening Institute on August 18 at Vernal Middle School, the first day of school on August 19, the Basin Bowl, Labor Day, homecoming week, and the next board meeting on September 9. He invited board members to attend Opening Institute and thanked the principals and staff who compiled the calendar information.

5.01 Superintendent and/or board president follow up or clarification on items discussed during the meeting.

Member McClellan expressed appreciation for the summer break and the preparation underway for the new school year. She thanked employees for the often-unseen work involved in welcoming and educating every student and congratulated Member Massey on his recent retirement from Strata Networks.

Member Maynard wished employees a successful school year, praised their work, and encouraged them to reach out if they needed support.

Member Massey reflected on the electronic devices policy and emphasized the importance of parents helping children develop responsible cell phone habits. He also thanked district employees for their work and willingness to take on responsibilities beyond their assigned roles.

Vice President McKee thanked those who provided input on the electronic devices policy and acknowledged the complexity of balancing school expectations with parental responsibility. She also expressed appreciation for teachers and recognized that educators bring personal responsibilities and challenges with them as they prepare for the school year.

Mr. Timothy thanked district staff for a successful secretary meeting and encouraged schools to work together as new practices and procedures are implemented. He noted that the changes may require adjustment but will provide schools with improved information and capabilities.

Dr. Woodford previewed the school year theme, “Aligning for Success,” and explained that alignment extends beyond curriculum to the systems supporting student outcomes. He proposed using the fall board retreat to revisit the district’s strategic plan and goals in preparation for future board transitions.

President Chivers expressed pride in the district team and praised the caliber of the employees and their commitment to the district’s work.

4. Closed Session

President Chivers stated the need to enter closed session.

Motion: Vice President McKee moved to enter closed session for discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.
Member Massey seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Member McClellan – Aye
Member Massey – Aye
Member Maynard – Aye
Vice President McKee – Aye
President Chivers – Aye

The motion carried unanimously. The Board entered closed session at 7:10 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 8:02 p.m. and resumed the business meeting.

5. Adjournment

5.01 Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Member Maynard moved to adjourn the meeting. Member McClellan seconded the motion.

Vote: Five in favor: President Chivers, Vice President McKee, Member Maynard, Member McClellan, and Member Massey.

DATE: **August 12, 2026**
 TO: UINTAH BOARD OF EDUCATION
 FROM: Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Director of Human Resources
 RE: Board Approval Request for **August 12, 2026:** Board Approval of New Hires, Newly Assigned Employees; Notification of Separations of Employment

Superintendent Woodford requests Board approval of the following individuals for hire/assignment to new positions:

NEW HIRES – BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED:

Name	Position	Assignment	FTE	Education/ Training	Source of Funding
Addyson Batty	SpEd Preschool Aide	CEC	0.7375	All Required	Program 0183 Specialists and Aides
Valeria Priego	SpEd Preschool Aide	CEC	0.4875	All Required	Program 1215 SpEd Preschool
Jennie Goodrich	Intervention Aide	Ashley	0.7375	All Required	Program 7801 ESEA Title 1 Grants
Ashley Moore	SpEd Aide	Ashley	0.7375	All Required	Program 7524 IDEA B – Disabled
Emily MacDonald	Grade 1 Teacher	Discovery	1.0	Bachelor of Science Major: Elementary Education	Program 0050 Regular Education
Tamara Fazli Dundev	SpEd Aide	Naples	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Taylor Olson	Custodian	UHS	1.0	All Required	Program 0285 Maintenance Operations
Windy Barton	Bus Driver	Transportation	0.7375	All Required	Program 5315 Pupil Transportation
David Greenwood	Bus Driver	Transportation	0.7375	All Required	Program 5315 Pupil Transportation
Sarah Hall	Bus Driver	Transportation	0.7375	All Required	Program 5315 Pupil Transportation

NEWLY ASSIGNED EMPLOYEES – BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED:

Name	Former (Current) Assignment	New Assignment	Effective Date
Chelsie Perez	Office Aide (0.4875 FTE) @ CEC	Part-time Secretary (0.7375 FTE) @ CEC	8/3/2026
Marney Freestone	SpEd Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ AVEC	Part-time SpEd Teacher (0.625 FTE) @ AVEC	8/17/2026
Jennifer Anderton	SpEd Aide (0.875 FTE) @ Ashley	SpEd Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ Naples	8/17/2026
Crystelle Bitton	Grade 1 Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ Discovery	BTS Elementary Music/Dance Teacher (0.625 FTE) @ Discovery	8/17/2026
Ramsay Taliaferro	Science Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ UHS	PE/Health Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ UMS	8/17/2026
Ashton Wachter	SpEd Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Maeser	STEM Specialist (0.7375 FTE) @ Ashley	8/18/2026
Merisa Beasley	Intervention Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ UMS	SpEd Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Ashley	8/18/2026
April Bruso	SpEd OT Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ USD	SpEd Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Ashley	8/18/2026
Lainee McClure	Intervention Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Naples	Intervention Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Ashley	8/18/2026

NEWLY HIRED EXTRACURRICULAR COACHES:

Name	Program	School	Years of Service
Joseph Meanea	Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	UHS	20
LaDonna Christensen	Middle School Cross Country Coach	UMS	1
Ramsay Taliaferro	Middle School Strength & Conditional Coach	UMS	1