

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2026

Board Meeting

The Murray City School Board met in a board meeting on August 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Kelly Taeoalii, Jill Weight, Kami Anderson, Jaren Cooper, Elizabeth Payne, Jennifer Covington, Superintendent and Brian Ipson, Business Administrator. The meeting was held at the District office, located at 5102 South Commerce Drive, Murray, UT.

Welcome

Board President Kelly Taeoalii welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

Regular Session

Scott Taggart, Director of Support Services, presented the proposed Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Murray High School APEX Center. Approval of the GMP would allow the contractor to begin groundwork on September 1, 2026. The proposed GMP is \$7,829,858, which is significantly lower than original estimates.

Motion & Vote: Jaren Cooper moved to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Murray High School APEX Center. Jill Weight seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Study Items

The Board proceeded to the Study Session portion of the meeting, which included discussion of various proposed board policies and other updates.

SP 900.5 Employee Dress Code – Superintendent Covington led a discussion about the policy, including specific discussion about dress shorts, positive education-related messages, and hoodies. After discussion, the Board indicated that the language from the first reading generally reflected the majority's position regarding shorts. The existing language allows shorts and athletic attire in limited circumstances, including physical education and coaching, while maintaining professional attire expectations for other employee duties. This policy will come before the Board for a second reading at the September 10, 2026 Board meeting.

PS 401 Attendance – Darren Dean, HR Director, this policy was updated to include provisions passed in the 2026 legislative session which allows teachers in grades 7-12 to base up to 10% of a student's grade on attendance. The revised language included additional definitions and provisions concerning attendance-validated programs, chronic absenteeism, educational services, instructional days and hours, tardiness, and interventions. This policy will come before the Board for a second reading at the September 10, 2026 Board meeting.

PS 456 – Use of Sex-Designated Privacy Spaces – Superintendent Covington presented the new policy, which allows a student to request an alternative privacy space because of gender identity or a reasonable fear of bullying. Superintendent Covington explained that the District would work with the student's parent or guardian to develop an individual privacy plan. She reported that schools have already been using this process operationally and that principals have worked with families to identify appropriate single-occupancy privacy spaces. The policy will come before the Board for a first reading at the September 10, 2026 Board meeting.

ADM 216, Memorandum of Understanding For School Administrators & SP 918, Placement, Vacancies, Transfers, and Promotions – Darren Dean, HR Director, presented changes to the memorandum of

understanding governing school administrators, including provisions concerning administrator placement, vacancies, transfers, and promotions. He explained that the proposed changes would provide the District with additional flexibility to promote or place qualified internal candidates in certain circumstances without conducting the full posting and interview process. Some board members expressed that they did not support proceeding with broad authority to make permanent appointments without posting. Superintendent Covington indicated that District administration would continue working on the language and return with additional information, potentially focusing on an interim administrative position provision.

Employee Attendance - Darren Dean presented employee attendance data from the 2025–2026 school year. The report included licensed-employee absences categorized by reason. A request was made for additional information comparing Murray's employee attendance and sick-leave practices with comparable districts and districts throughout the Wasatch Front, as well as additional information regarding the District's historical substitute costs. Administration will provide additional data for future discussion.

ROAR (Rapid Online Assessment of Reading) - Bruce Eschler, Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning, presented information regarding ROAR (Rapid Online Assessment of Reading), a research-based literacy assessment developed through Stanford University. He explained that the District has strong literacy-screening systems in the K–6 grades but has lacked an affordable and efficient literacy screener for secondary students. The assessment is available at no cost, so the District would have limited financial risk in evaluating the program. Board members expressed support for continuing to explore the program. The item is expected to come before the board on September 10, 2026 as a request to conduct research.

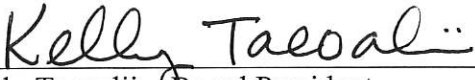
Enrollment Update - Superintendent Covington provided an enrollment update for the 2026–2027 school year. As of approximately 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, the District had 5,168 students registered in grades K–12, compared with a January projection of 5,325 students, representing approximately 157 fewer students than projected. Superintendent Covington explained that the District is seeing a broader demographic trend of larger graduating classes and smaller incoming kindergarten cohorts. She noted that this trend is occurring in Utah and other areas and contributes to declining enrollment as larger cohorts move out of the system.

Facility Planning – Superintendent Covington provided an update on the District's school-closure process, including the District's progress toward meeting statutory requirements for the proposed Liberty Elementary closure. A public hearing is scheduled for October 1, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Liberty Elementary. Additional public-comment opportunities are scheduled for October 15 and November 12, with Board consideration and a vote anticipated on December 10, 2026.

High School Block Schedule – Scott Wihongi, Assistant Superintendent, presented a proposal to explore moving Murray High School to a fixed A/B schedule beginning with the 2027–2028 school year. The discussion was prompted in part by facility and program planning for the APEX Center and the District's desire to make it easier for industry professionals to participate in high-school programs. A fixed schedule would establish A days on Mondays and Wednesdays and B days on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a plan needed for Fridays and weeks affected by holidays. Board members expressed support for allowing the high school to further explore the proposal.

The published agenda included a possible closed session for Personnel, Property, and Legal matters. Superintendent Covington stated that the District did not have a need for a Closed Session.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Kelly Taeoalii – Board President



Business Administrator – Brian Ipson