



## USD Special Board Meeting - Sep 21 2026 Agenda

Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5:00 PM

826 South 1500 East, Naples, UT 84078

Page

### 1. INTRODUCTION/OPENING 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://uintah->

[net.zoom.us/j/88981842549?pwd=vXVYc2iNYVQBSlox4Sg7RywFhQhdYm.1](https://uintah-net.zoom.us/j/88981842549?pwd=vXVYc2iNYVQBSlox4Sg7RywFhQhdYm.1)

1.01 Welcome/Called to Order

1.02 Reverence

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

1.04 Patron Input

### 2. ACTION ITEMS

2.01 The Uintah School District Board of Education will consider whether to approve a motion initiating the statutory study and notification and public input process to consider the closure of Uintah Middle School, effective beginning with the 2027-2028 school year and to provide notice to parents and to municipal leadership about the potential closure, with action on the issue to be taken within the time period provided for by statute.

2

- Memo: [Board Memorandum UMS Closure 09-21-2026.pdf](#)
- Presentation: [Board Meeting Slide Deck 09-21-2026.pdf](#)

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during board meetings should notify Shawwna Muhme at 826 South 1500 East, Naples, Utah, or call 781-3100 ext. 1001, at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. The Uintah School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, in admission or access to, or treatment of, employment or in its educational programs or activities. Inquiries may be referred to Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Human Resources Director, at 826 South 1500 East, Naples, Utah, 781-3100 ext. 1005.

*Board of Education*

**Dave Chivers**, President • **Tawnya McKee**, Vice President • **Todd Massey**, Member  
**Denise Maynard**, Member • **Robin McClellan**, Member

## Memorandum

**To:** Board Members

**From:** Rick Woodford, Superintendent

**Cc:** Troy Timothy, Business Administrator

**Date:** September 21, 2026

**Re:** Proposal to study middle school reconfiguration and closure of UMS

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### Recommendation:

Initiate a 90-day statutory study and public input period to explore the feasibility of the following changes to go into effect for the 2027-2028 school year:

- Serve 6th grade students in elementary schools;
- Adjust elementary school boundaries to level-out enrollment, by percentage of capacity, across the district;
- Add a DLI program at Maeser Elementary School;
- Serve all 7th and 8th grade students at Vernal Middle School and reimagine the school to best serve this population;
- Close Uintah Middle School and determine the best course of action for the future of the facility and property; and
- Formulate a deliberate plan to reinvest the savings to address ongoing declining enrollment in the district and reduce elementary class sizes.

**Background (rationale):** We have a fiscal responsibility to our tax payers to provide an efficient and quality education to our students. Due to declining birthrates and increased educational options for families, all school districts in Utah are experiencing declining enrollment. Uintah is not immune from this issue. Our enrollment has dropped by nearly 1000 students over the past decade and we are projecting enrollment to continue to drop

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significantly in the coming years. In order to stay financially viable, we have to make hard decisions today, so that we can provide our students with a quality education into the future.

Reconfiguring our middle schools is the best opportunity to improve our efficiency and financial viability. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, we will have adequate space at Vernal Middle School to accommodate all of the 7th and 8th grade students who are planning to attend UMS and VMS. Vernal Middle School has a student capacity of 900. If we combine all of our current 6th and 7th grade students from UMS and VMS, we will have a total 7th and 8th grade enrollment of 886 students for the 2027-2028 school year. This number will put VMS just below capacity in this configuration. According to our projections, this number will shrink significantly between now and 2034 when we project to have about 750 students attending VMS in this 7th and 8th grade configuration. Furthermore, we have plenty of capacity in our elementary schools to accommodate our 6th graders. This reconfiguration would allow the district to close Uintah Middle School and save a significant amount of money that the Board can reallocate to address declining enrollment and reduce class sizes in the elementary grades.

See Facility and Financial/Budget Implementation for additional information.

**Policy Implications:** None

**Personnel Implications:** To be determined. We will have a plan in place to use attrition to continue employment for as many employees as we can, but we will likely need to enact a Reduction in Force as we will no longer need some of the positions occupied by employees at the middle school level. Due to our staffing ratios, teachers should not be impacted by a Reduction in Force.

**Facility Implications:** To be determined. According to a preliminary analysis, the district will save approximately \$13.3 million dollars of capital funds with the closing of UMS. Our elementary schools will increase in capacity if the Board decides to move 6th graders to elementary schools. If the Board elects to proceed with boundary changes and implements another DLI program at Maeser Elementary School, elementary school enrollments can be balanced across the district, taking the pressure off Discovery Elementary which is currently close to capacity.

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**Financial/Budget Implications:** In addition to the capital savings, the district will save roughly \$1.9 million annually in operational costs at Uintah Middle School. This money can be reallocated to address declining enrollment and to help reduce class sizes at our elementary schools.

**Motion:**

"I move that the Uintah School District Board of Education initiate a study about the possible closure of Uintah Middle School and related changes to school boundaries and attendance areas for middle school and elementary students at affected schools and to initiate the notification and public input process required by Utah Code §53G-4-402(24) to consider the closure of Uintah Middle School, effective beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, with changes to boundaries and attendance areas to be made if Uintah Middle School is closed, with action to be taken within the time period provided by statute."



# **Middle School Reconfiguration and UMS Closure - Study Initiation Proposal**

September 21, 2026

# **Overview:** Why is the district proposing to study middle school reconfiguration and closure of UMS?



# Why is the district proposing to study middle school reconfiguration and closure of UMS?



1

**Fiscal responsibility** to our tax payers to provide an efficient and quality education to our students



2

**Declining enrollment** and future enrollment projections



3

**Exorbitant projected maintenance costs** to keep UMS operable and safe



4

**Opportunity to reallocate funds** to address declining enrollment and reduce class size in our elementary schools

# Why does the Board need to initiate this process today?



H.B. 341 (2024) amended Utah Code 53G-4-402 which requires the Board to:

-  **1 Authorize a 90-day study** and public input period prior to officially closing a school.
-  **2 Provide notice** to impacted families and government officials.
-  **3 Take official action** to close a school by December 31st of the year prior to the closure.

# Enrollment Projection



# Enrollment Overview - Current & Proposed

## Current Enrollment Projection

| School Year                           | Current | Projected |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                       | 26-27   | 27-28     | 28-29 | 29-30 | 30-31 | 31-32 | 32-33 | 33-34 |
| District Wide Elementary Cap (K-5)*   | 4,150   | 4,150     | 4,150 | 4,150 | 4,150 | 4,150 | 4,150 | 4,150 |
| Elementary Enrollment (K-5)*          | 2,437   | 2,379     | 2,337 | 2,277 | 2,246 | 2,237 | 2,239 | 2,221 |
| Elementary Utilization Rate (K-5)*    | 58.7%   | 57.3%     | 56.3% | 54.9% | 54.1% | 53.9% | 54.0% | 53.5% |
| Middle School Capacity (6-8)*         | 1,750   | 1,750     | 1,750 | 1,750 | 1,750 | 1,750 | 1,750 | 1,750 |
| Middle School Enrollment (6-8)*       | 1,345   | 1,329     | 1,290 | 1,275 | 1,241 | 1,219 | 1,162 | 1,138 |
| Middle School Utilization Rate (6-8)* | 76.9%   | 75.9%     | 73.7% | 72.9% | 70.9% | 69.7% | 66.4% | 65.0% |

**-207 student decline over 8 years (6-8).**

## Proposed Enrollment Projection

| School Year                                 | Current | Projected |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                             | 26-27   | 27-28     | 28-29 | 29-30 | 30-31 | 31-32 | 32-33 | 33-34 |
| Elementary Enrollment with 6th Grade*       | 2,878   | 2,822     | 2,743 | 2,703 | 2,655 | 2,621 | 2,608 | 2,606 |
| Elementary Utilization Rate with 6th Grade* | 69.3%   | 68.0%     | 66.1% | 65.1% | 64.0% | 63.2% | 62.8% | 62.8% |
| Middle School Capacity W/O UMS*             | 900     | 900       | 900   | 900   | 900   | 900   | 900   | 900   |
| Middle School Enrollment W/O 6th Grade*     | 904     | 886       | 884   | 849   | 832   | 835   | 793   | 753   |
| Middle School Utilization W/O 6th Grade*    | 100.4%  | 98.4%     | 98.2% | 94.3% | 92.4% | 92.8% | 88.1% | 83.7% |

**-151 student decline over 8 years (7-8).**



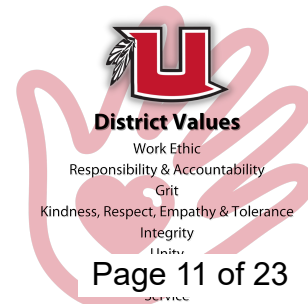
### District Values

Work Ethic  
Responsibility & Accountability  
Grit  
Kindness, Respect, Empathy & Tolerance  
Integrity  
Unity  
Optimism  
Service

# Enrollment By School

| Total Projected Enrollment (K-6) |        |       |           |         |        |        |       |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|-------|
| Year                             | Ashley | Davis | Discovery | Lapoint | Maeser | Naples | Total |
| 27-28                            | 450    | 443   | 749       | 143     | 491    | 546    | 2,822 |
| 28-29                            | 455    | 421   | 722       | 135     | 464    | 546    | 2,743 |
| 29-30                            | 465    | 400   | 717       | 129     | 452    | 540    | 2,703 |
| 30-31                            | 447    | 391   | 711       | 124     | 442    | 540    | 2,655 |
| 31-32                            | 463    | 370   | 687       | 118     | 440    | 543    | 2,621 |

**Projected decrease of -201 K-6 students  
over this 5-year period.**



# Capacity of Uintah Schools



# Capacity and Current Utilization

|                      | Oct-25 | Current Enrollment<br>9/21/26 | YOY Change | Capacity | 2026/27 Utilization % |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Ashley Elementary    | 390    | 380                           | -2.56%     | 750      | 50.7%                 |
| Davis Elementary     | 425    | 389                           | -8.47%     | 775      | 50.2%                 |
| Discovery Elementary | 669    | 649                           | -2.99%     | 700      | 92.7%                 |
| Lapoint Elementary   | 140    | 126                           | -10.00%    | 450      | 28.0%                 |
| Maeser Elementary    | 452    | 427                           | -5.53%     | 750      | 56.9%                 |
| Naples Elementary    | 451    | 466                           | 3.33%      | 775      | 60.1%                 |
| UMS                  | 594    | 557                           | -6.23%     | 850      | 65.5%                 |
| VMS                  | 818    | 788                           | -3.67%     | 900      | 87.6%                 |

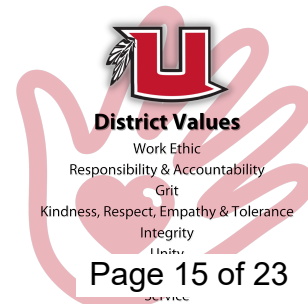
# Uintah Middle School Operational Costs



# 26-27 UMS Budget by Function

| Category                             | Total |      |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------|
| Instruction                          | \$    | 3.76 |
| Counseling                           | \$    | 0.30 |
| Social Workers                       | \$    | 0.05 |
| Inst Coaching                        | \$    | 0.18 |
| Library                              | \$    | 0.05 |
| School Admin                         | \$    | 0.56 |
| Maintenance                          | \$    | 0.60 |
| Nutrition                            | \$    | 0.17 |
| 26-27 Operating Cost (in \$Millions) | \$    | 5.67 |

**\$1.9M in potential operating savings**

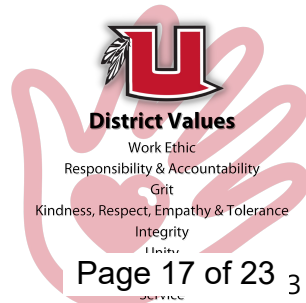


# Uintah Middle School Capital Maintenance Projections



# UMS 10-Year Capital Needs Projection

| System                       | Projected Cost  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cafeteria Tables             | \$ 0.10         |
| Asphalt Seal Coat            | \$ 0.09         |
| HVAC Controls                | \$ 0.47         |
| Air Handlers                 | \$ 8.92         |
| Boilers                      | \$ 1.65         |
| Classroom Doors and Hardware | \$ 0.43         |
| Gym Floors                   | \$ 0.23         |
| VCT                          | \$ 0.13         |
| Carpet                       | \$ 0.43         |
| Painting                     | \$ 0.26         |
| Security Film                | \$ 0.65         |
| <b>Total (in \$Millions)</b> | <b>\$ 13.36</b> |



# Recommendations for Reallocation of Funds



# What will we do with the money that is saved through this proposal?



The district will formulate a deliberate plan to reallocate the savings to address:



1

**Ongoing declining enrollment**  
in the district.



2

**Class-size reduction**  
in elementary schools.

# Statutory Timeline for Decision



# Uintah Middle School Closure Consideration

## Timeline for Parents & Community

No final decision has been made. This timeline shows the key steps in the process.

1

Sept. 21, 2026



### Board begins the process

The Board formally starts the review process. This is not a final decision.

2

Sept. 22–25, 2026



### Families receive notice

UMS families and others who may be affected are notified electronically and by mail.

3

Oct. 7, 2026



### Public comment opportunity #1

Community members can share comments with the Board during the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

4

Nov. 11, 2026



### Public comment opportunity #2

Community members can share comments with the Board during the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

5

Wed., Nov. 18, 2026



### Public hearing at Uintah Middle School

Meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m.

6

Dec. 9, 2026



### Regularly scheduled Board meeting

Additional opportunity for public comment.

7

Dec. 22, 2026



### Board votes in open meeting on proposal

8

Winter–Summer 2027



### Next steps

If approved, the District plans for student placement, staffing, transportation, and communication.



## What to Know



This process follows state law.



The Board will provide multiple opportunities for public input.



All families who may be affected will receive direct notice.



Community input is an important part of the process.



We will continue to share information at each step.

# Recommendation



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