

DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

September 3, 2026

District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah

OFFICERS: President Brandon Bench presided with Board Members, Mark Thacker, Tony Smith, and Don Busenbark present, as well as Superintendent Jason Young and Business Administrator Dee E. Miles. Board Member Emilee Wells was excused.

VISITORS:

Heather Cook	Tyce Labrum	Try Cooper	Reid Price	Avery Rasmussen
Jenn Tuckett	Dylan Watahomigie	Darin Jenkins	Denim Lister	Ryan Oakey
Kendra Embleton	Kai Foote	Brooke Holgate	Chaz Frandsen	Dylan Watahomigie
Camie Oakey	Ashley Adair	Brooklyn Anderton	Amos Burgess	Kai Foote
Tiffany Thomas	Zack Earl	Maxleigh Jo Dye	Sharon Smith	Reed Burgess
Ray Thomas	Boston Fieldsted	Kyleigh Dye	Julie Seeley	Cliff Murray
Hunter Nuga	Stephen Foote	Colby Dye	Parker Frandsen	
Tyler Powell	Jim Freston	Cahlyn Price	Collum Cloward	

WORK SESSION: The Board discussed Olympic festivities leading up to the 2034 Olympics in Utah that are helping to support education.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel at 6:07 p.m., aye votes: Mr. Bench, Mr. Busenbark, Mr. Smith, Mr. Thacker. Nay votes: none. Motion passed. Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Thacker seconded that the Board go out of executive session at 6:51 p.m.; passed unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION: President Bench called the regular session to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Bench offered prayer. Mr. Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

RECOGNITION: The Beacon award was presented to Troy Cooper with the USU Extension and the Wayfinder award to Ray Thomas for their exceptional contributions to student success.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Darin Jenkins, Tabiona School Principal reported a 100% graduation rate for the past five years, and 94% attendance, largely due to the four day week. Many students also earn certificates from the UBTECH. The new defense of learning for eighth grade went well and gave students pride in their educational accomplishments.

Jim Freston, CTE Director, reported on the achievements of the Summer Ag. Program. Four teachers work with 35 students each. Students had projects from a saw mill, to animals, to landscaping businesses. About half of the projects are presented at the County Fair.

Mr. Miles noted limited financial activity at this point in the year as represented on the report and school just getting under way.

OPEN TIME: At 7:21 p.m. President Bench opened the meeting for those who signed up for public comment. Collum Cloward and Avery Rasmussen reported on interest in creating more school spirit by designating parking spots for seniors that they could paint for the year. Designs would need prior approval. Ryan Oakey spoke in favor of having Matt Labrum as Baseball Coach, and presented a letter from the team. Dylan Watahomigie spoke on the positive values he learned from Coach Labrum. Kai Foote noted Coach Labrum has taught how to be good players and good men. Reed Burgess spoke on his hopes to be coached by Matt Labrum.

Camie Oakey spoke to the benefits of her son's experience on the Baseball Team and the positive impact Matt is having in the school and with the team.

Stephen Foote noted three sons worked with Matt as well as himself. Coaches pushed him to be his best and he would like to see Matt continue to coach.

Cliff Murray philosophized on voluntary vs coercion of students to take ownership of their education.

President Bench closed open time at 7:39 p.m.

MINUTES: Mr. Busenbark moved to approve with one spelling correction, and Mr. Smith seconded to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held July 30, 2026; voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Audio recording is available at: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1484269.mp3>.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

1. Travel Requests – Mr. Busenbark clarified the intent of a few trips and moved to approve. Mr. Thacker noted the need for an itinerary for the out-of-state trips before approval. Mr. Busenbark made a new motion to approve contingent upon receiving an itinerary. Mr. Thacker seconded, passed unanimously
2. Buildings/Construction – Superintendent Young noted an issue with painting the Altamont gymnasium floor but it should be resolved soon. The Tabiona track did get into fatty clay as possibly anticipated, but work continues and should be completed by end of next summer.
3. Personnel – Mr. Busenbark moved to approve the new hire, and adjustments to the admin salary schedule. Mr. Thacker seconded. Mr. Smith abstained. Motion passed.
4. Policy 2nd Reading: 5.0711.01 Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Hazing, Retaliation – Superintendent Young reviewed the policy changes from new legislation. The new definitions are helpful though the procedural changes do place a larger administrative burden on Principals. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Mr. Smith seconded; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Policy 1st Reading: 5.0800.07 Removal From Classroom For Inappropriate Behavior – Superintendent Young noted the policy changes help to coordinate District procedures. Mr. Busenbark noted the teacher should handle discipline first, and the principal only as a support. Superintendent noted how the new behavior systems provide support to help teachers keep students in class, and to help when removal becomes necessary.
2. USBA Regional Meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd 6:00pm at Flaming Gorge – The Board made plans to attend.

ADJOURNMENT / FUTURE PLANNING: Mr. Thacker moved to adjourn. The meeting stood adjourned. The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, October 1, 2026, at the District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah.