

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

Approved Business Meeting Minutes

Date: September 9, 2026
Time: 6:00 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
- Sam Shiner, Student Board Member
(Non-Voting Member)

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

Others Present:

Lexi Cunningham, USBA Associate Director

Minutes recorded by Business Administrator's Secretary Sarah Fluckiger.

1. Introduction

1.01 Welcome/Called to Order

Business Administrator Troy Timothy welcomed attendees and introduced the board. Board President Dave Chivers offered opening remarks and called the business meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.02 Reverence

The reverence was offered by Principal Cris Labrum.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Brynadee Deets led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 Student Board Member Report – Sam Shiner

Student Board President Sam Shiner reported that homecoming week was underway at Uintah High School, with student council and school activities including dress-up days, lunchtime activities, the 9/11 ceremony, the parade, the football game, and the homecoming dance. Mr. Shiner also reported that several student organizations were beginning their activities for the year, including FFA, SkillsUSA, National Honor Society, Hope Squad, FBLA, FCCLA, and band.

Mr. Shiner provided updates on fall sports, including football, girls soccer, volleyball, boys golf, girls tennis, and cross country. He reported that the boys golf team was competing strongly in the region and recognized Corber Hawkins as Athlete of the Week for his performance in boys golf. Mr. Shiner also congratulated Mrs. Muffler for being selected as one of the top 10 Utah Education Association Excellence in Education Award winners, noting she would be honored at the UEA banquet on September 11 in Sandy.

1.05 Celebrations

A. Students of the Month

The following students were recognized as Students of the Month by their teachers and/or administrators:

- Boyd Workman – Central Cove Early Learning Center
- Rayleigh Lance – Ashley Elementary
- Linkin Beacham – Davis Elementary
- Knoxville Wagner – Discovery Elementary
- Ruby Murray – Eagle View Elementary
- Seeley Stubbs – Lapoint Elementary
- Blaiklee Deets – Maeser Elementary
- Remi Keddy – Naples Elementary
- Rawley McNaughtan – Uintah Middle School
- Will Haws – Vernal Middle School
- Jamin Gandhi – Uintah High School
- Hayzlyn Wilson – Ashley Valley Education Center

1.06 School Reports

Presenter: Ashley Elementary School – Principal Tawna Baumgardner

Ashley Elementary Principal Tawna Baumgardner presented the school report and highlighted the school's theme for the year, "consistent and intentional," with the reminder that every student and every day matters. Ms. Baumgardner focused on the school's use of Tier One replacement instruction for students significantly below benchmark in reading, explaining that identified students received more explicit, systematic foundational reading instruction through Reading Mastery while remaining connected to grade-level learning and their classroom communities.

Ms. Baumgardner shared that the instructional change led to meaningful reading growth in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. Students at or above benchmark increased from 6% to 38% in kindergarten, from 5% to 45% in first grade, and from 6% to 38% in second grade. She said the school's process is to identify students who need a different instructional approach, provide evidence-based replacement instruction, and monitor progress closely.

Ms. Baumgardner also highlighted efforts to help students feel connected and successful, including attendance recognition, Explorer card drawings, reading celebrations, and Ashley Elementary's first Battle of the Books for third-grade students. In response to board questions, she discussed supports for students with language barriers and noted encouraging beginning-of-year results showing students had retained prior reading gains.

Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford commended Ms. Baumgardner's leadership and the staff's work, noting that Ashley Elementary was seeing strong results with students who had struggled most with Tier One instruction. Dr. Woodford also recognized Ms. Baumgardner's summer reading program, which was connected to the summer lunch program and encouraged students and families to continue reading throughout the summer.

1.07 Patron Input

USBA Associate Director Lexi Cunningham addressed the Board and expressed appreciation for the work taking place in Uintah School District. Ms. Cunningham said she had visited Maeser Elementary earlier in the day for the Champion Reading Program kickoff and was impressed by the excitement around literacy, student participation, and school leadership. She also praised Ashley Elementary's reading results, the Battle of the Books program, and the district's Student of the Month recognition, noting the value of celebrating students for academics, kindness, and positive character.

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

Motion: Member Maynard moved to approve the consent calendar as presented, which includes the August 12, 2026 work session and business meeting minutes, contracts needing board approval, and the monthly board financial update. Member Massey 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. 004.0520 Travel Expense/Reimbursement**
- B. 007.0712 Suicide Prevention**
- C. 010.0025 Conduct on School Premises**
- D. 007.0225 Safe School Conduct and Discipline**

Motion: Vice President McKee moved to approve Policy 004.0520 Travel Expense/Reimbursement, Policy 007.0712 Suicide Prevention, Policy 010.0025 Conduct on School Premises, and Policy 007.0225 Safe School Conduct and Discipline on first 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.

2.03 Policies for Approval on Second Reading

- A. 007.0310 Student and Family Privacy**

Motion: Member Maynard moved to approve the policy on second reading. Member Massey seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 007.0230 Bullying and Hazing**

Motion: Member Maynard moved to approve the policy on second reading. Member Massey seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. 007.0250 Electronic Devices in Public Schools**

Member McClellan stated that she would have preferred the policy to include “bell-to-bell” electronic device restrictions for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. She expressed concern that the policy as presented only applied the restriction through fifth grade and did not include middle school students in grades 6–8, who are typically 11–14 years old. She stated that

she wanted to represent those who shared that concern and did not support the policy as presented.

Motion: Vice President McKee moved to approve the policy on second 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, four to one.

D. 005.0050 Knowledge of Policies and Procedures

Motion: Member McClellan moved to approve the policy on second reading. Member Maynard 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 Approval of Curriculum Materials Review Committee

Motion: Member Maynard moved to approve the Curriculum Materials Review Committee. 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.

2.05 Personnel Changes

Human Resources Director Dr. Mistalyn Leis reviewed the recommended personnel changes and explained that the list included candidates for new hire positions, LEA-specific licenses or endorsements, current employees assigned to new positions, extracurricular coach positions, and individuals leaving the district. Dr. Leis noted that many of the requested LEA-specific licenses were for employees who needed to complete testing or add endorsements for new assignments, and she explained that the district monitors licensure progress closely in coordination with USBE and school administrators.

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

3. Informational / Discussion Items

3.01 Purchases Over \$50,000

None

3.02 Calendar Items

Dr. Woodford directed the Board to the Diligent calendar and reviewed upcoming items, including the new educator recognition event at homecoming, school community council meetings, the September 16 special board meeting for closed session, and the October 7 regular board meeting. He noted that the early October meeting will move preparation and committee meetings earlier than usual and thanked principals for submitting calendar information to help the Board stay informed and involved.

3.03 Superintendent and/or Board President follow-up or clarification on items discussed during the meeting.

Board member comments:

Member Massey commented on the Ashley Elementary report and said he was impressed with the positive changes taking place there, including the school's progress and the support shown by community partners. He thanked district staff, principals, and the community for their support of students and schools.

Member Maynard asked President Chivers to remind those present why the Board's business meetings often move quickly, noting that much of the detailed discussion takes place during work session. She also referenced the work session discussion about culture and said she was willing to support continued work in that area. Member Maynard said she was excited about the district honoring Candice Workman as Distinguished Alumni at the homecoming game.

Member McClellan recognized the district nurses and referenced the district's participation in an NPR *This American Life* feature related to measles and school health work. She specifically thanked Meredith Manwaring, Megan Smith, and Ashley Harrison for the care they provide to students and families and said she appreciated the nonjudgmental way they support student health.

Vice President McKee thanked Ms. Baumgardner for going above and beyond and said she appreciated targeted learning that meets individual student needs. She also noted her excitement about the arts-related hires included in the personnel list and expressed appreciation for the work being done to expand arts opportunities in elementary schools. Vice President McKee also acknowledged Member McClellan's passion and concern regarding social media and student

well-being, stating that while she may differ on the best approach, she respects the concern and care behind the discussion.

Business Administrator Troy Timothy said he appreciated the healthy conversation among Board members and their willingness to discuss concerns and different perspectives on behalf of students and the district. Mr. Timothy also thanked school principals for their support and willingness to learn new processes, recognized Ms. Baumgardner for her school report presentation, and thanked Rodrigo for his work and support during a challenging month of implementation.

Dr. Woodford recognized teachers, instructional coaches, and principals for their work with the district's instructional framework and walkthrough process. He said he had already visited 38 classrooms in six schools early in the school year and was impressed with teachers' commitment to effective instruction, student engagement, feedback, and positive learning environments.

President Chivers clarified that the Board conducts most of its discussion, questions, and detailed review during the work session, which allows the business meeting to move more quickly through formal action items. He then echoed Dr. Woodford's appreciation for teachers, instructional coaches, principals, and district leaders, noting the significant effort that has gone into developing and implementing Uintah School District's instructional framework, walkthrough process, and coaching model. President Chivers expressed pride in the district's unique approach and the strong results being seen across schools and encouraged staff to continue building on that momentum.

4. Adjournment

4.01 Meeting Adjourned

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

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

The motion carried unanimously. The business meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

DATE: **September 9, 2026**
 TO: UINTAH BOARD OF EDUCATION
 FROM: Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Director of Human Resources
 RE: Board Approval Request for **September 9, 2026:** Board Approval of New Hires,
 LEA Specific Licenses/Endorsements, 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
Crystal Reynolds	SpEd Speech Aide	CEC	0.7375	All Required	Program 1215 SpEd Preschool
Tawny Hardy	SpEd Speech Aide	CEC	0.4875	All Required	Program 1215 SpEd Preschool
Gillian Merrell	SpEd Preschool Aide	CEC	0.7375	All Required	Program 0050 Regular Education
Kayloni Raymond	SpEd Speech Aide	CEC	0.7375	All Required	Program 1215 SpEd Preschool
Emily Allred	SpEd Preschool Aide	CEC	0.4875	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Madison Kendall	Intervention Aide	Ashley	0.7375	All Required	Program 7801 ESEA Title 1 Grants
Natalie Hunting	SpEd Aide	Ashley	0.7375	All Required	Program 7524 IDEA B – Disabled
Genny Huber	Intervention Aide	Ashley	0.7375	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands
Keeley Nielson	SpEd Aide	Ashley	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Savannah Archuleta	SpEd Aide	Discovery	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Ashlee Brady	Instructional Aide	Discovery	0.65	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands
Oakley Larsen	Instructional Aide	Discovery	0.65	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands
Elizabeth Severson	Instructional Aide	Discovery	0.65	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands
Stephanie Kearns	SpEd Aide	EVE	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Sarah Barney	SpEd Bus Aide	EVE	0.7375	All Required	Program 7524 IDEA B – Disabled
Jerzie Davis	Intervention Aide	EVE	0.7375	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands

Darlene Stuver	SpEd Aide	EVE	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Richard Bland	Intervention Aide	EVE	0.7375	All Required	Program 7801 ESEA Title 1 LEA Grants
Camie Simper	SpEd Aide	Lapoint	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Madelyn Laris	SpEd Aide	Maeser	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Emilee Cook	SpEd Aide	Maeser	0.7375	All Required	Program 1210 SpEd Self Contained
Kami McLean	Instructional Aide	Maeser	0.575	All Required	Program 5678 TSSA
Michelle White	SpEd Aide	Maeser	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Delsea Johnson	SpEd Aide	Naples	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Devon Slaugh	SpEd Teacher	Naples	1.0	Bachelor of Arts Major: Special Education	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Hailey Cook	Intervention Aide	Naples	0.7375	All Required	Program 7801 ESEA Title 1 LEA Grants
Brodie Trujillo	SpEd Aide	Naples	0.7375	All Required	Program 1205 SpEd Add On
Sarah Feik	Art Teacher	UMS	1.0	Bachelor of Science Major: History – Minor: Sociology	Program 0050 Classroom Teacher Salaries
Summer King	Instructional Aide	UMS	0.7375	All Required	Program 0183 Specialists and Aides
Hailee Cramer	Instructional Aide	UMS	0.7375	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands
Sarah Ward	Instructional Aide	VMS	0.7375	All Required	Program 5678 TSSA
Coryne Allen	Math Aide	UHS	0.7375	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands
Brittany Bergren	SpEd Aide	UHS	0.7375	All Required	Program 7524 IDEA B – Disabled
Kristopher Pedersen	Science Aide	UHS	0.7375	All Required	Program 5420 TrustLands

**BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED FOR LEA SPECIFIC
LICENSE/RENEWAL/ENDORSEMENT PER POLICY 005.0070 USD-LEA Specific**

License/Endorsement:

Name	Assignment	Location	LEA-Specific Request
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Ryan Wall	Grade 4 Teacher	Ashley	LEA-S Renewal
McKenzie Roberts	Grade 1 Teacher	Discovery	LEA-S New
Crystelle Bitton	BTSALP Dance/Music Teacher	Discovery	LEA-S Endorsement
Erin Batty	BTSALP Music Teacher	Ashley/Davis/Lapoint/Maeser/Naples/EVE	LEA-S New
Darby Boren	BTSALP Visual Art Teacher	Ashley/Davis/Lapoint/Maeser/Naples/EVE	LEA-S Endorsement
Amy Lemon	BTSALP Drama Teacher	Ashley/Davis/Lapoint/Maeser/Naples/EVE	LEA-S New
Jahnsen Blackburn	Grade 5 Teacher	Naples	LEA-S Renewal
Brekynn Draper	Grade 5 Teacher	Naples	LEA-S New
Rochelle Browning	CTE FACS Teacher	UMS	LEA-S New
Alisa Cook	Grade 8 Language Arts Teacher	UMS	LEA-S New
Ramsay Taliaferro	PE/Health Teacher	UMS	LEA-S New
Christine Whetton	PE/Health Teacher	UMS	LEA-S Endorsement
Jessica Blunt	Grade 8 Math Teacher	VMS	LEA-S Renewal
Veronica Merrell	Math Teacher	VMS	LEA-S Endorsement
Aspen Mitchell	Math Teacher	VMS	LEA-S Renewal
Brian Ottley	PE and Digital Literacy Teacher	VMS	LEA-S Endorsements
Shannon Uasilaa	Health Teacher	VMS	LEA-S New
Nickole Hansen	History Teacher	UHS	LEA-S Endorsement

NEWLY ASSIGNED EMPLOYEES – BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED:

Name	Former (Current) Assignment	New Assignment	Effective Date
Jordan Robbins	Bus Driver (0.875 FTE) @ Transportation	Bus Driver and Assistant Trainer (0.875 FTE) @ Transportation	8/13/2026
Shari McCoy	Intervention Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Naples	STEM Specialist (0.575 FTE) @ Maeser	8/18/2026
Morgan Ross	SpEd Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ EVE	SpEd Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Maeser	8/18/2026
Anna Weston	ELA Aide (0.7375 FTYE) @ UHS	Grade 6 ELA Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ UMS	8/18/2026
Nancy Araujo Sanchez	Food Service Worker (0.4875 FTE) @ Maeser	DLI Instructional Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ Discovery	8/19/2026
Laura Richens	Food Service Worker (0.60 FTE) @ UMS	Instructional Aide (0.7375 FTE) @ VMS	9/1/2026
Troy Lupcho	SpEd Preschool Aide	SpEd Aide	9/1/2026

	(0.4875 FTE) @ CEC	(0.7375 FTE) @ UHS	
Shannon Uasilaa	PE Specialist (0.7375 FTE) @ EVE	Health Teacher (1.0 FTE) @ VMS	9/8/2026

NEWLY HIRED EXTRACURRICULAR COACHES:

Name	Program	School	Years of Service
Kami Elison	Strength & Conditioning Coach	UHS	\$3,000 per trimester stipend
Tyler Sherman	Boys Wrestling Team Assistant	UHS	\$500-\$1000 stipend