

Approved

Sep 9, 2026

South Sanpete School Board Meeting
39 S Main St
Manti, UT 84642

Open Meeting Start Time	3:30 PM
Open Meeting End Time	5:11 PM
Closed Meeting Start Time	5:12 PM
Closed Meeting End Time	6:13 PM
Meeting Adjourned	6:14 PM

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Board President Connor Thompson.

Reverence: Loni Hammond

Patriotic Tribute: President Thompson led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Connor Thompson, David Warren, Loni Hammond, Coleen Ogden, Mark Olson

Others Present: Ralph Squire, Trevor Powell, Jake Hill, Leslie Taysom, Craig Ogden, Tim Miller, Fawn Miller, Bryce Warby, John Gillett, Karen Soper, Austin Crapo, David Ipson, Gannon Jones

RECOGNITION & ACHIEVEMENT

Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher—Assistant Superintendent Trevor Powell recognized Kyle Merchant of Gunnison Valley Middle School as Utah’s Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher, an honor presented by the Utah Science Teaching Association. Board members commended Mr. Merchant for his hard work, dedication, and commitment to his students.

CITIZEN DIALOGUE

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes—The Minutes of the August 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were presented for approval. After the discussion, Coleen Ogden moved to approve the minutes as written. Mark Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Warrants—Warrants #00036061 - #00036280 for \$3,310,397.64 were presented for approval. After the discussion, Mark Olson moved to approve the warrants as presented. Loni Hammond seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Budget Report—Business Administrator Jake Hill presented the Monthly Budget Report, including a year-to-date summary of total revenues and expenditures. Business Administrator Hill noted that the auditing consultant is currently preparing for the auditors’ on-site visit scheduled for mid-September.

After the discussion, David Warren moved to approve the budget report as presented. Coleen Ogden seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Olson—Board Member Mark Olson toured the MES renovations and gathered feedback from faculty and staff. He noted that staff expressed appreciation for the improvements and the positive impact the renovations have had on the building.

David Warren—Board Member David Warren noted that UHSAA is currently working on re-alignment and has invited rural Superintendents and Athletic Directors to provide input on how the re-alignment should be structured.

REPORTS

School Reports

- ***Manti High School***—Principal Karen Soper provided an update on MHS and introduced Assistant Principal Austin Crapo, who shared his approach to education and building positive connections with students. Principal Soper expressed appreciation for the recent stadium, gym, and restroom renovations. She also highlighted the school's goal of becoming 1% Better, noting that teachers were provided with a pamphlet focused on opportunities to connect, grow, celebrate, and reflect.
- ***Manti Elementary School***—Principal David Ipson provided an update on MES, expressing appreciation for the recent kindergarten and office renovations and welcoming new staff, including SLP, full-time Administrative Assistant, and a new part-time school counselor. He highlighted the school's dedicated staff and focus on the district's vision of "preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges and opportunities," with an emphasis on knowledge, character, and confidence. He also discussed individualized reading intervention plans and the continued implementation of the Leader in Me program.
- ***Ephraim Middle School***—Principal John Gillett provided an update on the school's "Team Up for Success" initiative. He noted that enrollment is slightly down this year, with no new teachers but several staff changes, including a new Tech Site Specialist, Lunch Manager, and Custodian. He expressed appreciation for the GEAR UP program and shared positive results from the PASS Survey, which was overall green, as well as encouraging RISE test scores. The school hopes to build on this momentum and is conducting a faculty book study on *Be 1% Better*. He also noted that the school continues to offer an after-school program with a dedicated after-school teacher, as well as AmeriCorps tutoring. A new honors math class has been added for sixth grade, and the school is implementing a new structure for its reading program.
- ***Ephraim Elementary School***—Principal Gannon Jones provided an update on EES, highlighting the school's focus on reading and supporting teachers and students with Individualized Reading Plans. He noted that all teachers have been trained in LETRS and that the school's reading programs are aligned with the science of reading. He also emphasized the importance of building positive relationships with students. Principal Jones expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hire Kristen Weller as a new teacher, as well as for the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts program, character development and music instruction, and the recent building addition.

Audit Committee Report—Business Administrator Jake Hill presented a report on the Audit Committee, which included a review of the District's budget and audit processes. He also explained

what Board members can expect during the upcoming external audit and noted that their input and participation will be requested as part of the process.

INFORMATION

Risk Management Information—Business Administrator Jake Hill presented information from Utah Risk Management, which outlined the new E-Bike law.

Estimated Student Enrollment Count—Superintendent Ralph Squire presented the enrollment estimate for the school year. All schools reported a slight decrease in enrollment, with an anticipated 1-2 percent total decrease in total enrollment.

Fall Coaching List—Superintendent Ralph Squire presented the list of coaches for Fall Sports and Activities.

ACTION ITEMS

Graduation Date—Superintendent Ralph Squire presented information regarding UDOT parade permit requirements, noting that UDOT will not issue parade permits for the Friday before Memorial Day. As a result, he proposed moving graduation parades from Friday to Thursday.

After discussion Board Member David Warren made a motion that, if graduation parades are held at both high schools, they be held on Thursday. Coleen Ogden seconded the motion.

150 Mile/Overnight Requests—Superintendent Ralph Squire presented the following 150 Mile/Overnight Travel request:

School	Sport/Program	Date(s)	Destination	Reason	Travel
MHS	Orchestra	10/23-10/24	Utah Tech	Performance	Bus

After discussion, Loni Hammond moved to approve the 150 Mile/Overnight Requests as presented. Mark Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

TSSA Plan Approval—Superintendent Ralph Squire presented each school's TSSA plans for approval.

After discussion, Mark Olson motioned to approve all school TSSA Plans as presented. Loni Hammond seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Custodial/Maintenance Vehicle Purchase—Business Administrator Jake Hill presented a proposal to purchase a used custodial/maintenance vehicle.

After discussion, David Warren motioned to approve the purchase of a used vehicle for use by the custodial/maintenance department. Loni seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

APEX Fee Proposal KMA—Business Administrator Jake Hill presented a proposal from KMA Architects requesting an increase in architectural fees due to revised square footage estimates for both APEX Centers.

After discussion, Mark Olson motioned to approve the fee increase for KMA Architects for the APEX Center services. David Warren seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

APEX Contractor Classification—Business Administrator Jake Hill presented the results of the APEX Contractor RFP for a Construction Manager/General Contractor. The District received eight proposals, which were evaluated by a committee of five reviewers. He noted that the proposals were highly competitive, and the committee recommended Westland as the selected contractor.

After discussion, Mark Olson motioned to approve the recommendation to approve Westland as the Construction Manager General Contractor for the APEX Centers. David Warren seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Policy IKF Elementary and Secondary Curriculum, Access, and Graduation Requirements – Trevor Powell presented Policy IKF with noted revisions.

After discussion, David Warren moved to approve Policy IKF as presented. Coleen Ogden seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Policy DCBC ACH Fraud Prevention & Risk Management—Business Administrator Jake Hill presented a new Policy DCBC.

After discussion, Coleen Ogden moved to approve Policy DCBC as presented. Loni Hammond seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Policy GBQ Retirement Benefits & Policy GBQ-1 Early Retirement Assistance Contract –Business presented Policy GBQ (which combines GBQ and GBR) and GBQ-1 with noted revisions.

After discussion, Coleen Ogden moved to approve Policy GBQ and GBQ-1 as presented. David Warren seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Policy GBCB Professional Employment Benefits—Business Administrator Jake Hill presented Policy GBCB with noted revisions.

After discussion, David Warren moved to approve Policy GBCB as presented. Mark Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Policy JH Safe Schools—Superintendent Ralph Squire presented Policy JH with noted revisions.

After discussion, David Warren moved to approve Policy JH as presented. Loni Hammond seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Motion for Closed Meeting—Mark Olson moved to adjourn into Closed Session at 5:11 PM to discuss items outlined in Utah Code, Section 52-4-5. The items were: the character and professional competence of several employees. Coleen Ogden seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the following Board Members voted in favor: Connor Thompson, Coleen Ogden, Mark Olson, Loni Hammond, and David Warren. Motion passed.

The following items were discussed in Closed Session: the character and professional competence of employees. Mark Olson moved to adjourn from Closed Session at 6:13 PM. David Warren seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the following Board Members voted aye: Connor Thompson, Coleen Ogden, David Warren, Loni Hammond, and Mark Olson. Motion passed.

Hire Recommendations—Mark Olson moved to approve the following individuals for employment.

1. New Teacher Recommendations

- a. None

2. Instructional Assistant Recommendations

a. Aubrey Mellor	SPED	EES
b. Kaylee Parry	Title 1	EES
c. Wayde Smith	Trustlands	EES
d. Megan Clark	Title 1	EES
e. Kiley Monsen	SPED	EES
f. Amanda Noblett	SPED	EES
g. Sydney Cox	SPED	EES
h. Kailee Schiffman	Title 1	EES
i. Kenyen Ward	Early Literacy	GVES
j. Lily Young	SPED	GVES
k. Yuliana Gutierrez Guerrero	Trustlands/AmeriCorp	GVES
l. Kaitlyn Hyatt	At Risk	GVES
m. Chelaynie Anderson	At Risk	GVES
n. Ellie Sylvester	Trustlands	GVES
o. Mason Hansen	Title 1/AmeriCorp	GVES
p. Sage Belnap	SPED	GVES
q. Elizabeth Bogh	SPED/Trustlands	GVES
r. Stephanie Black	Early Literacy	MES
s. Mariah Cherry	SPED	MES
t. Tenley Wanner	AmeriCorps	MES
u. Patricia Hyde	Title 1	MES
v. Megan Carmody	Title 1	MES
w. Chantelle Shearer	At Risk	MES
x. Fara Boothe	At Risk	MES
y. Cassidy Salazar	Title 1	MES
z. Tiffany Topham	SPED	GVMS
aa. Marcus Wilde	TSSA/Americorp	EMS
bb. Hadlie Rust	TSSA/Americorp	EMS
cc. Pearson Judy	TSSA/Americorp	EMS
dd. Sara Kotter	Title 1	EES
ee. Crystal Krebs	SPED	MHS
ff. Melanie Woodruff	SPED	GVMS
gg. Abby Bishop	SPED	MES

3. Transfer Recommendations

- a. None

4. Other Hire Recommendations

a. Anthony Steinfeldt	Substitute Bus Driver	D.O.
b. Katie Goble	Counselor	MES/EES
c. Jaymison Nielsen	Student Custodian	EES
d. Kylie Jorgensen	Administrative Assistant	SSC
e. Wendilyn Childs	Librarian	MES
f. Aydrie Clark	Student Custodian	EES
g. Tevon Vakautakakala	Student Custodian	MHS
h. Emily Taukeiaho	Student Custodian	MHS
i. Braxton Henningson	Student Custodian	MHS
j. Adelyn Henrie	Student Custodian	GVES
k. Cloie Nay	Student Custodian	GVES
l. Clayton Lister	Student Custodian	GVES
m. Megan Clark	STEM Program Assistant	EES
n. Maximus Mower	Student Custodian	GVHS
o. Arley Jay Roberts	Student Custodian	GVHS
p. Seth Johnson	Library Media/IVC Specialist	GVHS
q. Tyler Williams Gunnison	Fulltime Custodian	

5. Resignations/Retirement

- a. None

David Warren seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Adjourn

David Warren moved to adjourn the South Sanpete School Board Meeting. Loni Hammond seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on October 14, 2026, at 3:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.

President

Business Administrator