SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2026

Board Meeting

The Murray City School Board met in a board meeting on September 17, 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. She shared a message about the importance of the work done in public schools, one of the few places left where an entire community comes together, regardless of parents' employment status, home/living situation, disabilities, etc.

Board Study Items

Food Services Nutrislice Allergen Chart - Gwen Haycock, Sodexo Nutrition Program Supervisor, demonstrated the abilities of the Nutrislice software – it allows parents and students to filter food choices and show the options that would be an issue with certain allergies and provides nutrition information about each meal option.

Sex Education Committee Recommended Instructional Materials – Bruce Eschler, Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning, presented proposed Sex Education Instructional Materials that will comply with state requirements. It relies on the Success Sequence Framework where students are taught the value of education, employment, and family formation. 7th grade provides an introduction and 10th grade some deeper application of the framework. The instructional materials will be presented as a first reading in regular board meeting in October.

Gifted & Talented – Becky Te'o, Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning, presented information on the Elementary Gifted & Talented program. Students serviced in the program have increased from 40 in 2024-25 to 205 in 2026-27. Several proactive support measures have been put in place to help better serve students, including teacher-initiated coaching, strategic focus on 3rd grade classrooms, and professional learning for all teachers.

Attendance – Darren Dean, Director of Human Resources, presented a summary of attendance improvement surveys recently conducted. The data reveals a complex landscape where medical necessity, parental values, and logistical barriers intersect. A key takeaway discussed is the importance of emphasizing and encouraging live in-person instruction and making sure instruction encourages students to attend.

Open Meeting & Finance Training – Superintendent Covington provided board members with resources for the required board trainings for open meeting law, school finance, school community councils, and internal audit. A voice vote will be taken in the October regular board meeting to confirm each board member has completed the training.

Public Hearing Planning – Superintendent Covington presented a draft outline for the public hearing to be held on October 1, 2026 regarding the potential closure of Liberty Elementary. Discussion occurred with Shana Ichimura, Liberty Elementary, regarding the best way to provide information to parents and ensure they understand the purposes of the scheduled hearing. Information will be compiled and shared in conjunction with fall parent teacher conferences at the school. In addition to the October 1 hearing, patrons will have opportunity to provide public comment at the October 15 and November 12 regular board meetings.