

**Uintah School District**  
**Vernal, Utah**

These are the minutes from **April 5, 2023, Work Session** of the Uintah School District Board of Education. The meeting was held at the **Vernal Middle School Auditorium** located at 721 West 100 South, Vernal, UT 84078. The meeting began at **3:00 p.m.**

**Audio Recording:** <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/963667.mp3>

**Board Members Present:** President Dave Chivers, Vice President Tawnya McKee, Robin McClellan, Denise Maynard, and Todd Massey.

**Others Present:** Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford, Business Administrator Jason Johnson, and others.

**Quorum Present (3):** Yes

**1. INTRODUCTION/OPENING**

**A. Welcome/Called to Order: Board President Dave Chivers - Audio Time Stamp (1:15)**

President Chivers requested board approval to allow public content from the UHS Girls Lacrosse team during the work session under section 3, item D "Girls' Lacrosse". The lacrosse team requested to address the board prior to their game scheduled for later in the evening. The board agreed to allow the team members to speak in front of the board.

**B. Reverence:** Todd Massey, Board Member

**C. LEADERSHIP GOVERNANCE – Dr. Rick Woodford, Superintendent - Audio Time Stamp (3:08)**

**1. Open Meetings Act Training – Paul Van Comen, Patrick Tanner**

Jason Johnson explained this open meeting training is conducted annually. Patrick Tanner represents legal counsel for the district, and he provided the USD School Board virtually with basic compliance training on the Utah Open and Public Meeting Act.

**2. Committee Reports - Audio Time Stamp (24:29)**

President Chivers gave an update on the Facilities Committee and mentioned that the AG Building project will resume once the winter season is complete. President Chivers reported the board will be reviewing the request for proposal submitted by the selected CMGC for the new Cove Preschool project during the work session. The board will also be reviewing the lease agreement with Utah State University for the preschool. Tawnya McKee reported the Facilities Committee has also been working on a 20-year plan for capital projects. President Chivers explained that the Town Hall meetings were a success, VCBO presented during the meetings and the community provided feedback and engaged in discussions on the preschool initiative. Todd Massey provided an update on the Finance Committee, outlining that the committee is currently working on the budget, negotiations, contracts for teachers, and legislative funding challenges. Jason Johnson noted that the Finance Committee will be meeting a few more times before the Budget Hearing, and Superintendent Woodford will be attending those meetings. Tawnya McKee asked the board to provide constructive criticism on Board Policy 002.0450, which will be discussed at this meeting. Robin McClellan reported Uintah Schools Foundation will be holding the Annual "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader" event on April 6, 2023, at the district office. Robin will be attending the U.S.B.A. Board of

Directors meeting and requested the Board provide any questions for her to take to the meeting. UBTech will be opening its inclusions centers at both locations and its graduation ceremony is scheduled on May 3, 2023. Denise Maynard was not able to attend the recent Risk Management Committee meeting and requested Jason Johnson provide the report. Jason reported the committee recently contributed to the purchase of safes for the use of School Resource Officers at two school locations within the district. The committee continues to help resolve any district-wide safety issues.

**3. Policy 002.0600 Statutes and State Rules and Regulations - Dr. Rick Woodford, Superintendent - Audio Time Stamp (39:41)**

Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford presented Policy 002.0600 for the board to review and recommended to carry this policy forward without any modifications. Todd Massey objected to the policy and stated that, because state rules and regulations don't necessarily apply to our community, he doesn't always agree with them. Superintendent Woodford emphasized that the district is obligated to operate by state laws and guidelines in order to secure funding from the state. Superintendent Woodford asked the board to give direction and decide whether the policy should be kept as written or undergo review by the Executive Committee and the Policy Committee. After discussion, the board voted to maintain the policy in its current form.

**2. POLICY REVISIONS Audio Time Stamp (55:26)**

**A. Policies for Review on First Reading**

**1. Policy 004.0225 Maintenance of Effort – Jason Johnson, Business Administrator**

Jason Johnson explained after a Title I audit this year the district was requested to implement a policy that states the maintenance of effort. The district is already held to this regulation when we participate in Title I and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). Jason explained with the implementation of this policy, the district is now in conformity with State and Federal Grants.

**2. Policy 002.0450 Adoption and Change of Policy – Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Human Resources Director - Audio Time Stamp (58:21)**

Dr. Mistalyn Leis explained this is a board policy and governs the responsibilities of policy adoption and policy changes. The approval of the modifications made to Policy 002.0450 will allow the elimination of Policy 002.0453 Adoption and Change of Uintah School District Policy. Dr. Leis outlined how specific language in the two policies was contradictory in addition to being repetitive. The Policy Committee recommended eliminating Policy 002.0453 and going with this policy that is more succinct. The proposed policy change will require the addition of a high school teacher to serve on the Policy Committee. Tawnya McKee suggested including language stating that the school board should vote with a majority in order to adopt a policy. Tawnya explained that since the board has the sole discretion to approve board policy, she would like this policy to state that the board "may use" a committee but is not required to do so. Superintendent Woodford noted the shift from board-driven policy to district-driven policy. Superintendent Woodford stated the Policy Committee is a board-driven committee that includes two board members. Robin McClellan feels the board members serving on the committee should not dictate or prescribe. Rather, the two board members participating on the committee should be able to bring recommendations back to the board, and each committee member should have an equal voice. Robin then referred to Policy 002.60100, Board Legal Status: Power and Duties, Section 14.0 Soliciting Input on Policies from

Employees. The board had a robust discussion on the policy and provided feedback to take back to the Policy Committee. Dr. Mistalyn Leis reminded the board that the policy will be sent out district-wide before the second reading. Anyone who would like to provide feedback can contact any Policy Committee member. Dr. Leis also recommended everyone review Policy 002.0453, which is being eliminated with the approval of this policy.

**B. Policies for Review on Second Reading- Audio Time Stamp (1:12:56)**

**1. Policy 005.0650 Holiday - Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Human Resources Director**

Dr. Mistalyn Leis explained Utah Legislature approved a bill to make Juneteenth National Freedom Day a state holiday. The Juneteenth holiday has been added to this policy to comply with the legislation. This policy will impact 85 employees who are on 220-day and 250-day contracts. Dr. Leis noted the policy being presented is reflective of the majority of the committee's recommendation which was to add Juneteenth as a paid holiday. Jason Johnson indicated there would be a productivity impact on the district by adding the holiday. Dr. Leis investigated other school districts and found that adding Juneteenth was a common practice. Todd Massey requested clarification on which holidays are paid by the district. Jason Johnson explained an average of five holidays are considered paid by the district yearly, all the other holidays are off-contract. Juneteenth would be considered a paid holiday if simply added to the policy. Dr. Leis noted that regardless of whether we add the holiday or trade it for a non-holiday, we must include Juneteenth in the policy. Robin McClellan and Tawnya McKee provided feedback from the Policy Committee members and ad hoc members. Todd Massey feels adding the day as a paid holiday may be excessive, as year-round employees are already provided PTO and annual leave. Todd then questioned why we observe certain holidays. Dr. Leis explained the district observes holidays observed by the federal and state government. President Chivers provided his thoughts on the policy and stated he would not vote on the policy as it is now written. Superintendent Woodford recommended the board adopt a working policy at tonight's meeting because the district must observe Juneteenth to comply with state law. The board will vote on the policy during the Business Meeting.

**2. Policy 007.0210 Graduation Attire Modifications – Dr. Dean Wilson, Student Services Director - Audio Time Stamp (1:29:14)**

Dr. Dean Wilson presented the modifications made to the first reading based on legislative action. Dean clarified that this policy has been expanded to be more inclusive and ensure that any student is allowed to represent items of religious or cultural significance. The policy also ensures that an enrolled member of a tribe, or a student who is eligible to be enrolled as a member of a tribe, be allowed to represent their tribal community by wearing tribal regalia during a graduation ceremony. Robin McClellan noted this policy will need to be revisited to add definitions that came out of the legislation.

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS REQUIRING FUTURE BOARD ACTION - Audio Time Stamp (1:33:06)**

**A. Minutes (March 8, 2023, Work Session; March 8, 2023, Impact Aid Meeting; March 8, 2023, Business Meeting; and March 13, 2023, Special Business Meeting)**

**Jason Johnson, Business Administrator**

Jason asked if there were any recommended changes to the meeting minutes presented for approval. Jason noted that the minutes have been updated to reflect any of the changes that the board requested prior to this meeting. A reminder the minutes are not written verbatim. Those interested can review the entire meeting by listening to the audio recordings posted on the Public Meeting Notice Website. <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>

There were no requested changes to the Board Meeting Minutes.

**B. Purchases Over \$50,000 and/or Contracts Needing Board Approval**

**Jason Johnson, Business Administrator - Audio Time Stamp (1:34:49)**

**1. Verkada Presentation**

Dr. Dean Wilson, Student Services Director, explained a risk assessment of each school site was conducted by local law enforcement after which security solutions were prioritized and presented for funding. Dr. Wilson is requesting board approval to fund district-wide enhancements to school safety including real-time security cameras and access controls. Dean noted that Verkada is on state contract, and they have offered a very aggressive discount to the district. Kirk Bostick, VP of Operations for Spectra, presented to the board a proposal for the Verkada security cameras and access controls. Mr. Bostick reviewed the procurement process and explained the cost breakdown for each school location. This would be a five-year agreement and the school district would be responsible for the installation with assistance from Spectra. Anthony Magliocchino, a representative from Verkada also presented to the board providing the capabilities of the cameras and software. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and address concerns.

**Patron Input – Audio Time Stamp (2:04:38)** Since the meeting discussion was running long and the girls' lacrosse game is starting soon, the board requested a break in the discussion for patron input on Item D. Girls' Lacrosse.

- **Audio Time Stamp (2:05:55)** Eliza Hallenberger, UHS Girls' Lacrosse team member, and UHS student, addressed the board and requested the consideration to approve sanctioning Girls' Lacrosse.
- **Audio Time Stamp (2:07:51)** Elizabeth Richards, UHS Girls' Lacrosse team member, and UHS student, also addressed the board and requested the consideration to approve sanctioning Girls' Lacrosse.

**Audio Time Stamp (2:09:43)** Resumed the review of Purchases Over \$50,000 and/or Contracts Needing Board Approval

**Audio Time Stamp (2:10:21)** Verkada and Spectra representatives resumed the question-and-answer section of their proposal. The board members had multiple questions regarding the installment, maintenance, warranty, accessibility, and capability of the security system. Jason Johnson confirmed the district has funding available for this project in this budget year. Mr. Bostick stated the material is available to ship and the project can begin immediately.

**2. Approval of CM/GC for Central Cove Preschool Project - Audio Time Stamp (2:32:41)**

Jason Johnson requested the board approve the RFP to Stout Building Contractors, LLC who will perform the responsibilities of General Contractor/Construction Manager for the new build of Central Cove Preschool. Each RFP submitted for the project was reviewed and scored by a Selection Committee. Jason explained the RFP's selection procedure, which is governed by Utah State Procurement Code 63G-6a-7 and Utah Procurement

Rules R33-7. Jason noted with approval of the RFP, the board will need to approve the drafted contract with Stout Building Contractors, LLC.

**3. USU Lease Agreement - Audio Time Stamp (2:39:15)**

Jason Johnson presented the USU land lease agreement for the new Cove Preschool site. Jason highlighted this is a 40-year contract with a 10-year renewal period as long as the district desires. The annual rent for the land is \$22,500 which will offset the annual rent for the utilization of office space, signage, and capital expenditures. There will be no exchange of cash between Uintah School District and Utah State University. The Uintah School District is expected to construct the facility and maintain the facility for the duration of the term and the extension. Uintah School District will be responsible for utility costs. The lease agreement is still pending review from USBE/DFCM.

**4. Approval of NUUVE Contract (Electric Bus Infrastructure) - Audio Time Stamp (2:47:33)**

Jason Johnson reported the Transportation Department will be purchasing chargers for our electric school buses as part of the overall charging stations that will follow. This vendor is on State Contract. Funding for this purchase will come from the 2022 EPA Clean School Bus Rebate and also from the Utah Department of Air Quality. The total cost is \$251,966.76.

**5. School Resource Officer Contract - Audio Time Stamp (2:49:25)**

Jason requested the board to approve the Pro-Rated costs associated with having three SROs for part of the year. The additional Pro Rated cost of an additional SRO from Vernal City, in the amount of \$74,625.

**C. Full Day Kindergarten Preliminary Implementation Plan – Dr. Rick Woodford, Superintendent - Audio Time Stamp (2:52:37)**

Superintendent Dr. Rick Woodford presented a Full-Day Kindergarten Plan and explained House Bill 477 provides funding through the WPU to support full-day kindergarten. The new house bill states that if a district implements a full-day kindergarten option, it must also offer a half-day kindergarten option. We are anticipating that more than 80% of our students will participate in the full-day option. The district will initially spend more than what will be received from the WPU to cover the decreased student-to-teacher ratio in the afternoons during the first year of implementation. As more families opt into the full-day option, the ratio will increase in the afternoon, which will increase the WPU funding and decrease the unfunded amount to implement this model. There will be transportation for both full-day and half-day options. Superintendent Woodford explained they will be sending out a survey to parents to capture interest in the full-day option once the plan has been approved. Cris Labrum, Davis Elementary School, reported that kindergarten teachers in her school are in favor of full-time. Denise Maynard expressed her excitement to implement this plan and stated this is a win for the district. Tawnya McKee requested that as a district, we respect families and their choices and refrain from promoting full-day kindergarten in an effort to obtain additional WPU funding from the state.

**D. Girls' Lacrosse – Christy Nerdin, UHS Principal - Audio Time Stamp (3:03:58)**

Christy Nerdin, Uintah High School Principal, explained Uintah High School is seeking approval for the sanctioning of Girls' Lacrosse for UHSAA status. The club will need to secure funds to run the program which will need to be approved by the board. Todd Massey asked if the district would be adhering to Title 9 if UHS sanctioned the activity. Principal Nerdin confirmed they will align with Title 9. Tawnya McKee asked how this new sport will be budgeted. Jason Johnson explained if the

board approves to sanction the sport, they will add the expenses associated with the sport to the budget. Robin McClellan noted we may need to amend the fee schedule if costs are added.

**4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS Audio Time Stamp (3:08:51)**

**A. Aspire Testing Incentive UHS – Christy Nerdin, UHS Principal**

Principal Nerdin notified the board that Uintah High School will be giving the Aspire Plus Test to all ninth and tenth-grade students at the end of April. This exam will assess reading, writing, math, and science skills in a manner similar to the ACT. The Aspire Plus test is a hybrid assessment with ACT and Utah Core test items. Teachers will be using the score to benefit the students by offering an incentive. Principal Nerdin provided a handout with the incentive breakdown. A teacher may use a student's score to improve the student's academic grade or to demonstrate the student's competency within a relevant course. Principal Nerdin noted that providing students with an incentive does comply with the Utah state code. UHS teachers would like to offer students an incentive for doing well on the test. Principal Nerdin then provided a breakdown of how the students' grades will change if they score well on the test.

**B. School Reports – Maeser Elementary, Denise Williams - Audio Time Stamp (3:17:33)**

[https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/uintah/Board.nsf/files/CQNKDE515984/\\$file/Maeser%20School%20Report%20April%20Board%20Meeting.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/uintah/Board.nsf/files/CQNKDE515984/$file/Maeser%20School%20Report%20April%20Board%20Meeting.pdf)

Principal Denise Williams provided a school report to the Board of Maeser Elementary School. Denise reviewed the PBIS Framework for screening and diagnostic assessments. Principal Williams explained they are currently using the STOIC framework which includes structure for success, teaching expectations, observing and collecting data, interacting positively, and correcting fluency. Principal Williams then highlighted the varied ways they are putting this concept into practice for each item.

**5. ADJOURNMENT Audio Time Stamp (3:23:21)**

***Motion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Todd Massey seconded by Denise Maynard. Motion Carried (5:0)***

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:24 p.m.