

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
October 1, 2025

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Study Session in the Board Room at 5320 Adams Avenue, Ogden, Utah. The meeting convened at 5:04 p.m. The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Paul Widdison	Board President
Doug Hurst	Board Vice President
Janis Christensen	Board Member
Bruce Jardine	Board Member
Jan Burrell	Board Member
Kelly Larson	Board Member
Wyle Williams	Board Member
Gina Butters	Superintendent
Clyde Moore	Assistant Superintendent
Dave Hales	Assistant Superintendent
Brock Mitchell	Business Administrator

Board President Paul Widdison welcomed everyone and turned the time over to Board Member Janis Christensen. She began by reminding Board Members to complete the Master Board Training. Also, the JLC (Joint Legislative Committee) have decided on the following legislative priorities for 2026:

- Organize an education working group to come up with solutions.
- Provide a 2% increase in the WPU and prioritize special education students.
- Fulfill prior commitment for at risk students to provide resources.
- Help create reliable resources to provide culture of student attendance.
- Plan for economic stabilization account to allow 85% to go to LEA's.
- Collaborate on long term education framework.

Board Member Christensen noted she recently attended the USBA Leadership Academy in Bryce Canyon and had the opportunity to meet with new State Superintendent Molly Hart. A presentation was shared on software for data gateway and how to use it to collect information. This will help us see how proficient students are and how they have progressed. A handout was shared on the best practices compiled by the Legislative Auditor General. An examination on AI and the implementation was presented by Matthew Winters from USBA and how to use AI safely. Highly effective and cohesive Boards was explained and was noted we can all improve. School Board Member evaluations may be available soon.

President Widdison explained we met recently with Farr West City and they also presented in the last Board Meeting. It was noted the Board has decided not to participate in the proposed CRA with Farr West City. Board Member Bruce Jardine mentioned a major factor in the decision not to participate was the the CRA included a lot of high residential housing and is not

part of our policy and guidelines. Updated CRA guidelines were provided in each Board Members packet.

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell has provided a handout for each Board Member on the history of the district's CRA participation. A breakdown was provided on what has been collected back to 2017.

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell presented on MSP (Minimum School Program) Board Training and a comparison on a final update and legislative updates. Final updates come out in July and legislative updates in April. Comparison of FY25 & FY26 student counts and programs driven by the WPU values were explained. It was noted professional staff is not on FY26 due to a legislative change. Legislative changes on fees will be phased to \$0. Board Member Larson asked about funding for CTSO's. It was noted by CTE Director Rod Belnap the CTSO funding was removed last year and recently learned the State will possibly eliminate paying for individuals to run DECA, FBLA, and FFA programs. He concluded that we have never had as many students involved in CTSO's as we do this year.

Superintendent Butters explained on the agenda there is a list of the positive happenings going on in the district. She highlighted yesterday, the Curriculum Department promoted the livestream reading of the constitution. Another event regarding 9/11 took place at Weber Innovation High School where students and staff paid tribute to the heroes of 9/11 by climbing 2,200 steps. This was equivalent to the number of stairs in the World Trade Center. Bates Elementary held a First Responders Community Night to thank them for their help with the recent fire in North Ogden City. The Unified Soccer Tournament was held at Bonneville High School last Thursday. It was an Olympic style venue that was special to watch as the students competed and all the staff showed support. Weber School Foundation and the Special Education Department sponsored this event.

CTE Director Dr. Rod Belnap shared with the Board the progress on the Catalyst Center and noted HB477 *Statewide Catalyst Campus Model* is monies that have been allocated through a competitive grant. Districts can apply and Weber district has already received \$5 million from an IHC grant. The grant replicates professional environments and workplace practices.

- Partners with local industry, businesses and community organization for student projects
- Aligned with high demand pathways
- Uses industry standard tools
- Student activities and projects that build skills
- Facilitates mentorship from industry professionals
- Addresses gaps in the work force

Types of grants that qualify: Enhance CTE offerings, expand a Catalyst Center, and finally create a Catalyst Center. We would come up with a name for our district. Elevate 28 states, preparing future ready learners. The Catalyst grant is for \$65 million with many districts applying. Timeline for the grant application: Application will be available on October 15th, submit on November 21st, within a month we will be notified if we will receive the money, and the money would be available on January 5th.

Areas in demand include:

- Health Sciences

- Audio Visual
- Computer Science/Cyber/AI
- Culinary
- Engineering
- Aviation
- Entrepreneurship
- Construction
- Agriculture/Veterinary

In conclusion it was noted durable skills that are needed in all career pathways include collaboration, problem solving, adaptability, teamwork communication, and leadership.

Board Member Wyle Williams asked if the grant is a onetime payout. It was noted it is ongoing, but we would need to apply each year for the \$65 million. Board Member Kelly Larson shared she likes that the district is being proactive and gave a shoutout to those working on the advisory boards. It was noted the programs are working together with OWTC and Weber State University. Board Member Bruce Jardine asked about the estimates on what it will take to put the Catalyst Center together. It was noted we are going to ask for at least \$15 million and hope to pair it with the \$5 million grant already received from IHC.

Facilities Director Larry Hadley explained to the Board that on the consent calendar tonight they followed the RFP process to select an architect and contractor for the Catalyst Center. They have also organized an exploratory committee. VCBO Architecture has been selected as the architect and Hogan Construction as the contractor.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder updated the Board on policies for the consent calendar. Article 2 has many policies that have been incorporated into other policies, so they have been repealed. Policy 1100 *Board Legal Status, Powers, Duties and Responsibilities* has statutory updates only.

2nd Readings:

Policy 4200 *School Fee and Waiver* had no further changes after updates were made due to legislative updates and include a fine for disposal of hazardous waste, such as e-cigarettes.

Policy 4500 *Extracurricular Activities* has had no further feedback. Includes that 9th graders participating in high school activities are not excused from class if they have to go to a high school for a specific athletic class.

1st Readings:

Policy 2240 *Facilities Use* was updated to include a fee table that is attached to the policy, various organizations and how to categorize rentals updated.

Policy 7250 *Private but Public Education-Related Activities* governs employees who have private employment that services our students. Example, a piano teacher or coach for clinics. Make sure there is not a conflict of interest. This is a duplicate from the State Board of Education, but have added a requirement for employees that do have a private business, sign an acknowledgement form.

Policy 8310 *Appropriate Use for Employees* and Policy 8320 *Student Appropriate Use* was explained it has been years since there has been updates to both of these policies. It was necessary to gather all forms on the website, combine and update with current technology. Also, updated provisions guided by our Tech Department.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.