

DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

February 5, 2026

District Office 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah

OFFICERS: President Brandon Bench presided with Board Members Emilee Wells, Mark Thacker, and Don Busenbark present, as well as Superintendent Jason Young and Business Administrator Dee E. Miles. Board Member Tony Smith was excused.

VISITORS:

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|-----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Mike Ross | Cliff Murray | Madeline Wells | Austin Richins | Denim Lister |
| Kendra Embleton | Jamie Lemon | Samantha Duque | Grayson Wheeler | Tyler Powell |
| Michael Weldon | Samantha Suter | Amanda Duque | Decker | Jalene Harding |
| Jenn Tuckett | Cambry Winn | Dario Duque | Layland Houser | Teresa Page |
| Jim Freston | Maelee Freston | Rod Olson | Raquel Young | Amanda Micure |
| Jolana Freston | Sadie Cifuentes | Jack Kleckner | Briane Rowley | Tara Winn |
| John Richens | Bella Wells | Riley Micure | Madelyn Campbell | Alexis Miere |
| Richard Guffey | Oli Cook | Toby Cook | Nathan Baker | Ann Marie Powell |
| Lindsay Guffey | Jocelyne Jenkins | Heather Cook | April Bird | Cynthia Oleen |

President Bench called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Thacker moved and Mr. Busenbark seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel and procurement at 4:01 p.m.; aye votes: Mr. Bench, Mr. Busenbark, Ms. Wells, Mr. Thacker. Nay votes: none. Motion passed. Mr. Thacker moved and Mr. Busenbark seconded that the Board go out of executive session at 4:45 p.m.; passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION: The Board discussed proposed legislation from the current session.

REGULAR SESSION: President Bench called the regular session to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Busenbark offered prayer.

MINUTES: Ms. Wells moved and Mr. Busenbark seconded to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held January 6, 2026; voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Audio recording is available at: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1388553.mp3>

RECOGNITION: The Roosevelt FFA Chapter did a parliamentary procedure demonstration and included the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. The Union High Robotics team demonstrated their robot. The community partner award was presented to Zaisha Silva, Cloee Hackford, and Ronee Wopsock of the Ute Tribe Education Department and the Extra Degree award was presented to Toby Cook and Teresa Page for their exceptional contributions to District and student success.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Jim Freston, noted February is CTE month and reviewed statistics showing how CTE increases graduation rates, provides a rounded education, and launches students into careers and higher education. The focus is on transferrable durable skills. CTE also provides character development. Jim highlighted student achievements from across the District.

Michael Weldon reported on the maintenance and custodial teams and many of the projects completed this past year.

Kendra Embleton reported on third grade reading skills of students and recent reports in the media using a limited perspective of the data. Despite the rhetoric, the reality is that our students are reading well.

OPEN TIME: At 8:30 p.m. President Bench opened the meeting for those who signed up for public comment. Cliff Murray commented on grading. President Bench closed open time at 8:32 p.m.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

1. Travel Requests – Superintendent Young reviewed new requests. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
2. Buildings – Superintendent Young noted Altamont projects were doing tremendously well, and that architect proposals were being evaluated for a track in Tabiona.
3. Policy 2nd Reading: 4.0300 After School Discipline – Superintendent Young noted a change to consider students' needs for bus transportation home. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Mr. Thacker seconded; Ms. Wells clarified who the new language would pertain to. Passed unanimously.
4. Policy 2nd Reading: 1.0711 Principal Specific Duties – Superintendent Young reviewed the changes to include new legislation, and feedback from principals. Ms. Wells moved to approve. Mr. Thacker seconded; passed unanimously.
5. School Fees Amendment: RJHS Honor Band – Superintendent Young noted the addition to the fee schedule to attend an event in Vernal. Ms. Wells moved to approve. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
6. Drivers Ed Fee Increase and Drivers Ed Teacher Pay Increase – Superintendent Young reviewed a proposal to increase teacher pay and the student fee. Mr. Thacker moved to set the fee at \$230, and implement as soon as reasonably possible. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
7. Adult Education Handbook Update – Superintendent Young and Jamie Lemon reviewed the policy updates and enhancements to the program that better coordinate with high schools and strive to retain as many students as possible while also providing the most flexibility possible for students.
8. Utah Retirement Systems Roth 401(k) & Roth 457 – Ms. Wells moved to approve adding the investment options for employees. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
9. School Land Trust Plan Amendments – Con Amore proposed a change to send staff to training. Mr. Thacker moved to approve. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update – Superintendent Young noted there are many bills of concern, one being partisan school board elections.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Thacker seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel at 9:37 p.m., and that since there is no further business, the Board would stand adjourned afterward; aye votes: Mr. Bench, Mr. Busenbark, Ms. Wells, Mr. Thacker. Nay votes: none. Motion passed. Mr. Thacker moved and Mr. Busenbark seconded that the Board go out of executive session at 10:51 p.m.; passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT / FUTURE PLANNING: The meeting stood adjourned. The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah.