

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
September 3, 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 5:00 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
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 to update the Board on Master Board Certification. It was noted it reinforces what they need to know to be good school Board Members. Also, the JLC (Joint Legislative Committee) met on August 6th which is represented by superintendents, business administrators and school board members throughout the entire state. Highlights from the meeting included to expect SB37 *Minimum Basic Tax Rate Amendments* will take a portion of revenue schools earn and deposit it into the Utah General Fund. The Senate is in support but the House is not. Utah Senate President Stuart Adams was open to the establishment of a working group to consider long term funding for education. It was also suggested when tax notices go out, they will not be listed under schools as it gives a false impression that all levies are going to school districts. A discussion of school lunch and the time allowed had no action. USBA Executive Director Lexi Cunningham conducted a survey on how the 4% WPU (Weighted Pupil Unit) was used with a result of 85% used for compensation. Concern continues on absenteeism and how we can encourage students to be present. Weber School District has enlisted in a program that will be statewide to encouraging students to attend class. They are asking if interested, please sign up to become an ambassador for attendance. Student Services Director Jennifer Warren added we as a district have joined this campaign. The campaign is to develop resources to help schools with social media, newsletters, incentive ideas, and parent engagement resources with ideas shared with administrators. Compliance and Policy Director Heather Hardy has provided training and built a resource guide within our district resources for reference. Jennifer has signed up to be an ambassador for Weber School District and will continue to keep our district informed. In conclusion, it was noted September is Attendance Awareness month.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board on the successful opening of schools this year. Shout out to all faculty and staff across the district.

The theme this year is “Stay Mighty”. We are trying to remind educators they are holding up the world and students in supportive ways and encouraging them by leveraging their influence by all the positive things they do.

We had a successful opening of our final teen center at West Field High School. Also, the completion of the Roosevelt Elementary rebuild. Thanks was expressed to facilities operation team, maintenance, and technical services teams.

Superintendent Butters explained that as a member of UHSAA, they had their first meeting on August 21st. She will continue to update the Board monthly. Currently, there is a survey out to patrons around gathering information on increasing the number of rest periods or moratoriums between athletic events. The intent is to have more family time for athletes, and concern of injuries and academics. Coaches are reporting they are burnt out from time away from their own families. We may add a third moratorium in May or June, reduce weekly practice hours and possibly extend moratoriums for each sport each year.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board on the beginning of the annual Superintendent Summer Reading held at all Weber School District elementary schools. This year they are reading the *Marvelous Now* and its message is to help students be present in the moment and enjoy everything going on around them.

Doug Larsen, representing Farr West City along with Mayor Phippen shared a presentation for a proposed CRA Project Area Plan with Farr West City. It was explained they have previously meet with our Board TIF Committee informally and are proposing a project area to generate new property tax revenue. It was noted the area is on the north east corner of the city on about 50 acres. Working with the developer, they anticipate the assessed value within five years will be approximately \$100 million with a 15-year term, 75% participation and across all the taxing entities they estimate property tax increment at \$10.3 million. In addition, Farr West City has pledged \$7 million in new sales tax revenue and \$877 thousand in storm water fee waivers. This will be a retail development with multi-family units and will also include a Target store by the year 2029 along with other major retailers. The tax increment will be strictly limited to public infrastructure. 87% of the 75% will go toward public infrastructure and parking, 10% housing, 3% Farr West Agency Administration, and the TIF to trigger in 2028. Primary public benefits were shared and estimates of \$224 million development costs. Average new property tax over the next 15 years will be approximately \$130,000 per year.

Assessment and School Improvement Director Dr. Bryan Becherini updated the Board on School Success Plans and noted it has been shared with the Board prior. It was explained the TSSA evaluation is required annually by the USBA to receive funding and the School Success Plans serve as the TSSA plan for schools in improvement status (TSI, ETSI, CSI) and additionally for Title I schools. The plans are listed on the consent calendar for approval during Board Meeting. Upon approval, the plans will be posted to each school’s website.

It was explained we are still waiting for data on The DLI Study for Academic & Fiscal Data for 2025. The Acadience Data on Chinese DLI and Spanish DLI was explained as out performing in reading and math. RISE data for both was also shared and showing they are out performing traditional. AP scores for Chinese and Spanish were also shared noting an upward trend. Enrollment and visa costs for employees on a J1 or H1B are only authorized to work for the organization that sponsors the Visa. Typically, there is a three-year opportunity to extend

before needing an upgraded Visa. A typical Visa is costing the district around \$7,000. Currently, Weber School District has 13 DLI teachers on some type of Visa; 12 Chinese, 1 Spanish. Teacher: Student ratio costs show Chinese 1:19 with a cost of \$6,842 per student and Spanish 1:24 with a \$5,417 cost per student. Enrollment averages from 2022-2026 decline from 1st - 9th grades. Retention rates are troubling with some elementary and secondary class sizes sitting at less than 15 students in both Chinese and Spanish. Next steps: In November, we will identify adding or removing programs and the procedures. By December, determine programs to be added or removed. Focus groups will come into play as well as community input. Finally, present to the Board the direction for various programs that are not meeting enrollment thresholds.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder discussed policies on a second reading:

Policy 4160 *Residency and Enrollment* had a section added specific to enrollment of foreign exchange students and the process. No comments or feedback since last meeting, but added a provision from federal law regarding visitor Visas.

Policy 7200 *Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators Program* needed changes required by the State Board of Education regarding when stipends would be distributed. The State is requiring to distribute stipends throughout the year instead of in one lump sum. No further feedback was received since last meeting.

First readings:

Policy 4200 *School Fee & Fee Waiver* added a fine will be charged for disposing of hazardous waste, such as confiscated e-cigarettes. The fine will be passed on to students after the third offense.

Policy 4500 *Extracurricular Activities* added a section about 9th grade participation in high school athletic classes. Eliminates class time use for extracurricular activities except for specific activities.

Policy 5400 *Restraint and Seclusion* is on the consent calendar for approval due to statutory changes from last legislative session.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.