

DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

April 8, 2025

District Office 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah

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

VISITORS:

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|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Gwen Prescott | Kimberley Murray | Jeremy Jeppsen | Charles Blair | Tracy Thompson |
| Phillip Bertoch | Trent Bolton | Alicia Jenkins | Tyson Stewart | McKenna Powell |
| Mike Ross | Mark Stewart | Jamie Lamb | Heather Stewart | Stephanie Carter |
| Janalee Goodrich | Lynn Sorensen | Kelly Olsen | Nathan Crapo | Justin Jenkins |
| Kendra Embleton | Glena Sorensen | Julie Seeley | Colleen Crapo | Jessica Parry |
| Kellie Heaton | Brenda Parry | Sharon Smith | JoAnn Allred | Sam Williams |
| Carolyn Heaton | Danika Monson | Shelby Thayne | Tasha Whiting | Holli Williams |
| Bill Goodrich | Tyson Stewart | Ben Felder | Blair Nyberg | Tyler Powell |
| Diana Hanke | Ashley Hoover | Jennifer Tuckett | Darrin Nyberg | Merilynne Whiting |
| Lisa Carter | Michelle Bostick | Samantha Suter | Jaclyn Gardner | Christian Potter |
| Shauna Ross | Cliff Murray | Lisa Ward | Julie Dickson | Saryn Wall |
| Bruce Guymon | Darin Jenkins | John Richens | Amanda Winterton | Mechelle Hansen |
| Jim Freston | Heather Smith | McKenna Powell | Alta Sumner | Rauni Guffey |
| Jolana Freston | Kelly Olsen | Tosha Miller | Keesha Glines | |

WORK SESSION: The Board discussed legislative bills, calendars, and budgets.

REGULAR SESSION: President Bench called the regular session to order at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Bench offered prayer. Mr. Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

MINUTES: Mr. Busenbark moved and Ms. Wells seconded to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held March 6, 2025; voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Audio recording is available at:
<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1242435.mp3>

RECOGNITION: The Roosevelt Jr. High choir performed under direction of Danika Monson accompanied by Carolyn Heaton. The community partner award was presented to Stewarts Marketplace/Ace Hardware and the Extra Degree award to Ashley Hoover and Sherry Arthur for their exceptional contributions to student success.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Battle of the books introduced the winning teams and demonstrated a battle for the Board. Board Members visited Centennial Elementary last month. Shauna Ross, Myton Elementary Principal, reported on the goals for the School and the results so far this year that are exceeding the goals in most categories!

OPEN TIME: At 7:57 p.m. President Bench opened the meeting for those who signed up for public comment. Clifford Murray commented on cell phones and protecting the development of students intellect from AI. Kelly Olsen commented on the varied needs of students, her son who is hands on, and his need for tech classes. Jamie Lamb commented on a need for athletic director to be separate from assistant principal at Union High. Alicia Jenkins noted some of the success stories of students and expressed concern for possible program cuts. Danika Monson noted the struggle of some students, and expressed concern for students needing to have a 3.0 to take Tech classes as a freshman. Jeremy Jeppsen noted the increased need for an athletic director and support for sports. President Bench closed open time at 8:20 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Travel Requests
 - a. No requests this month.
2. Buildings
 - a. AES Groundbreaking – Superintendent Young reported on a successful event with all students participating and construction now well under way.
 - b. Resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation refunding bonds – Japheth McGee, Zions Public Finance, reported on the efforts and proposed resolution to refinance the 2016 general obligation bonds, and a projected savings of \$1.2 million depending on rates. The refunding may be delayed until rates are favorable if rates increase. Ms. Wells moved to approve and adopt the resolution. Mr. Thacker seconded; passed unanimously.
3. Policy 3.0650 Workers Compensation - 2nd Reading – Mr. Miles noted no changes from the review last month. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
4. DCSD 2026-27 School Calendar – Superintendent Young reported on the calendar, votes from staff, and efforts to coordinate calendars where possible with other local schools and incorporate the interests of families and staff. Version #3 received the majority of votes. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Mr. Thacker seconded; passed unanimously.
5. Trustlands Plans – Phillip Bertoch reviewed an amendment for Altamont Elementary and highlighted the plans for the schools. He also reviewed the allowable uses for the funds. Mr. Thacker moved to approve the school plans and the amendment. Mr. Smith seconded; passed unanimously.
6. Personnel
 - a. Superintendent and Business Administrator appointment – Mr. Smith moved to appoint Jason Young, Superintendent of Schools, and Dee E. Miles, Business Administrator for two-year terms starting July 1, 2025. Mr. Thacker seconded; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. 5.0710 Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices In Schools – Superintendent Young reviewed the proposed policy that has been tested at Roosevelt Jr. High with a few updates and exceptions for health or other specific needs. Devices would be off for the whole day at closed campuses/elementary schools, and open campuses/high schools would allow use during lunch. Having a consistent policy would help teachers reduce distractions from learning. Mr. Busenbark noted scenarios that could be challenging. Jr. High teachers noted consistently enforcing the policy worked well and students helped with accountability. President Bench polled the audience with all supporting and a few concerns. Lisa Ward noted concern for office staff to be able to handle messages for students. Tasha Miller recommended a complete ban for phones. More work would go into updating the policy for next month.
2. 3.0440 Salary Supplement For Highly Needed Educators – Superintendent Young noted the shift in administration of the program from the State to the District. The criteria would remain the same as what they have been to qualify for the funds.
3. 5.0221.03 Participation of Private and Home School Students in Statewide Assessments – Superintendent Young reported on the procedure to handle students who request to be tested.
4. 5.0221.02 Home School Policy – Superintendent Young reviewed the updates that bring the policy in line with current code.
5. 4.0510.04 Grades 9-12 Graduation Requirements – Superintendent Young noted an additional requirement for a half credit of U.S. Government social studies credit for students graduating in 2027 that the Legislature added this year. Updates to the policy would also accommodate a four-day week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Busenbak moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel at 9:39 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. Smith, Mr. Thacker. Nay votes: none. Motion passed. Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Thacker seconded that the Board go out of executive session at 10:35 p.m.; passed unanimously.

DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
08 APRIL 2025

ADJOURNMENT / FUTURE PLANNING: The meeting stood adjourned. The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, May 1, 2025, at the District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah.