

DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

December 4, 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:**

Phillip Bertoche	Cliff Murray	McKenna Powell	William Hugie	Cana Ivie
Mike Ross	Ben Felder	Danika Monson	Jim Freston	Braxton Hyde
Janalee Goodrich	Kristin Ivie	Sharon Smith	Ginger Casper	Tye Winterton
Jenn Tuckett	Cameron Olson	Brook Young	Tyler Powell	Raquel Young

**WORK SESSION:** The Board discussed severe student behavior concerns and possible ways to support student learning and teacher safety.

**REGULAR SESSION:** President Bench called the regular session to order at 7:03 p.m. Ms. Wells offered prayer. Mr. Thacker 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 November 6, 2025; voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Audio recording is available at: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1362207.mp3>.

**RECOGNITION:** Crescent Energy was presented the Community Partner award, and Extra Degree awards were presented to Kristin Ivie and Tye Winterton for their exceptional contributions to student success.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:** Board Members were able to visit schools on Veterans Day and see the appreciation for them and the USA. Phillip Bertoche reported on employment trends and teacher retention rates and reasons for leaving employment. The “grow your own” approach of helping para-professionals move into a teaching position has a 78% retention rate. He also noted the need for support to help with student behavior as part of retaining teachers.

**OPEN TIME:** At 7:31 p.m. President Bench opened the meeting for those who signed up for public comment. Cliff Murray shared his opinion about parental support for their child’s education. President Bench closed open time at 7:35 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Annual Audit and Financial Report 2024-2025 – Cameron Olson, Auditor, reported on a clean audit for the 2024-25 fiscal year. He reviewed the budget, capital assets, and long-term liabilities. Mr. Miles noted the trend in local tax increases, expected declines in enrollment, and bonds that will pay off this year. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Mr. Thacker seconded; passed unanimously.
2. Travel Requests – Not seeing any concerns, Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
3. Building – Superintendent Young noted the need for a power upgrade at East Elementary for the HVAC upgrade. The Altamont projects will slow down some with the cold weather, but they are still on schedule.
4. Policy 2nd Reading: 4.0412 Artificial Intelligence – Superintendent Young reviewed the updates to the policy intended to protect student data and the integrity of academics. Ms. Wells moved to approve. Mr. Thacker seconded; passed unanimously.
5. Policy 2nd Reading: 1.0100.05 Vacancies on the Board – Superintendent Young noted a change to a title. Mr. Smith moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.

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6. Policy 2nd Reading: 3.0250.07 Drug Testing of Other Employees – Superintendent Young noted this policy expands on prior policy that was limited to safety intensive positions. Ms. Wells moved to approve. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
7. Policy 2nd Reading: 3.0260 DCSD Code of Conduct: Appropriate Behavior Policy – Superintendent Young noted changes to new State code numbering and updates to wording that better protects employees. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
8. Policy 2nd Reading: 5.0815 Emergency Safety Interventions – Superintendent Young reviewed the changes. Mr. Busnbark moved to approve. Mr. Smith seconded; passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Policy 1st Reading: 2.0120.11 Time and Effort Policy – Mr. Miles reviewed the updates to the policy to meet requirements. Mr. Busenbark noted a clarification to where it applies and formatting corrections.
2. Transportation Handbook Update – Mike Ross, Director, reviewed updates to how accidents would count toward bus driver driving records, training, and probation.
3. Annual Convention January 8-10 – The Board made plans to attend.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Thacker seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss individuals and property at 8:38 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. Thacker moved and Mr. Smith seconded that the Board go out of executive session at 9:53 p.m.; passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT / FUTURE PLANNING:** The meeting stood adjourned. The next Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at the District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah.