

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
June 10, 2026

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
Kelly Larson	Board Member
Wyle Williams	Board Member
Gina Butters	Superintendent
Clyde Moore	Assistant Superintendent
Dave Hales	Assistant Superintendent
Brock Mitchell	Business Administrator

President Widdison welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the Board of the Roy Jr. High Gym walkthrough on Tuesday, June 30th.

Board Member Kelly Larson updated the Board on the recent delegate assembly where representatives from districts included business administrators and superintendents in attendance. It was noted the draft legislative priorities for 2027 include a list that can be sent out to legislators prior to the sessions. Priorities include increased funding for special education students, continue to fulfill funding for at risk, funding for early literacy, and continue collaboration on public education funding mechanisms.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board on the Spring RAW Student Accountability Data and highlighted the following: Highest ACT composite score since the pandemic (19.2), highest percentage of students achieving 18+ on ACT since 2022. It was also noted the block schedule for 7th grade Math has helped increase proficiency by 9%. Mountain View Jr. and Snowcrest Jr. had a 15% increase, Roy Jr. 13%, and T.H. Bell Jr. had a 10% increase.

Superintendent Butters noted additional Purple Star Schools in our district include: Bonneville High, South Ogden Jr., T.H. Bell Jr., Sand Ridge Jr., Snowcrest Jr., Hooper, Valley View, Haven Bay, Country View, and Kaneshville Elementaries. 21 of our 45 schools are now Purple Star Schools. Big thanks to our Student Access Department.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder updated the Board on Policy 8350 *Student Electronic Device*. Legislators passed a bill regarding the ban of electronic devices bell-to-bell, but each LEA could implement their own rules. Our current policy has elementary on a bell to bell ban and during instructional time in secondary schools. We received feedback from the community on any

additional changes to our current policy. Recently a survey was sent out to employees, parents from May 15, 2026 through June 2, 2026.

Assessment and School Improvement Director Dr. Bryan Becherini shared employee data with 40.6% in favor of the bell to bell ban with a lunch exception and 27.7% to keep the policy the same. Employee data on if the district should prohibit the wearing of smartwatches by elementary students during school show 59% yes, 31% no and 10% no response. Employee qualitative themes:

1. Universal Frustration with Enforcement and “Policy Teeth”
2. Smartwatches as the New “Loophole” (Particularly in Elementary)
3. Parents as “Enablers” of Policy Violation
4. Total Ban vs. “Real World” Moderation (The Secondary School Divide)
5. Screen Fatigue and the Chromebook Debate
6. Safety and Emergency Communication

Parent data on the question of which options they prefer for junior high and high school students: 42.4% classroom ban with a lunch exception, 30.5% keep the current policy, 19.8% full day ban (bell-to-bell), and 7.3% no response. Parent data on if the district should prohibit, the wearing of smartwatches by elementary students during the school day were 56.5% no, 36.8% yes, and 6.7% no response. Parent qualitative themes:

1. High-Alert Safety Concerns and the “Active Shooter” Reality
2. Parental Rights vs. District Overreach
3. Medical, Neurodivergent, and Mental Health Exceptions
4. Extreme Backlash Against Chromebooks and Screen-Based Learning
5. Logistics: The “Free Time” Compromise

This policy will be presented in August Board Meeting for either another first reading or second reading.

Curriculum Director Alicia Mitchell updated the Board on the Gifted and Talented Program Overview and Compliance Report. Board Rule: R277-707-5 Performance Criteria consists of 6 main goals on spending:

- #1 Gathering Baseline Data
 - Collected Information from 10 Districts (survey)
 - Surveyed our own schools to understand how they are currently serving students.
 - Also wanted to know the demographics of students that are participating across the district.
 - ❖ 2026-2027 goal – 3% increase of underrepresented students involved in G&T.
- #2 Common Assessment/Accelerated Math
 - Naglieri Quantitative Assessment given to all 6th grade students to identify them for the Accelerated Math 7 course in the junior high.
 - 2026-2027 SY Goal: Expand our common assessment to 2nd grade students

- #3 Professional Learning
 - Two teachers attended the National Gifted & Talented Conference along with our G&T Specialist.
 - 29 teachers are working towards completing their G&T Endorsement through UVU.
 - Placed a G&T Liaison in every elementary school this year.
 - All implementation through District G&T Specialist Morgan Christensen.
- #4 Plan for Tier I/Tier II Materials for G&T Students
 - Created project-based math units for every grade to be rolled out for 2026-2027 SY.
 - New Gifted Program “Beast Academy”
- #5 Connecting Schools and Community
 - Now that we have a better plan for G&T, our goal is to improve in this category.
 - This year we attended Community Council Meetings at several school and worked to build relationships in schools.
 - 2 different letters/messaging went home to parents to help them understand the new Accelerated Math Pathway for 7th grade.
 - 2026-2027 SY our goals:
 - ❖ Provide education for parents around what skills gifted students have, and supports we plan to provide for continued education
 - ❖ Inform on current offerings Weber School District has for gifted students.
 - ❖ Gail feedback from community members about what our demographics need for further program development.
- #6 Creating Additional Opportunities in WSD for G&T
 - Storytelling Festival
 - Summer STEAM Camps
 - STEM Olympiad
 - VEX Robotics Camp

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.