

DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

March 6, 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:**

Gwen Prescott	Glena Sorensen	Bobby Drake	Ashley Bozarth	Braxton Hyde
Phillip Bertoch	Venna Miles	Lisa Drake	Rocky Bozarth	Clayton Johnson
Mike Ross	Kimberley Murray	Sara Brighton	Charla Bozarth	Weston Drake
Kendra Embleton	Heather Smioth	John Richens	Lisa Ward	Kiley Drake
Jesse Fieldsted	Sharon Smith	Jane Berntson	Alicia Jenkins	Ashley Wilcox
Dave Law	Dave Green	Mechelle Hansen	Kylee Eaton	Logan Wilcox
Shelby Thayne	Cliff Murray	Mattina Reep	Kyla Lloyd	Shilo Monney
Lynn Sorensen	Danika Monson	Alisha Lefler	McKenna Powell	Bryce Monney

**WORK SESSION:** The Board attended the Sterling Scholar Banquet at UHS.

**REGULAR SESSION:** President Bench called the regular session to order at 6:59 p.m. Mr. Busenbark offered prayer. Mr. Bench led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Busenbark noted two additional attendees to add to the minutes and moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held February 6, 2025; voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Audio recording is available at: <https://secure.utah.gov/pmn-admin/files/1242435.mp3>.

**RECOGNITION:** The Extra Degree award was presented to Lisa Drake for her exceptional contributions to student success.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:** The Board visited Kings Peak and noted concerns for traffic congestion.

**OPEN TIME:** At 7:18 p.m. President Bench opened the meeting for those who signed up for public comment. Martina Reep expressed concern for maintaining the choir and orchestra at Altamont High. Cliff Murray expressed concern he dropped out in 1981 and noted the importance of critical thinking skills. Rocky Bozarth expressed concern for bullying. Chazz Lloyd also expressed concern for bullying. Ashley Bozarth expressed frustration for bullying and concern for her child. Alisha Lefler expressed concern for the treatment of her student by other students. Alicia Jenkins expressed her concerns about reducing music and FACS at Altamont High. Ashley Wilcox spoke to preserving the arts at Altamont. Shelby Thayne expressed concern from the Altamont High staff that the best person be hired as principal. Rachel C. reported on an incident with her child in the parking lot, and concern for the speed of traffic in front of the High School. Mr. Busenbark encouraged her to attend the City Council meeting. President Bench closed open time at 7:51 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. School Fees Hearing and Approval – At 7:52 p.m. President Bench opened the hearing for public comment on the fees. Superintendent reported on several updates that provide more detail. There being no public comments, President Bench closed the hearing. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve the fees. Mr. Smith seconded; passed unanimously.
2. Travel Requests – Tabiona to a golf tournament in Evanston March 26, 27; region in Delta. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.

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3. Buildings – Superintendent Young reported the Altamont shop is still waiting on electrical parts with completion targeted for May. Altamont Elementary is now under way with the contractor starting to set up fencing.
4. Distance Learning Center/Adult Ed Handbook Modification – Superintendent Young noted updates to add policies for safety of students. Mr. Busenbark noted the need to clarify school or calendar days. Ms. Wells moved to approve. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
5. SB 173 (2024) Market Informed Compensation – Superintendent Young noted this bill from last year (merit pay) would run for five years on a pilot. Results of one year would pay out for three years. A group of teachers have met to study and understand the program with many concerns. A majority of districts in the state have opted out. It operates on a curve with the top 5% receiving the most, and less for two other groups. A significant concern is that there would be a disincentive for collaboration, and only one year is evaluated. Phillip Bertoch noted the committee thought to include all education subjects but that evaluations would be needed on each one. The majority recommended opting out in the end. State tested subject areas could also be the only areas included. Ms. Wells agreed on the poor design of the program, and moved to opt-out. Mr. Busenbark seconded noting it is not fair to teachers; passed unanimously.
6. Course Schedules (AHS & THS) – Superintendent Young explained the work that has gone into schedules for next year with emphasis on core subject time. Past schedules have had less time for math and English than other schools in the District. A lot of study went into the schedule for the four-day weeks at these schools to match the credits, system, and schedule of other schools in the District and provide the extra time for English, math and science. It is impossible to eliminate course schedule conflicts, but the scenarios provide for the core classes every day and good options for electives. Mr. Busenbark asked if the proposal could be postponed until the next meeting for further input and review from the staff and moved to table. Mr. Smith seconded; passed unanimously.  
Superintendent Young also reviewed the annual process of developing budgets and the important need to be efficient and balance that with class size and course offerings, and the resulting process of changing the allocation of teaching positions at each school. To pay staff as much as possible requires operating efficiently as well.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Policy 3.0650 Workers Compensation – 1st Reading – Mr. Miles explained updates to the policy to allow bidding out the insurance and to clarify use of other leave with workers compensation.
2. High School Graduation Assignments – The Board made plans for graduation.
3. USBA Regional Meeting, Vernal, March 19, 6 pm – The Board made plans to attend.
4. Legislative update – Superintendent Young reported on a few of the significant bills. Rise testing will like expand through 10<sup>th</sup> grade. A bill to have the Senate review the appointment of State Superintendent. Cell phones could be banned by default.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 9:15 p.m Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Thacker seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel., 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 10:55 p.m.; passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT / FUTURE PLANNING:** The meeting stood adjourned. The next Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah.