

DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

February 6, 2025

Duchesne High School, 155 West Main, Duchesne, Utah

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

VISITORS:

Mike Ross	Clifford Murray	Allison Rickett	Julia Misiego	Randy Hanberg
Kendra Embleton	Diana Negus	Eric Rickett	Alea Byrnes	Daisy Hanberg
Michael Weldon	Daron Gatherum	Aubrey Harris	Kristen Kelsch	Cassidy Norman
Brandon Johnson	Jennifer Gatherum	Trent Birchell	Randall Helms	Amanda Helms
Japheth McGee	Lynn Sorensen	Michaelle Slaugh	Pam Helms	
Gordon Moon	Glena Sorensen	Julie Seeley	Shelly A Grant	
LaDawn Moon	Rebecca Betts	Sharon Smith	Lori F. Wilkerson	
Kelly Crozier	Matt Betts	Mona Farnsworth	Michaelle Slaugh	

SITE VISIT: The Board reviewed bids for the Altamont project at Westland's offices.

WORK SESSION: The Board discussed enrollment projections and staffing needs.

REGULAR SESSION: President Bench called the regular session to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Thacker offered prayer. Mr. Busenbark 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 January 7, 2025 and the special session held December 12, 2025; voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Audio recording is available at: <https://secure.utah.gov/pmn-admin/files/1229993.mp3>

RECOGNITION: The Duchesne High School Choir performed for the Board. Superintendent Young bragged on the Duchesne High Drill Team, who was in attendance, for their sportsmanship, ability, and heart, and congratulated them for taking state. A community partner award was presented to Mark and Teresa Nielsen and their Kohls business, and the Extra Degree award was presented to Ali Rickett and Rebecca Betts for their exceptional contributions to student success.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Aubrey Harris, Duchesne Elementary Principal, reported on the academic and attendance goals developed for each grade. Daron Gatherum, Duchesne High Principal, reported on math and ELA benchmark successes and concerns, and celebrations. They are working on graduation rates, literacy goals, ACT, and behavior. Board Members reported on visits to Myton and Con Amore.

OPEN TIME: At 7:42 p.m. President Bench opened the meeting for those who signed up for public comment. Clifford Murray commented on voluntary surveys. Mona Farnsworth and Julia Misiego expressed appreciation for the new auditorium and reporting that the Duchesne Arts Council received a grant and is bringing in the Repertory Dance Theater to share with students across the District. President Bench closed open time at 7:54 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Public hearing to receive input with respect to the issuance of lease revenue bonds by the Municipal Building Authority of the District.
President Bench opened the hearing for public comment. Mr. Busenbark noted these bonds are for the last project on the current building plan. Mr. Miles noted the bonds would be paid from existing revenues and

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- not require a tax increase. Julie Seeley, Bluebell resident, noted the need for the new building and proper gymnasium. There being no other comments, President Bench closed the hearing.
2. Consider a resolution authorizing the issuance of lease revenue bonds by the Municipal Building Authority of the District
Ms. Wells moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
 3. Convene as Board of Trustees of the Municipal Building Authority
Mr. Busenbark moved to convene as the Board of Trustees of the MBA. Ms. Wells seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - a. Public hearing to receive input with respect to the issuance of lease revenue bonds by the Authority
President Bench opened the hearing for public comment. There being no comments, President Bench closed the hearing.
 - b. Consider a resolution authorizing the issuance of lease revenue bonds by the Authority
Ms. Wells moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
 4. Reconvene as Board of Education
Mr. Busenbark moved to reconvene as the Board of Education. Ms. Wells seconded. Passed unanimously.
 5. Travel Requests
 - a. DHS FFA – Brigham City
 - b. Innovative Learning Network – One in N. Dakota, and one in Kentucky for admin.
 - c. Innovative Learning Summit – Fourteen Special Education staff.
 - d. Accounting Staff – April 7, Cortez, COMr. Thacker moved to approve the travel, Mr. Busenbark seconded, passed unanimously.
 6. Buildings
 - a. Altamont projects and/or other building needs – With the Altamont project bids coming in as expected, Mr. Thacker moved to approve and Westland to proceed with building construction. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
 - b. Superintendent Young reported on progress of the Altamont High Shop and the Duchesne High Auxiliary Buildings with both nearing completion.
 7. Policy 2nd Reading: 5.0223 Concurrent Enrollment – Superintendent Young noted the policy is from State code. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
 8. Policy 2nd Reading: 3.0411.02 Maternity Leave – Superintendent Young noted updates to clarify time periods. Ms. Wells noted at six weeks both vaginal and caesarian delivery can return to activity. Ms. Wells moved to accept the current changes with an expiration date for the policy of June 30, 2025 when it would move to new legislated guidelines. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
 9. Policy 2nd Reading: 3.0411.16 Principal Review – Mr. Busenbark noted it should be added to Principal duties and moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
 10. Policy 2nd Reading: 4.0200.05 Parent-Teacher Conferences – Mr. Busenbark asked if dates could be set and advertised at the beginning of the year. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
 11. School Trustlands Plans – The Board reviewed annual reports. Mr. Thacker moved to approve the Basin Online plan amendment. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
 12. School Climate Survey – Superintendent Young reviewed a cleaned up, focused, organized, and more actionable survey for this year. He also reviewed the procedures to take the survey and that it is opt-in. Ms. Wells moved to approve. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.
 13. School Counselor Student Systemic Assessment Survey – Superintendent Young reviewed the use of the survey. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Ms. Wells seconded; passed unanimously.
 14. Alternative Diploma – Superintendent Young noted this would be a third diploma option many District are using with a notation that the student is proficient in essential standards defined in their IEP. Ms. Wells moved to approve. Mr. Busenbark seconded; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Hearing for School Fees (2025-26) – President Bench opened the hearing for public comment at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Busenbark reviewed the fees asked if some of the fees could be more consistent across the District. Julie Seeley noted the history of some fees from when she was a teacher. There being no further comments, President Bench closed the hearing at 9:13 p.m.

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2. Legislative Update – Superintendent Young noted bills of exceptional concern including SB 102 that would cut step and lane funding, and also a cell phone bill.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Thacker seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel at 9:20 p.m; aye votes: Mr. Bench, Mr. Busenbark, Ms. Wells, Mr. Thacker. Nay votes: none. Motion passed. Mr. Thacker moved and Mr. Busenbark seconded that the Board go out of executive session at 9:48 p.m.; passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT / FUTURE PLANNING: Mr. Thacker moved to adjourn, Ms. Wells seconded. President Bench adjourned the meeting at 9:49 p.m. The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, March 6, 2025, at the District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah.