

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Special Study Session
May 30, 2025

The Board of Education of Weber School District held a Special Study Session in the Superintendent's Office at 5320 Adams Avenue, Ogden, Utah. The meeting convened at 12:45 p.m. The following Board Members and Superintendency were present:

Paul Widdison	Board President
Doug Hurst	Board Vice President
Janis Christensen	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 Paul Widdison welcomed everyone and excused Board Member Bruce Jardine. It was explained the purpose of today's meeting is to present some different scenarios in our schools and keep everyone informed. The Board was reminded the USBA Pre-Delegate Assembly is coming up and Board Meeting will be held on June 11, 2025 and no Board Meeting held in July. There may be a potential truth in taxation hearing in August.

Superintendent Butters noted last fall the strategic plan, Elevate28 was rolled out. The process began officially at the beginning of the second quarter. We are waiting on student outcome data with more information to be available showing our gains and an impact report will be presented to the Board in September or October Board Meeting.

A study of our DLI (Dual Language Immersion) program began last year with a survey sent out to receive feedback. The data has been compiled and will be presented by Dr. Bryan Becherini during the June Board Study Session and will discuss our next steps.

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell presented to the Board regarding the tax and levy for the school district. He explained the basic state rate is set by the state legislature every year and each district must levy these. It allows access to the minimum school programs across the state. The district does not have control over this rate. The Board levy sets the amount for the district and charter schools. The debt service levy helps to pay for the bonds. Board voted and capital are set as a Board and may alter and change. Capital is used for fixes within the district. Hold harmless has had a change by the state and the way it is calculated. Certified rate is the sum of the Board voted and capital rates with charter as part of the Board. It was explained that a Truth and Taxation is triggered when certified rates increase. Any time we are below 20 tax increments, we are losing state guaranteed funding. Guaranteed rate is determined by the state and they give a certain amount of revenue based on the rate factoring in the WPU; number of

students enrolled in our district. It was noted professional staffing was recently moved out of WPU funding. State guarantee is what the state gives by calculating the tax increments, times the guaranteed rate, times the WPU'S. Mr. Mitchell explained the hold harmless differences from fiscal year 2016/2017 to current fiscal year. The state has decided to phase in the hold harmless to allow districts to adjust rates to maximize state guaranteed funds. It was noted holding a truth in taxation hearing doesn't necessarily mean an increase, but reviewing and discussing it. District rate comparisons were also shared noting Weber School District is ranked 15th in the state and the certified rate, Weber School District is ranked 11th.

Facilities Director Larry Hadley updated the Board on maintenance and transportation needs in the district. The capital budget handout was explained from 2015 to 2024 and noting inflation rates are leaving a budget shortfall. Capital emergency 2025 projects already in motion include: Roy High roof, Uintah Elementary roof, Green Acres roof, Snow Crest Jr. High air handler, Fremont High boiler, and Rocky Mtn. Jr. High boiler with a total of \$6,445,800.00. It was noted the maintenance budget for the entire year is \$6,250,000.00. Capital budget requests were explained noting there have already been 329 budget requests in from the schools for the next school year. Capital needs and safety budget items from 2022-2025 included vestibules, doors, windows and locks as required by the State. Bonneville High is still needing vestibules completed. A safety grant was received to help with doors and locks in December 2024.

Transportation issues: Mr. Hadley explained we currently have two different bus models, Blue Bird and International. International will no longer be making rear-engine buses or its parts. We are looking into how to replace the 95 International busses that will soon become obsolete. It was noted 153 routes are run each day to the schools.

Public Information and Safety Officer Lane Findlay explained the summary report related to safety and security. He thanked the previous Board for being proactive on safety before there was State mandates and requirements. Board packets included a summary of how vestibules must be completed by 2034-2035. We have already been working on key card access, and cameras. Funding has been through capital and local school budgets. Safety assessments began about three years ago to identify priorities. One priority was classroom door locks which we began to switch out about three years ago. It is now State mandate that went into effect last year. We have also been working on emergency kits for classrooms, camera systems, and Audio Enhancement. Two years ago, the legislature mandated safety and having it run through the State. We have tried to capitalize on grant funding through school safety grants. HB84 *School Safety Amendments* legislation requires schools to be under mandate and the requirement to have an armed person in every school. We are working toward compliance and exploring options, but there hasn't been much interest for school guardians. Elementaries will need to have guardians and our secondary schools already have SRO's (School Resource Officers) and are working on how to fund it. The history of funding for SRO's was explained noting we currently are paying a 70/30 split with the sheriff's office for our SRO's salaries.

Technology Services Assistant Director Casey Dalpiaz updated the Board on Audio Enhancement and panic buttons and explained the State mandate, noting we began implementing it years ago. Audio Enhancement gives us the ability to contact emergency services. By the fall of 2025, we will have completed 52% of our schools with Audio Enhancement with much of the work completed in house.

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell explained the possibility of a Truth in Taxation Hearing in August. It was noted we are waiting for the county to update information. Projected scenarios handout was shared and included all scenarios with the estimated assessed values, charter school allocation, FY25 state guaranteed funds, and impact of homeowners.

- Scenario A included no changes to our rates with a total amount of funds \$53,615,757.88.
- Scenario B includes salaries of employees who are working heavily on new builds and will end and need to be pulled out of capital with a total amount of funds \$58,783,273.06.
- Scenario C switches salaries from capital to voted and increasing the capital budget to help with improvements and safety with funds of \$58,783,273.06.
- Scenario D helps up move toward “20” tax increments and impacts on homeowners was shared with total fund of \$61,132,143.60.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board on a legislative partnership and opportunity for students to have industry-based learning through HB447 *Statewide Catalyst Campus Model*. We have already received an Intermountain Health grant for \$5 million and will be applying for another. It should be available on August 1st. If we receive the grant, it will require us to spend the funds within a certain time frame. We would like to begin getting some architectural design bids. Facilities Director Larry Hadley explained future options on the catalyst center and a possible location on the East side of WIC that will either connect or be a separate structure. It would take approximately eighteen months to build. We have already been working with focus groups on advanced pathways for 11-12 grade students. Programing pieces we are looking into include: culinary arts, cosmetology, medical based fields such as CNA, pharmacy, dental, construction, business entrepreneur, video and audio production, cyber security and STEM pieces.

Superintendent Butters gave the history of Weber School District bond cycles. Bond years include: 2006, 2012, 2017, and 2021. It was noted every single bond has had no property tax increase. The last bond in 2021 helped to build our new school builds. What could the possible next bond cycle look like, what projects could be possible. Facilities Director Larry Hadley explained some possible future options: Catalyst Center to open 2027-2028 with a possible bond vote in 2026, a new elementary, T.H. Bell Jr. High rebuild, and new Canyon View School.

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell shared some possible consolidation of schools and noted transportation issues would have to be addressed. Facilities Director Larry Hadley explained some of the schools would actually be in the same walk zones. Transportation costs would compensate for old and rundown buildings needing repairs.

Superintendent Butters concluded asking the Board to come back to the June Board Study Session to consider a Truth and Taxation Hearing in August.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.