

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
5320 Adams Avenue Parkway
Ogden, UT

Study Session
February 4, 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

Board President Paul Widdison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board Member Janis Christensen updated the Board on the recent Day on the Hill on January 30th. The emphasis this year with the JLC is to build relationships with legislators and work together.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board on legislative bills of interest. Governor Cox is emphasizing the need to strengthening the school device policy SB69 *School Device Revisions*. It establishes that we should have a policy to not allow devices in schools from bell to bell. The JLC has discussed and are in support of this bill. It will also have implications for students not being able to access technology in younger grades.

SB241 *Early Literacy*. In Board meeting tonight, a presentation will show where Weber School District is currently with early literacy. It will be centered on 3rd grade reading goals.

Representative Katie Hall is sponsoring HB293 *Public Education Student Athlete Protections* on Utah high school athletics. It is to help students and families with sports by adding moratoriums to specific sports and limits practice times during the week. It will reduce practices from 20 hours to 15 hours a week. The JLC is leaning toward opposing to allow local school districts to decide.

HB170 *School Board Referendum Amendments*. It would establish a process for voters to hold a referendum on any law passed by the school district's local board. The JLC opposes the school board referendum amendment because it would take away local control.

Business administrator Brock Mitchell explained HB1 *Public Education Base Budget Amendments* was approved and sets the WPU value at 4.2%.

HB236 *Truth in Taxation Amendment* will bring transparency to truth and taxation hearings and we must declare intent between May 1st and June 8th, but rates would be preliminary. At the adopted Board meeting, we would have to adopt two budgets and operate on the first budget until after the truth in taxation hearing.

HB241 *Charter School Amendments* would allow charter schools first right to purchase a closed school.

HB300 *School District Taxation Amendment* reinstates the five years hold harmless for taxes.

SB62 *School Funding Amendment* could dramatically affect the district. It would hold the district immediately accountable for enrollment declines and our funding. There is a \$77 million decrease that would be redirected back into education.

SB65 *Minimum Basic Tax Rate Amendments* where the State can use unrestricted funds and income taxes are sent back to the districts.

Board Member Kelly Larson updated the Board on the new Finance and Audit Committee and noted they will meet monthly to be more proactive with the budget process. Approval of large budget items will now go before the committee for approval. The goal is to increase fund balances and be good stewards of our budgets.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder and Facilities Director Larry Hadley explained to the Board a couple years ago the district purchased land from Hooper resident Ray Miles trust and acquired shares of water from Hooper Irrigation. We agreed to allow him to be a co-owner of 10 water shares. Mr. Miles currently sits on the Hooper Irrigation Board and must retain 10 water shares. The agreement wasn't memorialized in writing and now need to make an amendment to set parameters that he cannot sale property or water shares without written consent from the district.

Business Administrator Brock Mitchell updated the Board on the RFP process for a demographic forecaster. It was noted one vendor responded to the request, MGT Forecasting. A recommendation will be made to what direction to go regarding residential forecasting, facilities master planning, boundary planning, and district efficiency and reorganizing. MGT recommends to wait until next school year for more accurate data. A committee will be put together to bring the Board recommendations.

Superintendent Butters updated the Board on positive happenings in the district. Weber High Cheer won the 6A Coed State Championship, Fremont High placed 2nd in 5A and West Field High placed 4th overall in 5A. The Catalyst Grant was approved for \$25 million to go along with the IHC \$5 million grant. The model for the 12th Street campus will be shared at the March Board meeting with more details to come. Unified Sports Events will be held at West Field High, Roy High and Fremont High.

Student Services Director Jennifer Warren explained to the Board one of the recognitions scheduled for Shalene Elgiar tonight has been postponed until March Board meeting.

Legal Counsel Heidi Alder presented to the Board the Public Hotline Responsibilities. Amendments were recently made in August of 2025 and part of it includes Board training. The background on the hotline was explained that in 2024, HB497 was passed to address

transparency and local education agency compliance. The law requires USBE to create methods to review and investigate alleged compliance issues, clear procedures for corrective action plans, allow an appeal process and address contractual and non-contractual issues. It also expanded types of corrective action the State can take. USBE can also require additional reporting or monitoring. Rule 277-123 *Process for Reporting Violations of Statute and Board Rule* is made up of 10 sections:

- Authority, Purpose, and Oversight Category
- Definitions
- Resolved or Allegations of Misconduct to the Public Education Hotline Against Individual Board Members
- Hotline Complaints: Internal Audit Responsibilities
- Alleged Violations of Prohibited Discriminatory Submissions, Trainings, and Practices
- IAD Reports to Board Members
- Reports of Alleged Violations to a Local Education Hotline
- Superintendent Consultations Under this Rule
- Resubmitted Alleged Violations
- Board Review of Appeals on LEA Sensitive Materials Decisions

Key definitions for hotline complaints, alleged violations, and resolved was explained. Also, the IAD responsibilities of what happens when a hotline complaint is received. It was noted each month, IAD provides the representing Board member a monthly summarized report on all hotline complaints. The LEA responsibilities include training, access to public hotline, have a policy outlining how the LEA responds to and resolves hotline complaints, and what to do when a referral from IAD is received. It was explained in conclusion Weber School District's next steps regarding the public education hotline will be to have a policy in place, complete training, add public education hotline on all school websites, add required language to websites and ensure the district is complying with LEA responsibilities.

Community Relations and Safety Officer Lane Findlay updated the Board on school safety. It was noted when HB84 *School Safety Amendments* passed two years ago, there were many mandates to upgrades and enhancements to safety systems, such as panic alert buttons connecting to dispatch. Audio Enhancement has been installed in about 60% of the schools and we have applied for a \$6 million grant as part of the second safety grant. Recently, the State has approved four vendors for systems, but Audio Enhancement is not one of these, so we may not receive any additional funding. Raptor is an approved provider and may be able to interface with Audio Enhancement, but are waiting for more information. The Guardian Program has about 30 people signed up for trainings with the sheriff's department. A meeting was recently held with our law enforcement partners regarding SRO contracts.

Student Access Director Jamie Ellis updated the Board on the DLI program and noted surveys will be sent out on February 9th to parents of current kindergarteners on if they plan to apply for the DLI program for next year. A timeline will be on the website for dates of DLI Parent Meetings, when DLI applications are open and when selection notices and parent declarations of participation will be due.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.