BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Detailed Agenda
Thursday, April 16, 2026
Virtual

"Always consider the effects on our students."

A. **If ADA accessibility is needed to attend this meeting, please contact the District Office at 435-734-4800 before 4:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting.**

B. **Administrative** - **6:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order**
   Tiffani Summers, Board President

C. **Closed Session to Discuss the Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual**

D. **Board Handbook** **2**

E. **Adjournment** - **7:00 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, with a Work Session at 6:30 at the Independent Life Skills Center, 960 S Main St, Brigham City, Utah.

BOX ELDER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION HANDBOOK

BOX ELDER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Learning is Everything

REVISED

OCTOBER 9, 2019

BOX ELDER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Box Elder School District
Board of Education Handbook
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BOARD OF EDUCATION HANDBOOK INTRODUCTION

This Board of Education Handbook has been developed to capture, in one place and in plain language, the primary operating procedures and governing principles of the Box Elder School District Board of Education.

This handbook serves as a resource for members of the board as they assume their offices and carry out their responsibilities. It will be posted on the school district's website and updated periodically.

The Box Elder School District Board of Education has one goal and one purpose: **student learning**.

Authority and Responsibilities of the Board

The powers and mandatory duties of the Board of Education are defined in the Utah Code and State Board of Education Rule.

Principles of Board Leadership

Remembering three important principles of board leadership will help keep the Box Elder School District Board of Education focused on its most important responsibilities:

1. The board delegates authority.
   The board delegates authority to the superintendent to manage the district and provide leadership for the staff. Such authority is communicated through written policies that designate board ends and define operating limits.
2. The board monitors performance.
   The board constantly monitors progress toward district goals and compliance with written board policies.
3. The board takes responsibility for itself.
   The board, collectively and individually, takes full responsibility for board activity and behavior. Board deliberations and actions are limited to board work, not staff work.
   Utah Code § 53G-4

Making School Board Decisions

State and federal laws, financial constraints, and local expectations must govern school districts. Nevertheless, decisions made by a local board of education create the environment in which a district will flourish or flounder.

Although the typical school board makes many different decisions, all of those decisions can be put into four general categories:

Policy decisions are the most important work of the board. The majority of a board's time should be spent on policy development, monitoring, and review. Written policies accomplish the following:

- articulate district direction and goals;
- delegate authority and define limitations on that authority;
- establish board processes, including those for monitoring progress toward district goals and ensuring compliance with laws and board policy.

The board is empowered to make policy decisions for district schools. Board members act as trustees for the community; therefore, policies are often understood as expressions of the community's aspirations for its public schools.

Problem solving decisions come in response to a crisis or opportunity that cannot be resolved by the superintendent or is not fully addressed in existing board policy. For example, in the face of declining enrollment, a typical school board would not expect its superintendent to make a final decision on which building to close. Although the superintendent would be expected to provide information and make recommendations, the school board would make the final decision, after deliberating alternatives and consulting policy statements.

Problem-solving decisions usually have isolated, one-time impacts. However, such decisions can establish a precedent that may have the force of policy. For example, a school board's decision to grant a benefit to one group of students may obligate it to grant the same benefit to another group in a similar situation.

Managerial decisions required of each local Utah school board are set forth in the statutes, most notably in Utah Code § 53G-4-402. For example, a school board is required to do the following:

- implement the core curriculum
- administer tests,
- implement training programs,
- enroll children in school,
- establish school libraries, and
- establish school safety traffic committees
- ensure that school community councils receive the required annual training and review and approve the school improvement plans developed by the school community councils.

With few exceptions, managerial duties are delegated to the superintendent. Where there is good communication and high level of trust between the board and superintendent, combined with sound policies that set directions and establish parameters, routine managerial duties will consume only a small amount of time at public board meetings. Legally required board actions can usually be accomplished through approval of consent agendas.

School boards must learn to distinguish policy decisions from problem-solving decisions. Sometimes this is challenging but, in general, boards that emphasize policy development will need to make fewer decisions in response to routine problems. Superintendents who have strong policy guidance are able to resolve a wider array of problems without bringing them to the board for action. Good policy development and review processes allow boards to operate at the systemic level - dealing with mission, purpose, direction, and results.

Conversely, boards without up-to-date written policies often find their meetings running late into the night. Their superintendents must bring numerous issues for discussion and action, which wastes time and yields inconsistent results.

Personnel decisions represent a special category of managerial decisions. Most school boards delegate personnel matters to the superintendent and use policies to express their desired standards for hiring, evaluation, compensation, discipline, and dismissal. This approach avoids the quagmire of wrestling directly with hiring or disciplining employees other than the superintendent and business administrator. Personnel actions, therefore, are usually found on the consent agenda, because a board is required by law to approve all employment contracts, salaries, benefits, and dismissals.

The superintendent is an appointed public official, the district's chief executive, and an employee of the board. Only the board can employ, evaluate, discipline, or dismiss the superintendent.

Holding Closed Meetings

A closed meeting may be held if:

1. A quorum is present.
2. The meeting is an open meeting for which specific notice for a closed meeting has been given with the stated purpose defined.
3. Two-thirds of the members present vote to close the meeting. Voting must been taken by roll call. Name and vote.

Minutes of the closed meeting shall contain:

1. Reason for holding the meeting.
2. Location of the meeting.

3. Vote by name, of each member of the board, either for or against the motion to hold the closed meeting.

Purpose of a closed meeting:

1. Discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of individual.
2. Strategy sessions to discuss collective bargaining.
3. Strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.
4. Strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property including any form of a water right or water shares if public discussion of the transaction would:
    a. Disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration; or
    b. Prevent the board from completing the transaction on the best possible terms.
5. Strategy sessions to discuss the sale of real property, including any form of water right or water shares if public discussion of the transaction would:
    a. Disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration; or
    b. Prevent the board from completing the transaction of the best possible terms.
6. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices or systems.
7. Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct.

A Board may not interview a person applying to fill an elected position in a closed meeting.

Record of closed meetings:

1. A recording shall be made of the closed portion of the meeting.
2. Detailed written minutes may be kept that disclose the content of the closed portion of the meeting.
3. A recording of a closed meeting shall be complete and unedited from the commencement of the closed meeting through adjournment.
4. The recording and any minutes of a closed meeting shall include:
    a. Date, time, and place of the meeting.
    b. Name of the members present and absent.
    c. Names of all others present except where the disclosure would infringe on the confidentiality necessary to fulfill the original purpose of the closing the meeting.
5. No recording or minutes will be taken if the purpose of the closed meeting is for the discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.
    a. A sworn statement must be signed by the presiding member of the board that the sole purpose for closing the meeting was to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

Collaborative Relationships: Shared Governance

The Box Elder School District Board of Education has the exclusive right and responsibility to determine the goals and direction of the schools and use all its resources to achieve such goals, within the bounds of state and federal law and rules of the Utah State Board of Education.

Box Elder School District is a complex organization, which can succeed only if we enlist the energy, creativity, and effort of many people to accomplish our goals. The board believes that ideal conditions for student learning can be realized when shared governance is thoughtfully used to support student achievement.

Board decisions should accurately reflect the public's interests. Statutes of the state of Utah require local school boards to make decisions by majority vote; thus the obligation to seek consensus under shared governance does not bind the board in its decision-making.

The board delegates to school sites and departments the right to make some decisions using the shared governance process. Site-based decisions must conform to legal requirements, state and federal rules and regulations, the district's Student Achievement Plan, policies, procedures, guidelines, and contractual obligations, including negotiated employee agreements.

Essentials of A Professional Learning Community

A. The Superintendent and district administrators will ensure that all of the schools in the district function as professional learning communities. Professional learning communities are defined as educators committed to working collaboratively in ongoing processes of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. Professional learning communities operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous, job-embedded learning for educators.

    1. The Board, district, and school administrators will ensure that time is available, within the contract day, for educators to meet together regularly in collaborative teams.
    2. District/school administrators will ensure this time is reserved for activities directly related to the process of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better achievement results for our students.
    3. Collaborative teacher teams will focus on the following four questions:
        a. What is it that our students are expected to know and do?
        b. How will we know if they know and can do what is expected?
        c. How will we respond if they don't know and can't do what is expected?
        d. How will we respond if they already know and can do it?

District and school administrators will ensure that ongoing training and professional learning opportunities are provided to ensure that all Box Elder School District educators are proficient in the philosophies and practices related to professional learning communities/collaborative teacher teams.

Authority of Individual Board Members

Power belongs not to individual members of a Board of Education but to the Board of Education acting as a corporate body through collective action. Board members have authority only when acting as a Board of Education in a legally constituted session, with a quorum present. The statement or action of an individual member or group of members of the Board of Education does not bind the Board of Education itself, except when that statement or action is specifically authorized by an official act of the board. This does not preclude individual board members from representing the board at meetings and ceremonial events or speaking to constituent groups in their capacity as board members.

Nominations and Elections for Board Leadership

Nominations

A. An office must be created by Board Policy or by a motion to that effect before it can be filled by election or otherwise.
B. The Board President must call for nominations.
C. Nominations do not require a second. However, any number of persons may second a given nomination just to show their support of that nominee.
D. The motion “to close nominations” is not in order until the assembly is ready to close nominations.
    1. When there are two or more nominees for the office the motion to close nominations requires a two-thirds vote. (This motion must be seconded.)
    2. A negative vote on the motion signifies that there are additional nominations forthcoming.
    3. If and when there are no further nominations the Board President may then put the motion to close nominations to a vote without waiting for a second.

Elections

A. Elections and nominations must conform to the procedure prescribed by the Utah State Law and Board Policy.
B. In case of a tie vote, the election is decided by lot unless the organization adopts a motion to do otherwise.
C. Elections are decided by a roll call vote, not by secret ballot. Election to the office is determined by a simple majority.

Board Leadership Responsibilities

The board president will:

1. Conduct meetings of the board in accordance with law and policy.
2. Communicate regularly with the superintendent, business administrator, and members of the board to set meeting agendas, facilitate the flow of necessary information, and respond to community issues and queries.
3. Sign legal assurances, correspondence, and contracts on behalf of the board as required by law, policy, or vote of the board.
4. Represent the board, or designate others to represent the board, as requested, in executive meetings with community and business leaders or elected officials to promote perform their duties.

The board vice president will:

1. Advise and assist the president as needed.
2. Substitute for the president as required.
3. Attend meetings with or at the request of the president and superintendent.
4. Keep the board appropriately informed of issues or data that would help members

Board leadership may speak for the board, or designate others to speak for the board, when requested to do so by vote or consensus of the board communication, without binding the board to a specific decision or position.

New Board Member Orientation

Following the election or appointment of new members, the superintendent and board leadership will provide for an orientation, as to the board's operation and processes, the working relationships with the Superintendent of Schools and staff of the Box Elder School District, and substantive background information pertaining to school system issues and procedures. A copy of this handbook will be provided online. New board members are also encouraged to attend the orientation session organized by the Utah School Boards Association (USBA).

Board of Education Code of Conduct

The members of the Board of Education agree to abide by the following norms of behavior, both as they govern the conduct of board meetings and as they govern the actions of individual board members. These norms will provide an orderly way to conduct public business, promote an atmosphere of mutual respect, and establish a

level of expectation for those who aspire to become school board members in the future.

Board members shall:

1. Represent the Board with dignity, honesty, and integrity.
2. Attend meetings regularly, prepared, professional, engaged, and dedicated to accomplishing and adhering to the agenda.
3. Support efforts to focus on the important matters, remembering that the student is always our most important matter.
4. Communicate effectively, early, and often with each other and with others concerned, seeking to make your own ideas clear while respecting the different opinions of others.
5. Be loyal to the Board and work to achieve unity by supporting its decisions, even though you may personally espouse a different view.
6. Value civility and avoid contention realizing conflict on some issues is inherent and not undesirable.
7. Represent and seek to understand the needs of all students, staff and citizens in the District without partisanship.
8. Work effectively with the Superintendent, and through him/her, with the staff throughout the District.
9. Develop and improve Board skills by establishing goals, measuring progress, and participating in a variety of training opportunities
10. If at all possible Board members should notify the Superintendent or the Board President well in advance of any concerns or questions regarding the Board agenda so that they can be resolved in advance if possible.

Board Member Commitments and Ethics

The Board and its members commit to standards of conduct that are consistent with the public trust placed in elected officials. Accordingly, the Board and its members will:

1. Strive to make policies that promote the educational growth and development of all students;
2. Endeavor to appoint the most competent person available as superintendent of schools and hold that superintendent responsible for carrying out the vision, mission, and goals of the District in the administration of its schools;
3. Support and allow administrators, teachers, and staff to function in their authorized capacities while holding employees responsible for carrying out the District's vision, mission, and goals in their respective roles;
4. Seek to employ the best qualified personnel available without regard to race, color, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity—except when justified to meet a bona

fide occupational requirement (*see* 20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*; Utah Code § 34A-5 *et seq.*);

5. Promulgate policies and procedures dedicated to maintaining a learning and working environment in the District free of discrimination and unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment;
6. Promulgate policies and procedures that ensure operational transparency, including directing employees to maintain, manage, and where appropriate, produce records consistent with federal and state laws (s*ee* 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99; and Utah Code § 53E-9 *et seq.*);
7. Attend Board meetings, insofar as possible, being informed and prepared to discuss and act upon the items on the Board agenda;
8. Conduct Board business in compliance with the ***Utah Open Meetings Act*** (Utah Code § 52-4-1 *et seq.*);
9. Exercise Board authority exclusively to perform legislative and judicial functions;
10. Encourage free expression of opinion and seek regular communication and feedback from the public;
11. Work toward consensus in Board decision making and foster respectful and civil working relationships with other Board members and with the superintendent and District staff while recognizing the value of diverse perspectives and differences of opinion; and
12. Strive to be effective educational leaders by participating in professional development, studying education issues, fulfilling assigned Board duties, building relationships with community organizations and leaders, communicating with constituents, and advocating for public education.

A. Board of Education Code of Ethics

1. Members of the Board may receive compensation for services and necessary expenses in accordance with Utah Code § 53G-4-204. For purposes of Utah Retirement Systems (URS) coverage, however, duly elected members of the Board are classified as part-time employees and ineligible for URS benefits.
2. Members of the Board may not use their position, or information acquired by reason of their position, for any improper or unlawful purpose including substantially furthering personal economic interests or securing special privileges or benefits for themselves or others that would impair the members' independent judgement or interfere with the ethical performance of the members' duties in violation of Utah Code, § 67-16-4.

3. The Board will officially accept gifts and donations on behalf of the District; such acceptance, however, shall not obligate the Board to act in any way contrary to the best interests of students and the public. Further, the Board or its members shall not request, demand, or accept personally or on behalf of the District, a loan, donation, gift of substantial value, or an economic benefit

tantamount to a gift in violation of *Utah Code §§ 67-16-5 to 5.6*

4. The Board and its members shall not misappropriate or misuse public funds or resources and shall be responsible fiscal managers of public funds. Expenditure of public funds shall only be made in accordance with federal or state law and District policies.
5. Members of the Board shall disclose any compensation or any position (whether officer, director, agent, employee, or owner of a substantial interest) in any business entity that does business with or is subject to the regulations governing the District or other public agency in a sworn affidavit and file it with the state attorney general, the District, and any other agency involved in the business or transaction consistent with Utah Code §§ 67-16-6 to 8. Further, members of the Board shall have no personal investments and/or conduct any business creating a substantial conflict of interest between Board members' private interests and their public duties in violation of Utah Code § 67-16-9.
6. Members of the Board shall maintain the confidentiality of information obtained in executive session or other confidential information otherwise obtained in an official capacity.
7. Members of the Board have no individual authority to act on behalf of the Board and the Board only exercises its authority as a body by taking official action through voting in a duly scheduled Board meeting. Individual Members of the Board should not speak on behalf of the Board without prior Board approval.

Members of the Board shall abide by state and federal laws and District policies and refrain from personal or professional conduct that would bring censure, ridicule, damage, or reproach upon the Board or the District.

Disciplining Board Members

If a member of the Board of Education violates the Code of Conduct or the ethical assurances outlined in Board Policies 1034 and 1035, the board president and vice president will speak to that member about his or her responsibilities. If disruptive or destructive behavior occurs, the board may issue a formal reprimand by a vote of five members.

Policies Governing the Board

Detailed information about the board's process of conducting meetings and other guidance around board operation can be found in School Board Policy Article 1.

Links to other helpful resources, including specific citations to Utah Code, are included with the appropriate policy on the district's website.

Guidelines and Parliamentary Motions

The following guidelines and examples have been taken from the Utah School Boards Association book titled Coming to Order, which is available on the USBA website. The Box Elder School District Board of Education appoints a Business Administrator who serves as the board's parliamentarian:

1. A board should agree on and adopt an agenda format that it will follow at regular meetings.
2. Action items on the agenda require:
    - a motion by a board member,
    - a second to the motion (required by most boards but not all),
    - a discussion of the motion by board members, and
    - a vote by board members.
3. Other than the consent agenda, each motion should be limited to one idea or issue.
4. No new motion may be made while another is being discussed.
5. A motion may be amended and votes on the amendments must be taken before acting on the original motion.
6. Before a vote on a main motion is taken, business can be interrupted by a motion:
    - to table the main motion,
    - to postpone action,
    - to refer the motion to a committee,
    - to withdraw it from consideration, or
    - to adjourn the meeting.

    The subsidiary motions must be disposed of prior to action on the main motion.
7. Debate can be closed formally with a motion to move the question and a two-thirds affirmative vote.
8. When a Board member wishes to speak in board meeting, he/she should request to be recognized by the Board President before speaking. He/she may gain recognition by the President by raising a hand or speaking audibly, "Mr./Mrs. President". Once recognized the Board member should address the Board.
9. When the president senses the discussion has ended, a vote may be taken without a formal motion to close debate unless a member objects.
10. Some motions, such as a motion to adjourn, are not debatable. See the "Simplified Chart of Parliamentary Motions" on page 10.
11. Before a motion is voted upon, it should be repeated aloud.
12. The president, by virtue of membership on the board, is expected to vote on each issue before the board.

13. The president should indicate before each vote whether a simple or special majority is required.
14. The president should keep readily at hand a reference guide, such as the chart of parliamentary motions.

Simplified Chart of Parliamentary Motions

Motion & Order of Precedence	You Say:	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Required
Adjourn	I move to adjourn	No	No	Majority
Recess	I move to recess for	No	No	Majority
Close Debate	I move the previous question	No	No	2/3
Postpone Definitely	I move to postpone the motion to	Yes	Yes	Majority
Refer to Committee	I move to refer the motion to	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend the Amendment	I move to amend the amendment by	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend or substitute	I move to amend the motion by	Yes	Yes	Majority
Main motion	I move to	Yes	Yes	Majority
Reconsider		Yes	Yes	Majority
Rescind		Yes	Yes	Majority (with notice)
Incidental Motions				
No order of precedence. Arise incidentally and decided immediately				
Point of Order (to enforce rules)	Point of Order	No	No	None

Parliamentary Inquiry	Parliamentary questions	No	No	None
Withdraw or Modify a Motion	I withdraw (or modify) my motion	No	No	Majority

Board Policies Relevant to Board of Education Legal Status, Responsibilities, and Ethics

Policy 1010 School Board's Legal Status

Policy 1020 Board Power and Duties

Policy 1025 Administration Relations

Policy 1034 Board of Education Code of Conduct

Policy 1035 Board Member Commitments and Ethics

Policy 1036 Conflict of Interest: Board Member and Employee

Policy 1037 Employment/Assignment of Relatives (Nepotism) (Reference - Utah Code 52-3)

Board Policies Relevant to School Board Meetings

Policy 1070 Board Meeting Procedures

Policy 1072 Board Meetings: Notice Requirements

Policy 1074 Board Meetings: Closed Meetings

Policy 1080 Board Committees

Policy 1090 Rules of Order

Policy 1100 Minutes

Policy 1110 Public Participation in Board Meeting