

DUCHESNE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

May 7, 2026

District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah

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

VISITORS:

Heather Cook	Cliff Murray	Tiffanee Taylor	Mathew Checora	Danita Hinten
Phillip Bertoch	Tyler Powell	Rylie Shaffer	Matt Luce	Julie Seeley
Mike Ross	Daron Gatherum	Jen Gatherum	Nicole Glines	Nathaniel Booth
Jenn Tuckett	Trent Birchell	Tom Clark	Mckenna Powell	
Kendra Embleton	Rauni Guffey	Melanie Clark	Danika Monson	
Samantha Suter	Rebecca Hanks	Nicole Checora	Ann Marie Powell	

WORK SESSION: The Board discussed student engagement, the science of learning, and student attendance.

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 Mr. Thacker seconded to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held April 2, 2026; voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Audio recording is available at: utah.gov/pmn/files/1430007.mp3

RECOGNITION: The Roosevelt Jr. High Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Booth, performed for the Board. The Extra Degree award was presented to Rebecca Hanks and Daron Gatherum for their exceptional contributions to student success.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Trent Birchel, DCSD Tech Department Director, reported on the full gamut of services provided by the department. Many upgrades are under way to improve safety including door sensors and cameras. Danita Hinten with the Duchesne Arts Council reported on their programs they provide for the community and partner with the schools for the students through grants and donations.

OPEN TIME: At 7:40 p.m. President Bench opened the meeting for those who signed up for public comment. Cliff Murray philosophized on systems and the legislative intent of the school year policy. President Bench closed open time at 7:44 p.m.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

1. Travel Requests – Superintendent Young reviewed requests for Tyrell Killian to attend a nursing conference in Las Vegas, UHS girls basketball, FBLA to Texas for nationals, and AHS State golf. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Mr. Thacker seconded; passed unanimously.
2. Buildings/Construction – Altamont gymnasium should be ready for fall, Altamont Elementary is on track to open the fall of 2027. The Tabiona track project will go to bid in a few weeks. The Apex / Ag Center will be submitted for a grant this summer. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality requested a spot for equipment near Union High School.
3. Personnel
 - a. Employee Compensation Package 2026-2027 – Mr. Miles proposed a 1% raise, to fund steps and lanes, reported that the Educator Salary Adjustment was increased from \$10,350 to \$10,660, TSSA

- would be the same, and the health insurance increased 8%. Mr. Busenbark moved to approve. Mr. Smith seconded; passed unanimously.
- b. New Hires – Mr. Busenbark moved to approve new teachers hired for next year, Mr. Thacker seconded, passed unanimously.
4. Policy 2nd Reading: 4.0220 School Year – Superintendent Young reviewed the changes from the new legislation that passed. The new requirement is 83 hours of instruction for a credit. Mr. Thacker moved to approve. Mr. Smith seconded; passed unanimously.
5. Health Review – Kendra Embleton reviewed the health education curriculum. Teen pregnancy, abuse, and STD's are trending downward.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Policy 1st Reading: 6.0100.01 Presentation and Hearing Procedure – Superintendent Young reported on the new requirement to have this policy on how to handle complaints.
2. Strategic Plan/ABCs Update – Superintendent Young reported on the third year of implementing the core direction of the District developed with teams of teachers and schools, which include a compact and accompanying contract if needed. It is working very well and being adopted by other schools across the nation. The citizenship ABC's program (Attendance, Behavior, Classwork) continues to roll out as well. Much of the tracking is automatic through the student system. New State legislation mimics our system, but lacks accountability and will soon fail. Superintendent Young proposed opting out of the State system and continuing on with our own system with new verbiage to highlight the opt-out.
3. Policy Review: 4.0520 – Superintendent Young reviewed the Vital Competencies that is rolling out slowly that also helped change literacy legislation this year from a retention program to an intervention focus. Defense of Learning started this year in Tabiona with the 8th grade. The Board was able to observe great things at Centennial, Basin Online, and Tabiona.
4. USBA Pre-Delegate and Delegate Assembly June 5-6 – A Board delegate will attend.
5. Board Member Assignments at Graduation – Superintendent Young reviewed the assignments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Busenbark moved and Mr. Thacker seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel at 8:57 p.m.; aye votes: Mr. Bench, Mr. Busenbark, 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 9:53 p.m.; passed unanimously. Mr. Busenbark moved to adjourn, Mr. Smith seconded, motion passed. President Bench adjourned the meeting at 10:56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT / FUTURE PLANNING: The next Regular Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at the District Office, 1010 East 200 North, Roosevelt, Utah.