Box Elder School District
Board Meeting Summary

Notes from the Board of Education meeting held November 11, 2026 at the Independent Life Skills Center. These notes are provided as one way to keep stakeholders of the District informed on the work of the Board of Education and District administration. These notes are not minutes of the meeting. They are simply the recollections of Superintendent Mecham and Assistant Superintendent West.

Work Session 5:30 p.m.

- Fee Waiver Amount Discussion by AJ Gilmore, Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Teaching & Learning
- Boundary Planning

The call to order took place at 6:30 p.m.

- Call to Order by Tiffani Summers, Board President
- Reverence by AJ Gilmore, Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Teaching & Learning
- Flag Salute/Pledge of Allegiance by Allie Sorensen, Student Board Member

Recognitions by Jamie Kent, Public Information Officer

- Five C's Recognition by Jamie Kent, Public Information Officer
    - Connections: Tyson Heaton, BEHS Social Studies Teacher
        - Tyson is amazing at building relationships with his students. Tyson is able to create a classroom environment where students feel safe to reach for high expectations. He genuinely cares for each student's growth and spends hours thinking about individual students and how to help them succeed. Tyson Heaton is a great connector in our Box Elder High community.
    - Communication: Taylor Jackson, BRHS Assistant Principal
        - She is calm and leads with confidence. She communicates clearly and gets things done. She earns the respect of students and staff through good judgement.
    - Collaboration: Golden Spike First Grade Team - Tayler Kent, Jamie Keller, Riley Davis, Heather Droubay, Michele Simpson, Carmina Leal
        - This team has been working for a couple years to rethink instruction and make every minute count to develop strong readers. They have strengthened their PLC process by attending a conference and are more intentional and focused in developing instruction for their students. They have honest conversations and want to see each other succeed.
    - Contribution: Coby & Tangi Reese and Stacie Sorensen - Twisted Sugar and Bear River Floral
        - Both of these companies have reached out offering to contribute to our schools. Twisted Sugar hosts "School Nights" for any interested schools and gives back a big portion of sales earned from that night to the school. Bear River Floral reached out to the Northern schools and offered to do a bouquet and favorite drink monthly to honor any staff member. The fact that they intentionally reach out and ask if they can give shows how much they value making a contribution to our

schools. They are generous and thoughtful and SO awesome to support Box Elder School District!
    - Career Readiness: Thomas Kramer, BRHS/BRMS Counselor
        - He helps turn student plans for after high school into things they can do now. He follows through on student questions and helps students make their best next step.
- Veteran's Day Recognition- To all the veterans in our community, thank you for your service!
- Teacher of the Year Recognition- Heather Horrocks

Approval of Agenda

- The agenda was approved by the School Board.

Public Comment:

- Heather Godfrey, North Park Principal, Christyn Kenrick, Assistant Principal, & Student Dylan- The students and community from North Park Elementary appreciate the playground. Thank you!

Action Items:

- Approval of 2027-28 District Calendar by Coerina Fife, Executive Director of Personnel and Title IX
    - The community feedback indicated that the majority do not want to start before the fair.
        - The Board requested a participation count for the number of students who are involved in the fair through FFA, 4H or other items.
    - The majority of respondents prefer a 2-week Christmas Break.
- Approval of BESD Becoming a Vendor for Utah Fits All Scholarship by AJ Gilmore, Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Teaching & Learning
    - Opportunity for students who would like to take courses from Box Elder. We will charge $500 per class per trimester. They can take any class that is online or in person, except concurrent enrollment.
    - We would also offer Driver's Ed to UFA students.
    - This would allow those students to take AP tests at our school with our students.

This was approved by the Board.

- Approval of Amendment to BEHS 2026-27 School Land Trust Plan by AJ Gilmore, Asst. Superintendent of Secondary Teaching & Learning
    - BEHS Amendment. They need to reallocate $37,000 and would like to take a team to the Learning and the Brain Conference and a Professional Learning Community training.

This was approved by the Board.

- Approval to Increase the Undistributed Reserve Fund by Neil Stevens, Business Administrator
    - The reserve is a rainy-day fund that cannot be accessed unless voted upon by the Board. The maximum reserve is 5% of the approved budget for the year. The recommendation is to raise this amount consistent with the budget growing. Moving these funds would require Board approval to access those funds rather than holding them in the portion of the budget that could be spent without approval.

This was approved by the Board.

Information Items:

- RISE and Utah Aspire Plus Data by Jeff Morris - Assessment Director

- Thanks to the work of our principals, teachers, and support staff, our student achievement is improving.
- Celebrations:
- 4th Grade trends
  - ELA +4% from 2024
  - Math +7% Since 2024
- 5th Grade trends
  - ELA +6% from 2024
  - Math +5% Since 2024
- 8th Grade Math
  - 13% above state averages!
  - With MGP at 72!
- Utah's School Improvement system
  - Utah Identifies schools for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) annually.
    - Utah identified 87 new schools.
    - BESD has 0 new TSI categories in 2 years.
  - Utah Identifies schools every 3 years for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).
    - BESD has had 6 schools come off of ATSI status in the last two years.
    - Several schools are progressing toward exiting ATSI status currently.
- Testing is driving instruction and curriculum to support our students to be more proficient.

- BESD Online Program and School Filtering by David Blake, Ed Tech Specialist and Robert Gordon, IT Director
  - School Filtering
    - Internet Filtering: We use Content Keeper to filter search results and web content for all computer users.
    - Internet Safety Policy: We use Content Keeper to keep users safe on the internet. We also have Policy 4178 Internet Use.
    - Student Monitoring: We use Gaggle District wide and GoGuardian per teacher to monitor student usage.
    - Policy Review & Updates: Cyber security team continuously reviews managed sites to ensure all requests meet educational and security safeguards.
    - Review Team Composition: Cyber Security Analyst, Ed Tech Coordinator, Building Administrator
  - BESD Online
    - Currently offering 19 classes online. The goal is to offer 24 credits and classes that are required for graduation.
    - These courses are self-paced and can be completed on any timeline within the trimester.
    - 86% of students pass their courses. There are two mentors for these online courses who work to help students be successful.
    - The teachers are Box Elder School District teachers who currently teach these courses and follow the content requirements for their own courses and adapt their coursework for the online class.

        - The goal of the online program is to lower the number of SOEP enrollments from Box Elder School District.
            - For every student who enrolls in State Online Education Program SOEP, there is a net dedication taken from our K-12 allotment. This costs Box Elder School District around $300,000 per year. The report is shared quarterly and the amount is declining as we support these students in the District with our teachers and mentors. We want to keep our students here and successful in Box Elder.
        - A secondary goal is to allow our students flexibility in coursework. This allows our students to enroll in any combination of online courses and in person.
        - Parents call and share that they are so happy because their students are being successful online. We have students who have been spending time in hospitals who are able to do their work. It also encompasses students who are DLI or athletes and want flexibility. This online program allows students to find success and complete their coursework towards graduation.
    - Board Member Smith shared that he appreciates that the right individual is over the program. He also shared that many families felt their family life was better during online school for covid as it allowed flexibility.
    - Assistant Superintendent Gilmore shared that he would like the new social studies requirements to include at least one online course to experience what will be expected of them in the future.
- Construction Update by Jerry Jackman, Facilities Director
    - Discovery
        - Fire Sprinklers will be done over the Thanksgiving and Christmas Breaks. The library will be done in May.
        - Walls are being completed. Asphalt is being prepped. The last of the flatwork concrete should be done this week, including the curb and gutter. The asphalt will go out into the road.
    - Salt Creek
        - Footings and foundation are in on the North Side.
        - Surcharge is complete. The gravel is now being moved and used.
    - Other projects
        - Fuel tank is in at the South Transportation building.
        - Parking lots are progressing at Bear River High, McKinley & Garland.
- Monthly Financial Report by Neil Stevens, Business Administrator
    - Our revenue is tracking with last year.
    - Our fuel costs are $100,000 over the costs of last year. $200,000 was allocated to the increase, but we have spent 50% of that projected overage to date.
        - We are not reimbursed for mileage to and from the bus garage. Some of this cost is offset when we allow drivers to park at their homes which are near their route.
- Proposed Budget Adjustment to Pay Off GO Bond in December Board Meeting by Neil Stevens, Business Administrator
    - Superintendent Mecham and Business Administrator Stevens have devised a recommendation to pay off the GO Bond early. Refinancing the bond allowed for a savings of the portion. There is the possibility of paying off the bond. This would sacrifice 4% interest earned on those funds in excess of the ~2.7% charged to the bond.

- Superintendent Mecham shared that he is in favor of this as it would remove the GO Bond payment from the property tax charges for our county. This would complete the payment on the 2008 GO Bond and decrease their taxes in 2027.
- Board Member Cronin- I appreciate the thought going into this and believe the residents will as well.

- Board Committee Reports
  - Stephanie DeFilippis- Book Battle. I was able to visit the western schools with Superintendent Mecham. Jill Dallon, teacher, has a whiteboard with what every student is doing at each grade. Their Book Battle team consists of students from all three Western Schools. Students are enjoying reading books that they wouldn't have normally read. My Book Battle seems like it is going really well and it makes me so happy.
  - Karen Cronin- The Boys and Girls Club is accepting donations for Christmas shopping to help families in our area that may need some support.
  - Jubilee of Trees- We tried some different things. We had corporate sponsorships which brought in more money. The trees auctioned really well. We had a paint night on Friday where schools came in to sing. We gave away 255 candy canes. We made $16,000 more than last year. The Foundation Board is working hard and doing good things to support our School District. Board member Cronin felt it went well and the auction was a good experience.
  - Student Board Member Report- Bear River has a food drive that is getting set up as well as a giving tree. Both of these are for the food pantry to help families in the community. Students are concerned about the construction of the parking lot. They are frustrated that the new lot wasn't finished prior to moving them to the grassy area. I would like to find out more about what students are encountering on a daily basis at Box Elder and Sunrise.
- Employee Appreciation
  - Board President Summers stated that she appreciates seeing these employees recognized for their efforts and loves to reach out to those that she knows. She expressed that she enjoys seeing them listed on Facebook as well.

	October	**Teacher**	**Support**
○	BRHS	Melissa Ingrum	Annie Starnes
○	BRMS	Joanne Mortenson	Alicia Johnston
○	ACHI	Jeremy Webb Jr.	Chelsie Nelson
○	BEHS	Wendy Van Dyke	Teresa Roubidoux
○	BEMS	MaryKay Johnson	Kayleen Lee
○	ACYI	JaNell Mathews	Rachel Richards
○	Sunrise	Anne Turner	Hunter Morgan
○	Century	Kamerie Anderson	Blythe Chournos
○	Discovery	Kaitlin Bott	Monica Glover
○	Fielding	Heather Young	Dani Knuchel
○	Garland	Tenaya Madsen	Shirlene Womack
○	Golden Spike	Heather Droubay	Gregory Steed
○	Lake View	Brenda Lopez	Deann Turner
○	McKinley	Tiffany Reed	MaKenna Wright
○	North Park	Jamie Owen	Ladean Bitner
○	3 Mile Creek	Heidi Murdock	BriAnn Peterson

- Willard Krisha Obray Michelle Warner
- Western Alexey Jones McKinzie Richins

Policy Review

- **First Reading**
  - Policy 3044 Orderly School Termination for Employees
  - Policy 3087 Personal Protective Equipment & Safety
  - Policy 3098 Employee Surveys
  - Policy 3099 Reporting of Student Prohibited Acts
  - Policy 4130 Participation in Online Education
  - Policy 4135 Dual Enrollment
  - Policy 5055 Vision Screening
  - Policy 5070 Communicable Diseases
  - Policy 5100 Student Records
  - Policy 5224 Non-enrolled District Student's Participation in Activities
  - Policy 5230 Student Fees, Fines, and Charges
  - Policy 5380 Notification Received from Juvenile Courts
  - Policy 5390 Student Toilet Training
  - Policy 6000 Public Records Access and Management
  - Policy 6023 School Climate Surveys
  - Policy 6060 Conduct on School Premises

- **Second Reading**
  - Policy 1020 Board Powers and Duties
  - Policy 1225 School Size - Elementary School
  - Policy 2229 Transportation: Route Planning
  - Policy 2231 Transportation: School Site Selection
  - Policy 2232 Transportation: Director of Transportation
  - Policy 2233 Transportation: Operators and Mechanics
  - Policy 2234 Transportation: Student Management
  - Policy 2235 Transportation: Lights and Railroad Crossings
  - Policy 2236 Transportation: Emergencies
  - Policy 3041 Educator Evaluation
  - Policy 4016 Evaluation and Selection of Instructional Material
  - Policy 4037 Reading Achievement for K-3
  - Policy 4068 Special Programs: Alternative Language Program
  - Policy 4078 Class Disclosure Statements: Elementary
  - Policy 4105 Sex Education
  - Policy 4115 Grading: Course Grade Replacement
  - Policy 5321 Educational Field Trips
  - Policy 6018 Parental Involvement
  - Policy 6045 Board of Education Hotline
  - Policy 6050 Community Use of School Facilities

All policies were approved.

Consent Items

- Minutes
    - October 14, 2026 Board Meeting
    - October 26, 2026 Board Meeting
    - November 2, 2026 Board Meeting
- Claims
    - Oct 2026 Check Summary
- Personnel

All consent items were approved by the Board.

Suggestions for Future Board Meetings

- Budget Hearing for the Adjustment to the Budget.
- Board President Summers would like numbers on students who participate in the Fair shared in either public comment or as an information item.

Upcoming Events

- New Board Member Training - December 5, 2026 8:00 to 1:30, Provo Marriott
- USBA Conference - January 7-9, 2026

Adjournment

The Board Meeting adjourned after the closed session at 9:17.
The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, with a Work Session at 6:30 p.m. at the Independent Life Skills Center, 960 S Main St, Brigham City, Utah.

The details of each action item and supporting information for other agenda items are available on the District website.