

Box Elder School District Board Meeting Summary

Notes from the Board of Education meeting held October 14, 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.

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

- Call to Order by Tiffani Summers, Board President
- Reverence by Karen Cronin, Board Member
- Flag Salute/Pledge of Allegiance by Stephanie DeFilippis, Board Member

Recognitions by Jamie Kent, Public Information Officer

- Five C's Recognition by Jamie Kent, Public Information Officer
 - Connections: Megan Loveless, Principal Admin. Asst. - ACHI
 - Communication: Brandon Nelson, Asst. Principal - BEMS
 - Collaboration: Box Elder Middle School 9th Grade ELA Team - Kali Phister, Kierstyn Saunders, Talia Scholes, Carleen Ramirez, Marguerite Smoot
 - Contribution: Sharon Williams, Class of 1965
 - Career Readiness: TJ Rhodes, BRHS CTE Teacher

Approval of Agenda

- The agenda was approved by the school board.

Swear in Student Board Member Allie Sorensen, BRHS by Neil Stevens, Business Administrator

Public Comment:

- BEHS Theatre: Cast of Mary Poppins. We invite you all to come support us.
- Kristen Riley, Century Principal: Thank you, thank you, we really want to thank you. We were recently the recipients of playground equipment. I was so happy to know that we had funding for our playground equipment. We also received an all-abilities playground and we are so appreciative. I have brought cards from our students.
- Ben Soholt: I have serious questions about the Board's decision to maintain the 37% property tax increase. Enrollment has declined by more than 300 this year. Fewer students should mean lower operating costs. Why is the full tax cost necessary? Are we prioritizing essential needs or finding more items to fund? An example is the BRHS softball field.
- McKell Harrop: I am a parent to a Lake View Leopard who is in third-grade. I am also a member of the PTA. I am here to encourage more parents to participate in supporting their schools. We have purchased shirts for all employees and students. Every class has a weekly chance to win a pizza party. Our PTA funds a field trip for every grade. We also fund teacher grants that are considered the cherry on top. We recently purchased a book vending machine with the Kiwanis club which is a powerful student incentive program. The vending machine only accepts tokens which students earn. I only ask that all parents join together to support our schools.

Action Items:

- Approval of Comprehensive Prevention Plans by Ben Wiley, CTE Director on behalf of Megan Bushnell, Student Services Director
 - Every year, schools are required to prepare a prevention support plan. These are typically crafted by the principal and counselor. Every school has an attendance goal as well as discipline and smoking cessation. There is a stipend that is divided amongst the members who implement and oversee the plans.
- These plans were approved by the School Board.
- Approval of Construction Contract for Salt Creek Elementary, Neil Stevens, Business Administrator
 - The guaranteed maximum price is \$35,089,443.
- This was approved by the Board.
- Approval of Construction Project for Bear River High School Parking/Softball Field Adjustments. Presenter: Neil Stevens, Business Administrator
 - The plan is to move the softball field which will enhance parking, spread out traffic for spring sports, and improve student safety. This provides our softball teams with locker spaces in the natatorium. Student parking will be shifted to the west of the stadium. School buses will move from the front of the school to behind the school where there will be less traffic and minimize risk to students.
 - Tarkett Sports is a state approved vendor and contract provider.
 - The base price for the softball field is \$1.9M
 - Community groups will be able to use the softball field throughout the summer months.
 - The District purchased the seminary building and has leased it back to the LDS church. The contract requires the District to demolish the building within 60 days once the new seminary building is complete.
 - The design was initially intended to expand the high school to the north. In the future, the space will be available to move north with additions to the high school.
 - This will include 230 new parking stalls. We will lose about 70 to the new seminary. This will provide about 140 more. The District owns the land to the north of the high school for parking. This remains an option for future parking expansion.
 - This contract with Tarkett Sports to construct the softball field at BRHS was approved by the Board 5-1.
- Approval of Sunrise High School Community Council Exemption, Randy Rasmussen, Principal
 - Consistent with state code, there are exemptions that can be made for schools that are unable to fulfill the parent participant requirements. Sunrise High School has made efforts to include and recruit parents to serve on this committee without being able to gather the required number.
 - In past years, Sunrise High School's funds have been used to hire mentors to assign to students, who monitor grades and support students in their efforts to graduate.
 - The School Board approved the exemption.

Information Items:

- October 1 Enrollment Report by Keith Mecham, Superintendent
 - These are tentative numbers. Enrollment is down this year by over 300 students.

- Literacy Goals Report by AshLee Nelson, Director of Instructional Support and Jamie Kent, Public Information Director and Math Specialist
 - The last four years trend of Benchmark (Green) and Above Benchmark (Blue) was shared and goals for the next school year. The goal is based upon the previous year's performance and state goal requirements.
 - Box Elder School District is out performing the state in all areas on Acadience. We are encouraged by the number of students who are performing Well Above Benchmark. This will translate into improved RISE performance. Schools and grade levels are seeking to improve their attention to RISE.
 - Only students who are not performing at grade level will be tested on Acadience in 4th and 5th grades.
- IRP & SB241 Update by Heidi Jo West, Assistant Superintendent
 - Teachers, Coaches, and Principals were surveyed to provide input on how the implementation of IRPs have gone in our District. Perceptions and opportunities to improve were shared. Options for teachers were prioritized.
- Construction and Improvements Update by Jerry Jackman, Facilities Director
 - Salt Creek Elementary in Tremonton
 - Surcharge is where all of the gravel has been brought in to compact the soil. The soil is not compacting a lot, which is what they want. Right now, part of the building has started.
 - The playgrounds are complete. We have poured in place surfaces in each of these. Wheelchairs can be rolled on them.
 - Garland and McKinley's parking is progressing. The drainage boxes have been set. The curb and gutter is started at Garland.
 - Fielding's long lease agreement for expanding parking is submitted.
 - Secure Vestibules- The District is saving \$1.8 million on the project at BEMS.
- Monthly Financial Report by Neil Stevens, Business Administrator
 - School club funding is covered by fundraising and participation fees.
- Board Committee Reports
 - Student Board Member Report: BEHS is planning a winter formal that they haven't had for a few years that they are excited about. BRHS has felt that there is a lack of representation within clubs. This is being addressed by providing information to the middle schools.
- Employee Appreciation

September	Teacher	Support
○ BRHS	Marckee Belliston	Celeste Anderson
○ BRMS	Megan Cranmer	Jeniece Scott
○ ACHI	Karen Christiansen	Angel Zambrano
○ BEHS	Tyson Heaton	Keith Witt
○ BEMS	Staci Bishop	Angie Smoot
○ ACYI	Susan Thompson	Terri Nevarez
○ Sunrise	Jeremy Hammond	David Kraus
○ Century	Valerie Josephson	Read Marshall
○ Discovery	Crystal Bodily	Stephanie Smith
○ Fielding	Tina Gregory	Abby Hancock
○ Garland	Michaela Sutton	Jennifer Manning

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| ○ Golden Spike | Gwen Larsen | Mindy Adams |
| ○ Lake View | Nicole Jensen | Chelsye Saulsberry |
| ○ McKinley | Leslie Brown | Lesly Castro |
| ○ North Park | Mikellie Sorensen | Natalie Swain |
| ○ 3 Mile Creek | Carol Pyle | Lori Morris |
| ○ Willard | Mandy Stokes | Rhonda Call |
| ○ Western | Hallie Kunzler | Maci Kunzler |

Policy Review

● First 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 on first reading were approved.

● Second Reading

- Policy 1071 Electronic Meetings
- Policy 1072 Board Meetings: Notice Requirements
- Policy 1074 Board Meetings: Closed Meetings
- Policy 2031 Procurement of Construction: Construction Bonds and Security
- Policy 2036 Procurement of Construction: Construction Management Methods
- Policy 2181 District Emergency Response Plan
- Policy 2182 School Safety
- Policy 3007 Employment: Staff Code of Conduct
- Policy 3010 Employee Bullying and Hazing
- Policy 3038 High Needed Educator Salary Supplement
- Policy 3047 Reemployment of Retirees
- Policy 3070 Alcohol and Drug Abuse - Employees
- Policy 3094 Reporting Student Drug Possession Offenses

- Policy 4027 Special Programs: Dropout Prevention and Recovery
 - Policy 4028 Special Programs: Education of Youth in Care
 - Policy 4061 Curriculum: American Heritage
 - Policy 4066 Curriculum: Religious Neutrality
 - Policy 5005 Safe Schools: Student Discipline/Behavior
 - Policy 5010 Admissions and Attendance: Eligibility and Admissions Requirements
 - Policy 5085 Services for Students Experiencing Homelessness
 - Policy 5270 Student Rights and Responsibilities: Bullying, Cyberbullying, Hazing, and Abusive Conduct
 - Policy 6070 Electronic Submission of Information
- All policies on second reading were approved.

Consent Items

- Minutes of the September 9, 2026 Board Meeting
 - Board Member Cronin made a motion to approve the minutes, but it shows that she voted against it. This will be corrected. Page 7/9 on the consent calendar.
- Claims
 - Sept 2026 Check Summary
- Personnel
- Exemption from Compulsory Attendance (Home School) by Keith Mecham, Superintendent
 - Increased by 50 students from last year.
 - Parents are not required to notify the School District that they are homeschooling their student.
- Out of State Travel Requests
 - BRHS Girls Wrestling- Board Member Cronin asked-The cost is \$400, but the girls are only asked to pay \$100. How is the difference being made up? Superintendent Mecham responded that the difference was covered by fundraisers.
- 150 Mile Trips
 - BRHS Theatre
- Club Request
 - BEHS Fiber Arts Club
- School Bus Purchases

All were approved by the Board.

Upcoming Events

- BESD Foundation Jubilee of Trees at Box Elder County Fairgrounds, Home Arts Building - Open to Public - November 6, 2026 12:00 to 8:00 pm
- New Board Member Training - December 5, 2026 8:00 to 1:30, Provo Marriott
- USBA Conference - January 7-9, 2026
- Utah Mammoth Hockey Team will be coming to Fielding Elementary tomorrow. They will teach PE classes.

Adjournment

Board voted to enter a closed session at 9:26. They will adjourn from there.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, with a Work Session at 5:30 and a Regular 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.