IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUILT IRON STRONG

Board Briefs

INFORMATION FROM THE SEPTEMBER 16 & 23, 2025, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board considers calendar for 2026-27

School community councils and staff will be invited to weigh in on the proposed 2026-27 school year calendar before its adoption in October.

Superintendent Dr. Lance Hatch shared the initial proposal with the Board of Education during the regular work meeting Tuesday.

"The calendar is a tough thing and you already know that," Hatch said. "We do have some long-standing community expectations and I learned those real quick when I moved here. Do not start school on a Monday or Tuesday. We tried that."

Other expectations, he said include:

- School ending before Memorial Day,
- Second quarter ending as students leave for winter break,
- Spring Break attached to Easter
- Full week for Spring Break

The district also takes into consideration breaks at Southern Utah University and Washington School District. However, other expectations often make it impossible to align all breaks with those two entities.

The proposed calendar includes a start date of Aug. 12 and an end date of May 20, which is a Thursday. Spring Break is March 29-April 2. The calendar includes 177 instructional days with three professional development days to equal the state's requirement of 180 days.

Board Member Tyrel Eddy said one of the difficulties is athletics and games scheduled during breaks. He suggested a dialogue with the Utah High School Activities Association about conflicting breaks and possibly adapting game days to early in the week when there's a conflict.

Board members also discussed the difficulty that set A days and B days has created at the high school level. Hatch did explain the change was made to better coincide with Southwest Tech and SUU to accommodate students who attend classes there and in their boundary school.

Officials review timeline for study of boundary adjustments

Initiating a boundary change carries a list of requirements, Superintendent Dr. Lance Hatch told board members. In the work meeting on Sept. 16, he outlined the boundary change process in preparation of opening the new East Elementary in the fall of 2026. To initiate the process, he said, the Board needed to approve the first step for a boundary change.

"There are timeframes," Hatch said. "In order to meet all the timeframes I'm proposing that we schedule our public hearing in February. "That would be early enough to make a decision that we could communicate with all of the families and do all of the things that we need to do."

In its meeting Tuesday, Sept. 26, the board approved initiating the boundary process. Hatch emphasized that the timeline gives the board sufficient time to study the details with the boundary change. Additionally, it gives the community time to give input.

Board member Tyrel Eddy asked at what point the Board would weigh in with criteria, specifically regarding options for students currently attending an impacted school. Hatch said that could possibly be considered after the first draft is presented to the Board.

Hatch said the boundary adjustments would likely impact the majority of the elementary schools, as well as the two Cedar City high schools.

The new East Elementary building, has an increased capacity. At least two elementary schools in the district are in need of enrollment reductions while others are down in enrollment numbers and need more students. An adjustment to boundaries will help even out the enrollment throughout the district.

Shortly after school starts next fall, the addition at Canyon View High School will also be complete. Hatch said the addition adds nine classrooms to the building.

District officials plan to bring a draft proposal to the October work meeting.