IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUILT IRON STRONG

Board Briefs

INFORMATION FROM THE OCT. 28, 2025, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Survey shows support for 4-day week

The conversation about a possible four-day school week continued at the Board of Education meeting Tuesday. Superintendent Dr. Lance Hatch said one thing he hopes the community, staff and parents understand is that a long process will be followed before any decision is made. There are still many unknowns.

The belief that the board will make a decision in a couple of weeks is not true. The district will continue to gather information from other districts who have moved to the four-day schedule, hold town halls to get community input and consider educational studies on the impact of the shorter week. Even after all of that, the state must give approval if the district decides to change schedules.

Hatch said one of the initial steps requested by the board was to survey parents and staff to see if there was support for a four-day week. The response in the first 24 hours was more than the district has had on any other survey. He said more than 2,000 parents have responded. As expected, there are people for it and some against it with almost 70 percent supportive of a shorter week. Separated out, parents with students at the elementary level were less supportive with only about 68 percent saying they liked a four-day week.

Hatch also summarized comments received through the survey. The majority were negative, he said. Many expressed concerns about student learning and increased child care costs. Those who support the four-day school week were less likely to comment.

Data from the staff survey was also reviewed. Hatch said 743 responses had been received so far. Just over 72% said they prefer the four-day week. Breaking out just licensed educators, almost 80% were for a shorter school week. Non-licensed staff, however, were less supportive, with only about 64% saying they preferred the four-day calendar.

One misconception, Hatch said, was around the thought of freezing cost of living increases for one to two years. Many believed that meant no change in salary. Steps and lanes would still be funded, Hatch said.

Both surveys will remain open until Nov. 13.

"We understand that there is a lot more to learn about this," he said. "What we don't know is whether the board has (an) appetite to continue to learn more," he said.

Board members spoke positively about moving forward with gathering more information on the shorter week. Board member Tyrel Eddy said the survey results alone are something the board cannot ignore.

In the future, Hatch said he would like to provide an opportunity for the board to talk to administrators at schools that have successfully implemented four-day school weeks.

Board votes to keep similar meeting schedule for 2026

The Board of Education will follow a meeting schedule in 2026, similar to this year's schedule. There will be a work meeting on the third Tuesday in January, February, March, August, September and October. Those meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. Regular business meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesdays in those same months. Public comment is on the agenda for business meetings.

In April, May, June, July, November and December, a combined work and business meeting will be held. Those meetings will begin at 3 p.m. with the workshop and then the business meeting is set to begin at 5:30 p.m.

In other business:

• The Board of Education accepted the recommendation to declare four elementary schools closed to open enrollment. South, Enoch, Parowan and Three Peaks elementary schools are at over 90% capacity or capacity minus 40 students according to Oct. 1 counts.

This means that during the open enrollment period (Nov. 15-Feb. 6, 2026) those schools will not grant boundary variances to new students from outside school boundaries. Students currently on boundary variances and in-boundary students are not impacted.

• Approved policy changes to student out of state travel;

• Considered other policy proposals including: a lengthy sexual harassment policy, reimbursement of employees policy, a new policy prohibiting use of tools like TeachFX in teacher evaluations, more revisions to the attendance policy and a rewritten, lengthy policy on bullying. The board will consider those policies for final approval during the business meeting in November.

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