

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
September 8, 2025, 12:00 Noon
Utah Retirement Office
Hybrid Meeting**

Council Members Participating in Person:

Mr. Marty Peterson, Chair, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Mr. Rod Hurd, Vice Chair, Utah Education Association
Ms. Heather Anderson, Utah Association of Special Service Districts
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' Association
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. JJ Allen, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council
Mr. Brandon Wolf, Utah School Employees' Association

Excused: Ms. Cinda Allen, Utah Education Association
Ms. Sheri Dearden, Utah Association of Counties
Ms. Lisa Nance, Utah Public Employees' Association
Mr. Scott Wilberger, Utah Peace Officers' Association

Staff Participating in Person:

Mr. Dan Andersen, Executive Director
Mr. Ryan Ashcraft, Retirement Planning Director
Mr. Kory Cox, Director of Legislative & Government Affairs
Ms. Liza Eves, Senior Associate General Counsel
Mr. James Hammer, Employer Services Director
Mr. Dee Larsen, General Counsel
Ms. Stacie Petersen, Executive Assistant
Mr. Kendall Rima, Managing Director – Retirement
Mr. Dustin Seely, Retirement Director

Guests Participating in Person:

Mr. Donovan Minutes, Professional Firefighters of Utah

Welcome

Chair Marty Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Peterson asked for approval of the May 9, 2025, Membership Council Spring Workshop minutes.

ACTION: Mr. Rod Hurd moved, seconded by Ms. Heather Anderson, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2025, Membership Council Spring Workshop. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Member Organizations

Chair Marty Peterson asked the Council members to provide a report from their organizations. He stated firefighters are watching the union proposition, are concerned about spousal death benefits, and are working heavily on mental health counseling.

Mr. Rodney Hurd reported teachers are getting ready for the legislative session and the union proposition benefits/repercussions. A lot of the districts have made some type of compensation regarding the Tier 2 employee contributions.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme reported the last time the Utah Association of School Business Officials met was in July, and there weren't any URS related issues at that point. He hasn't heard of any employee push back regarding Tier 2 employee contributions.

Mr. Larry Millward stated the primary concern among retired members is the employer pickup option for Tier 2 employees, even though that doesn't affect them.

Ms. Heather Anderson stated a few in her organization have asked about the employer pickup option for Tier 2, but most think that won't happen. Benefitted firefighters have concerns about high insurance costs and the impact of possible cancer related issues.

Mr. Brandon Wolf stated they are waiting to see what happens with the upcoming legislative session and the Tier 2 employer pickup option. They are trying to find out a way to get some benefits for their part-time people that won't require URS participation.

Mr. JJ Allen reported that housing affordability and land issues continue to be their main concern.

Ms. Anna Lewin reported UEA is meeting this weekend and will be discussing the upcoming legislative session. Her district decided to give a 401K match to Tier 2 employees. A question was asked if teachers feel safe in the classroom, which she stated she was unsure of the general feeling of school safety, but working in rural Utah, she felt school safety isn't a huge issue.

There were no other legislative reports from the Council Members.

2026 Legislation Preview

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox previewed the 2026 legislative session including discussing the URS annual bill which includes clarifying the definition of bona fide termination, change in wording for the Executive Director to delegate appeals from the Deputy Director to a senior member of management, clarification regarding employee exemptions from the Judges' Retirement Fund, and wording around members relinquishing benefits, which is not allowed.

In addition, they were approached by school boards and superintendents for representation on the Membership Council, which possibly could lead to three new positions on the Council.

Mr. Kory Cox discussed the multiplier issue in the Tier 2 Public Safety retirement fund. In 2020, a change was made to increase the multiplier to 2%. Those Public Safety members who have service credit from July 1, 2011, to July 1, 2020, earned 1.5%. We were approached back in June to look at changing that to make sure all the time earned by those from 2011 to 2020 in the Tier 2 Public Safety system could receive the 2%.

In the June meeting of the Retirement and Independent Entities Committee, there was discussion regarding discontinuing the Tier 2 Public Employees' hybrid option and only allowing the 401K match option. There are ramifications regarding closing a plan. The question was posed as to what problem was trying to be solved. There will be more discussion and exploration regarding this request, which does not seem to be imminent.

Election of Officers

Chair Marty Peterson opened the floor for nominations for election of officers. He stated there has been a nomination for every position except Chair. Personally, he is two years cancer free and certainly available to be the chair again but would support anyone else who would like that opportunity. Mr. Rod Hurd nominated, seconded by Ms. Heather Anderson, for Mr. Marty Peterson to remain chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kory Cox reviewed the nominations from the May Spring Workshop which included Mr. Rod Hurd for Vice Chair and Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Ms. Heather Anderson, and Ms. Sheri Dearden for the Executive Committee. Mr. Larry Millward moved, seconded by Ms. Heather Anderson, to cease nominations. All nominations were elected by acclamation.

The new Executive Committee consists of Mr. Marty Peterson, Mr. Rodney Hurd, Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Ms. Sheri Dearden, and Ms. Heather Anderson.

Valuation and Contribution Rates

Mr. Dan Andersen reviewed the following items related to the actuarial valuation report and the preliminary 2026-2027 contribution rates including:

- Salary Experience – Public Employees
 - Tier 2 rates are increasing, and the amortization rate is decreasing for certain risk pools. The significant increase in salaries for the past three years is a major reason for the increase in the Tier 2 contribution rate.
- Tier 2 Preliminary Contribution Rates
 - A contingency reserve was adopted so we are not constantly playing catchup to the contribution rate. The Tier 2 public employee rate is changing by 0.49%.
- Contribution Rate Management Plan
- Amortization Rate Decreases
- FY2026-27 Preliminary Contribution Rates Table

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

ACTION: Mr. Larry Millward moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be on October 6, 2025, at 12 noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.