



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

92 Lodestone Way – Tooele, Utah

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND, UNTIL SUCH FORMAL APPROVAL, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The public Session was held in the boardroom at the district office.

Board Members Present:

Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Julia Holt

Excused: ValaRee Shields

Administration Present:

Superintendent Ernst, Lark Reynolds, Jackie Gallegos, Marissa Lowry, Brett Valdez, Dustin Nelson, Charles Hansen, Brad Hranickey, Dr. Jeff Hamm, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Robert Curfew, Angie Gillette, Terry Christensen, Ian Silva

Excused: Dr. Sarah Jarnagin

President Rich conducted the meeting. Notice of the time, place, and agenda had been given to the Transcript-Bulletin and each member of the governing body more than two days before the meeting. The agenda was also published on the Utah Public Access Website. Support documentation for this meeting can be reviewed at: <https://www.boarddocs.com/ut/tooelesd/Board.nsf/Public>

1. Executive Session (Closed to the Public)

1.1 Personnel / Negotiations / Property / Litigation

MOTION:

Enter executive Session held in the boardroom at the district office to discuss:

- Collective Bargaining
- Pending or reasonably imminent litigation
- Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property and
- Character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual, and

Motion by Julia Holt second by Elizabeth Smith

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Vote by Name:

Yea Elizabeth Smith
Yea Scott Bryan
Yea Emily Syphus
Yea Julia Holt
Yea Robert Gowans
Yea Melissa Rich

MOTION:

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Open Session in the boardroom at 6 pm.

Motion by Robert Gowans, second by Emily Syphus

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Vote by Name:

Yea Robert Gowans
Yea Melissa Rich
Yea Elizabeth Smith
Yea Scott Bryan
Yea Emily Syphus
Yea Julia Holt

2. Business Meeting, 6 pm (Start of Public Meeting)

2.1 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

President Rich called the business meeting to order in the boardroom at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Recognition and Good News

3.1 District Recognition for Employee of the Month-District Office, Operations & Student Services

The following employees were recognized by District Office:

- Kristen Evans, Teaching and Learning Secretary, District Support Professional Employee of the Month
- Kristen Linares and Mikalene Anderson, Special Education Supervisors, Certified Employees of the Month

3.2 Recognition of Thomas Trotter, UAESP Community Leader of the Year

Brad Hranicky, Tooele Area Director, recognized Thomas Trotter, Principal at West Elementary for being recognized as UAESP Community Leader of the Year.

4. Open Forum (Limited to three minutes per individual and a total of 30 minutes for all comments. To speak, sign up at the clerk's desk prior to the start of the open forum.)

4.1 Patron Comments

- Mandi Larson, here on behalf of TEA to thank the Board for time for Teachers to work on Guaranteed Viable Curriculum, and asked Board to keep Teacher pay in mind when making decisions.
- Brett Larson, Teacher at Tooele Jr. High asked Board to keep teacher pay in mind.

5. Consent Items (Routine items not requiring public discussion by the Board may be adopted by one single motion. A Board member may request to remove an item from the consent agenda for individual discussion and consideration.)

5.1 Minutes

5.2 Expenditure Report

5.3 Revenue Report

5.4 Disbursement Report

5.5 Financial Reports

5.6 Personnel Decisions

5.7 Policy

- 5.8 Amended Trustland Plans
- 5.9 Surplus
- 5.10 Request for Proposal
- 5.11 LEA Specific License
- 5.12 Community Council Waiver for Blue Peak High
- 5.13 Vote on Consent Items

MOTION:

Approve consent items as presented

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Julia Holt

6. Action Items

6.1 Revised Policy 1003, Board Member Elections and Redistricting, 1st Read

Terry Christensen, Director of Policy, Property and Legal affairs presented revisions to policy 1003, Board Member Elections and Redistricting. Revisions reflected updated Utah State Code and USBE model policy.

MOTION:

Approve revised policy 1003, Board Member Elections and Redistricting for implementation.

Motion by Emily Syphus, second by Julia Holt

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Elizabeth Smith, Julia Holt, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Scott Bryan

6.2 Revised Policy 11004, Library Media Selection and Sensitive Materials Reviews, 2nd Read

Dr. Cody Reutzel, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, presented the Board a second read of revised Policy 11004, "Library Media Selection and Sensitive Materials Reviews." These revisions emphasize the importance of a well-defined and structured process, ensuring that eligibility criteria are rigorously met while maintaining anonymity throughout the reconsideration of sensitive materials.

MOTION:

Approve Revised Policy 11004, Library Media Selection and Sensitive Materials Reviews for implementation.

Motion by Robert Gowans, second by Julia Holt

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Julia Holt

6.3 Revised Policy 11002, Selection and Adoption of Primary Instructional Materials, 2nd Read

Dr. Cody Reutzel, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, presented revised Policy 11002 concerning selecting and adopting Primary Instructional Materials to the Board. The revisions are minimal, with the primary update focusing on the definition of sensitive materials.

MOTION:

Approved Revised Policy 11002, Selection and Adoption of Primary Instructional Materials, for implementation.

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Julia Holt

6.4 Revised Policy 11003, Non-Primary Instructional Materials, 2nd Read

Dr. Cody Reutzler, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, presented revised Policy 11003, which now includes a key revision allowing individuals to formally request reconsidering instructional materials by following the procedures outlined in TCSD Policy 11004.

MOTION:

Approve Revised Policy 11003, Non-Primary Instructional Materials for implementation.

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Julia Holt

6.5 2025-2026 School Year Calendar Revision

Jeff Hamm, Assistant Superintendent, stated that upon further review of the 2025-26 School Year Calendar, it was discovered that Tooele County School District was one student contact day short of the required 173 days. To correct this error and bring us into compliance with the State, we are proposing to make Friday, February 13, 2026, a half-day for students on the current professional learning Tuesday schedule (Secondary release @ 11:30 a.m.; Elementary release @ 12:30 p.m.) and use the second half of that day for ongoing work with GVCs. This simple change will bring us back into compliance with the State for a total of 173 student contact days.

However, if we take the Summit Day to use for a student contact day as described above, this will leave us one day short of the required 187 teacher contract days. To solve this problem, we propose giving principals an additional 6 hours for professional learning with their staff to be used throughout the year to make up for the loss of the Summit Day. This will give principals a total of 12 hours to collaborate with their staff throughout the year on professional learning goals aligned with the district.

Similarly, the four-day week school calendar for 2025-26 was one student contact day short of the required 143 days. To correct this error and bring us into compliance with the State, we are proposing that students attend a half-day of school on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving) on their regular Thursday early release schedule and give those classified employees 2 floating holidays for the 25-26 school year only. Again, this small addition will bring us back into compliance with the State for a total of 143 student contact days.

MOTION:

Approve the 2025-2026 calendar revisions as presented.

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Julia Holt

7. Information, Discussion, or Calendar Items

7.1 Superintendent's State of the District Report

Superintendent Ernst gave his State of the District report to the Board stating the Tooele County School District, serving over 15,000 students across 27 schools with more than 2,200 employees, continues to grow and adapt to meet community needs. Superintendent stated our strategic model

is a framework for comprehensive learner success. The district's strategic model focuses on comprehensive student success through targeted initiatives in key areas: staff development, curriculum, communication, safety, operations, and future planning. Superintendent shared the following key highlights:

- **Staff Development:**
 - Improving the employee onboarding process and creating an employee resource guide to enhance efficiency and satisfaction. Led by Human Resources leadership.
- **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment:**
 - Updated curriculum guides to align with Utah Core standards.
 - Increased kindergarten literacy rates from 51% to 69% within a few months.
 - Adopted a new K-12 math program.
 - Focus on training district administrators in assessment processes to ensure consistent, high-quality instruction.
- **Communication and Community Engagement:**
 - Launched the "Elevated Insights: A TCSD Podcast," gaining over 10,000 listens to improve district-community connections.
 - Plans for a comprehensive monthly update to keep employees informed of key events, policies, and initiatives.
- **Safety and Emergency Preparedness:**
 - Enhanced emergency communication and response capabilities, including more radios and trained safety specialists.
 - Integration of the Emergent 3 (E3) platform into emergency drills for better preparedness.
- **Operational Efficiency:**
 - Reorganized executive staff responsibilities to improve operations oversight.
 - Improved facility rental processes and launched a new website to streamline community access to district facilities.
 - Plans to enhance data management systems across departments to improve efficiency and reduce redundancy.
- **Future Growth and Infrastructure:**
 - Addressing aging facilities and planning for new schools to meet projected growth over the next 15 years.
 - Bond initiatives will be needed to fund new construction and renovations strategically.

Superintendent Ernst then discussed his vision for the future and established the following goals and challenged himself and all employees to make them a reality by 2033:

- 75% proficiency in K-3 literacy and math.
- A 90% graduation rate.
- No schools in turnaround status

To achieve these goals Superintendent stated the district would emphasize better communication, strategic planning, and community support. The focus will be on proactive measures to enhance student success, operational efficiency, and preparedness for future growth.

7.2 Semester Plans-1st Semester

Area Directos presented the schools first semester plans to the Board.

7.3 Board of Education Committee Reports

Board Members provide updates on various committees they serve on.

- **Tooele Tech Advisory Board**—President Rich stated they just had a meeting and they are just finishing up on their new expansion, they are expanding so many of their programs, and she really appreciates the partnership we have with them.

7. Adjourn (10 pm Curfew)

7.1 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:01 pm.

MOTION:

Adjourn

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by Emily Syphus

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Julia Holt