



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
92 Lodestone Way – Tooele, Utah

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

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, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, Elizabeth Smith, ValaRee Shields

Administration Present:

Superintendent Ernst, Lark Reynolds, Jackie Gallegos, Marissa Lowry, Charles Hansen, Brad Hranicky, Terry Christensen, Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Andy Peterson, Dr. Jeff Hamm, Brett Valdez, Angie Gillette, Ian Silva, Heather Castagno, Dr. Cody Reutzel

President Rich conducted the meeting. Notice of the time, place, and agenda had been given to the Transcript-Bulletin and each governing body member 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

At 5:20 pm, a motion was made.

MOTION:

Enter Executive Session held in the executive conference room at the district office to discuss the following:

- Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation
- Collective Bargaining
- Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property and
- Character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual

Motion by Elizabeth Smith, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Vote by Name:

Yea Emily Syphus
Yea ValaRee Shields
Yea Scott Bryan
Yea Todd Thompson
Yea Robert Gowans
Yea Melissa Rich
Yea Elizabeth Smith

MOTION:

Motion at 5:58 pm to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Open Session in the boardroom at 6 pm.

Motion by Robert Gowans, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Vote by Name:

Yea Robert Gowans
Yea ValaRee Shields
Yea Melissa Rich
Yea Elizabeth Smith
Yea Scott Bryan
Yea Emily Syphus
Yea Todd Thompson

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 6:02 pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Recognition and Good News

3.1 District Recognition for Employee of the Month-Tooele High School

Principal Jeff Wyatt recognized the following employees:

- Blaikly Hall, 10th Grade Student, Student of the Month
- Lowell Belnap, Custodian, Support Professional Employee of the Month
- Heidi Johanson, Teacher, Certified Employee of the Month
- Alicia Dangerfield, Counselor, District Certified Non-Teacher Employee of the Month
- Terri Zeleski, District Volunteer of the Month

3.2 School Presentation

The School Presentation was canceled.

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

- Corbin Mandor, Conduct at Grantsville High
- Josh Warren, sanctioning Lacrosse in Tooele School District
- Lisa Mower, sanctioning Lacrosse in Tooele School District
- Glen Mower, sanctioning Lacrosse in Tooele School District
- Shaun Searle, sanctioning Lacrosse in Tooele School District
- Kaidan Fratto, sanctioning Lacrosse in Tooele School District
- Heather Plumb, sanctioning Lacrosse in Tooele School District
- Emilee Liddiard, TEA
- Ayden Jarvis, sanctioning Lacrosse in Tooele School District
- Mason Curtis, online BOE Public Comment submitted April 8, 2025

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 Personnel Decisions

5.6 Financial Reports

5.7 Policy

5.8 Amended Trustland Plans

5.9 Surplus

5.10 Request for Proposal

5.11 Kindergarten Schedule 2025-2026

Board Member Smith reported that kindergarten teachers value the additional time provided for assessing and preparing students for school attendance.

MOTION:

Approve Kindergarten Schedule 2025-2026

Motion by Elizabeth Smith, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

5.12 Vote on Consent Items

MOTION:

Pull item 5.11 Kindergarten Schedule 2025-2026 and approve consent items as presented

Motion by Elizabeth Smith, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

6. Action Items

6.1 Capital Outlay 2025-2026, 2nd Read

Ian Silva, the Operations Director, presented the 2025-2026 Capital Outlay Budgets and projects for a second read to the Board. Board Member Bryan raised concerns about the playgrounds listed as priorities, questioning the potential reuse of equipment if the schools are rebuilt. Mr. Silva acknowledged that he had looked into it and confirmed that the equipment could be reused at the rebuilt school or another school where playground equipment is aging out. Mr. Silva noted minor changes from the first read, including the addition of stage rigging at Tooele High.

MOTION:

Approve Capital Outlay 2025-2026 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, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

6.2 Trustlands Plans SY2025-2026

The Trustlands 2025-2026 fiscal year plans have been submitted for Board review and approval. However, the plans for Tooele High, Tooele Junior High, Stansbury High, and Clarke N. Johnsen Junior High are pending submission due to the reallocation of funds to support Deseret Peak and Stansbury Junior High.

MOTION:

Approve the 2025-2026 Trustlands plans as presented.

Motion by ValaRee Shields, second by Todd Thompson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields,

6.3 New Policy 4028, Social Media, 2nd Read

Brett Valdez, Communications Director, presented the new Social Media policy to the Board for a second read. This policy, now separated from the original combined Website and Social Media policy, aimed to reduce confusion and provide greater clarity by addressing social media independently. While there were no significant changes from the previous version, the new standalone policy included minor updates for clarity. Notably, it specified that student accounts should not be directly tied to the policy. It also required two administrators to manage account access, ensuring continuity when administrators leave the school.

MOTION:

Approve New Policy 4028, Social Media for implementation.

Motion by Emily Syphus, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

6.4 Revised Policy 5062, Immunizations, 2nd Read

Brad Hranicky, the Tooele Area Director, presented the revised Policy 5062, Immunizations, to the Board for a second reading. The revisions, driven by the State Code, included more explicit definitions by adding terms such as "enroller," "newcomer," and "social service provider." Additionally, the policy addressed in-person and remote learning options and extended the conditional enrollment period from 21 to 30 days. This was the second read of the policy, with no changes from the first read.

MOTION:

Approve Revised Policy 5062, Immunizations for implementation.

Motion by Robert Gowans, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

6.5 Revised Policy 5001, Student Travel, 2nd Read

Catham Beer, District Activities Director, presented revisions to Policy 5001, Student Travel, to the Board for a second reading. The revisions aimed to update the approval timelines for proposed trips, specify the number and types of chaperones required for field trips, and limit the number of field trips a group can take each year. Additionally, the policy clarified when athletic groups may travel outside their UHSAA competition season. The changes were driven by the district's need to explain procedures and define travel allowances for field trips and out-of-season competitions.

MOTION:

Motion to change E.2 to every year and change E.1 to miss no more than 3 days of school and approve for implementation.

DISCUSSION TO THE MOTION:

Member Bryan raised concerns about the impact of student travel on both the traveling students and those left in the classroom with a substitute teacher while the teacher is traveling. Board Member Shields motioned for the changes to provide more flexibility, suggesting that three-day trips are more worthwhile. Member Bryan opposed travel outside the respective season. Board Member Smith supported qualifying for travel outside the season, and Member Thompson agreed, stating that it adds merit and helps manage standards better. Member Syphus concurred but noted the challenge of defining and maintaining equity. Vice President Gowans questioned the effectiveness of qualifiers due to varied judging and competition standards, advocating for trust in Mr. Beer and administrators to manage and report any issues back to the Board.

Motion by ValaRee Shields, second by Emily Syphus

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, ValaRee Shields

Nay: Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, Elizabeth Smith

6.6 New Policy, Employee Involvement in Private But Public Education-Related Activities

Catham Beer, District Activities Director, presented the new Ethics Policy Regarding Private But Public Education-Related Activities to the Board for a first read. This policy outlined guidelines for district employees engaging in private education-related activities, such as tutoring and camps, ensuring these activities remained separate from their public employment. It prohibited using school resources, time, or influence to promote these activities and allowed employees to offer and discuss services outside school hours, consistent with district policies. Employees were required to provide signed contracts for these activities to their school principal, ensuring transparency and compliance with district and state regulations.

MOTION:

Move the new policy, Employee Involvement in Private But Public Education-Related Activities, forward for a second read after it has gone back to the Policy Committee for review.

DISCUSSION TO THE MOTION:

Member Bryan expressed concerns that the example procedures were not aligned with the policy. Member Syphus noted that components from other policies, such as the Fundraising Policy, were used in the procedure example. Board Member Thompson suggested that the use of district facilities should be favorable or neutral to the district.

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

Nay: Melissa Rich

6.7 New Policy, Time and Effort Standards, 1st Read

Lark Reynolds, Business Administrator, presented the new policy, Time and Effort Standards, to the Board for a first read. This policy required all employees paid with federal funds or whose salaries were used for cost-sharing or matching to maintain documentation of their time spent on grant activities. Records had to accurately reflect work performed, be supported by internal

controls, and comply with district accounting policies. Employees must submit semi-annual or monthly time and effort certifications depending on their funding sources. These certifications had to be signed, reflect actual activities and account for all compensated work. The district office reviewed these certifications to ensure payroll charges matched recorded time.

MOTION:

Approve New Policy, Time and Effort Standards 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, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

6.8 Revised Policy 4006, Criminal Background Checks, 1st Read

Krystal White, Licensing Specialist, presented the revised Policy 4006, Criminal Background Checks, to the Board for a first read. The revisions included updated fee collection procedures per the new state code adopted in May 2024. Significant updates were made to the "duty to report arrests and convictions" section, combining the previously separate requirements for licensed and non-licensed employees into a clearer section titled "Employee Reporting of Arrests and Convictions." These changes were driven by model policy and state code 53G-11-402 and the district's need to simplify and reduce redundancy. The district implemented the new fee collection practices last year, and the policy now reflects these changes.

MOTION:

Move revised policy 4006, Criminal Background Checks, forward for a 2nd Read.

Motion by ValaRee Shields, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

6.9 Revised Policy 5015, Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting by Education Personnel, 1st Read

Krystal White, Licensing Specialist, presented the revised Policy 5015, Child Abuse Neglect Reporting by Educational Personnel, to the Board for a first read. The revised policy updated code references to align with state codes and Board Rules. The most significant change was the addition of specific responsibilities for district administrators and the Superintendent when teachers are reported for inappropriate physical contact with students. These revisions were driven by the State Code, Board Rule, and the district's need to ensure clarity and compliance with current regulations.

MOTION:

Approve revised policy 5015, Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting by Education Personnel, for implementation.

Motion by Emily Syphus, second by Todd Thompson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

6.10 Revised Policy 4035, Educator Induction, Mentoring, and Professional Learning, 1st Read

Krystal White, Licensing Specialist, presented the revised Policy 4035, Educator Induction, Mentoring, and Professional Learning, to the Board for a first read. The revised policy updated

the New Educator Induction Training program application and introduced guidelines for mentoring provisional educators, detailing who receives a mentor, the mentor's role, and qualifications. Additionally, it included a new section establishing a policy for state-funded professional development (32 hours of PD) that TCSD began implementing two years ago. These revisions were driven by state code and Board Rules.

MOTION:

Approve revised policy 4035, Educator Induction, Mentoring, and Professional Learning for implementation.

Motion by ValaRee Shields, second by Elizabeth Smith

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

7. Information, Discussion, or Calendar Items

7.1 Business Administrator Report

Lark Reynolds, Business Administrator, presented legislative updates, budget changes, new initiatives, property tax adjustments, vehicle analysis, and upcoming budget reports to the Board.

Mr. Reynolds stated that for FY26, the WPU value increased by 4% to \$4,674, totaling approximately \$122M, with state revenues up by \$6.1M. Committed funds include \$1.5M for ESA, \$0.8M for LAND Trust/TSSA, and \$3.8M in new WPU funds. However, expenditures total \$8.6M, covering utilities (\$775K), new positions (\$4.18M), insurance (\$1.125M), and employee levels (\$2.1M). New additions include IT, maintenance, athletic trainers (\$411K), and paid parental leave. Educator salary adjustments feature a \$1,446 increase for certified employees and a \$1,000 one-time stipend for select education support professionals.

Mr. Reynolds also stated that property tax changes require virtual meeting participation and no newspaper ads, with a formula adjustment for the Voted/Board Leeway Guarantee from six to two years.

Mr. Reynolds stated that he is preparing a presentation for the April work session on the White Fleet. The vehicle analysis will compare fleet size, usage complaints, and lease vs. buy options, with a Fleet Manager analyzing cost of ownership vs. employee reimbursement.

The May budget report will finalize local levy amounts and compare estimated taxes to budgeted revenues, with new growth and certified tax rates estimates expected in June.

7.2 Special Education Director Report

Marissa Lowry, Special Education Director, provided the Board with a detailed overview of the Special Education department. The department serves 2,477 students with disabilities, accounting for 15.9% of the district's population, and is staffed by 108 teachers, 169 paraprofessionals, and 40 related service providers.

She stated that TCSD's performance determination level is "Needs Assistance," with identified areas for improvement such as assessment proficiency, suspension/expulsion disparities, postsecondary transition plans, dropout rates, and graduation rates. The district's goals include reducing dropout rates from 4.06% to below 1% and increasing graduation rates from 69.63% to 90%. Strategic objectives focus on enhancing behavior and academic support systems, addressing skill gaps, and ensuring the least restrictive behavior interventions are used.

Ms. Lowry concluded with good things happening, including the Unified Sports program, which fosters inclusion and community through sports, has achieved success in basketball and cheerleading and aims to expand outreach and seek accreditation for banner schools, and the success of Employer Recognition Night.

7.3 Board of Education Committee Reports

Board Members provide updates on various committees they serve on.

- **Student Body Advisory-** Board Member Smith stated that SBO students are planning another Unity week this year, which will take place the week of May 5, with the ending stomp scheduled at Deseret Peak High on May 9. Additionally, Member Smith stated that GHS will introduce an inclusive officer as part of their Student Body Officers.

At 9:07 pm, a motion was made.

MOTION:

Adjourn the public session and enter executive session at 9:10 in the Executive Conference Room to discuss:

- Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation
- Collective Bargaining
- Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property and
- Character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual

Motion by ValaRee Shields, second by Robert Gowans

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Vote by Name:

Yea Emily Syphus
Yea ValaRee Shields
Yea Scott Bryan
Yea Todd Thompson
Yea Robert Gowans
Yea Melissa Rich
Yea Elizabeth Smith

8. Adjourn (10 pm Curfew)

8.1 Adjournment

At 9:56 pm, a motion was made to adjourn

MOTION:

Adjourn

Motion by Scott Bryan, second by ValaRee Shields

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Robert Gowans, Emily Syphus, Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields