

Thomas Edison Charter Schools  
Governing Board Meeting  
Date: June 4, 2025

**Meeting called to order at 5:36 by Lindsey Fowers**

**Board Members Present:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, and Ryan Reeves

**Board Members Participating Electronically:** Jeff Mason and Eric Snelson

**Board Members Absent and Excused:** none

**Conducting:** Lindsey Fowers

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

**2. Public Comment:** none

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes as distributed:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Ryan Reeves

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

**4. Board appointments, officers, and subcommittee assignments**

**Motion to nominate Lindsey Fowers as Board Chair:** Ryan Reeves

**Second:** Ester Israelsen

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

**Motion to nominate Jeff Mason as Vice Chair:** Jeff Mason

**Second:** Ryan Reeves

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

**Motion to nominate Ryan Reeves as Board Treasurer:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Ester Israelsen

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

**Motion to nominate Nichole Knudson as Board Secretary:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Ester Israelsen

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

Policy and Personnel Committee members: Lindsey Fowers, Jeff Mason, and Courtney Carpenter

Finance Committee members: Ryan Reeves, Eric Snelson, and Ester Israelsen

## **5. Board Training: Brian Carpenter Podcast #9: Just Say No to Self-Appointed Reconnaissance Missions**

This podcast addresses that the authority of the governing board resides in the board as a whole, and not as individuals. Individual board members only have the authority to introduce, second, speak to, and vote on the motion. This means individuals have no authority to direct board actions or make decisions without the board as a whole. The board only has authority when it works as an entity, with the correct number of quorum members, and is held in a proper meeting to vote.

Board member Ryan Reeves asked if the board has an attorney. Principal Melani Kirk said the school has an attorney who is part of UAPCS, which the board is able to use as well.

Board Chair Lindsey Fowers said reading the book “The Seven Outs” helped her to understand the Board’s responsibilities and the school administration’s responsibilities.

## **6. Board Training Discussion: Charter, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Manual Section 1000**

No questions or concerns expressed.

## **7. TECS Philosophy**

The philosophy focused on poetry recitation from page 2 of Exhibit A in the school’s charter. Students in grades K-6 are asked to recite a poem in front of the class every 6 weeks.

Principal Melani Kirk said she gets lots of feedback from Thomas Edison graduates that they didn’t necessarily enjoy the poem recitation while they were at Thomas Edison, but it helped them learn so much, especially to be confident in front of their peers.

Jamie Lewis said she had a former parent explain to her that only her younger kids were able to attend Thomas Edison, and that now, as they are adults, she can see a distinct difference in the kids that attended and those that didn’t when it comes to memorization and remembering things they

are being taught. The former parent attributes this to the poem memorization practices of Thomas Edison.

Board member Courtney Carpenter said she taught literature at Thomas Edison, and the poems are not only memorized but also taught and dissected. She later discovered that most of these poems are used in AP classes in high school. Having the poems memorized and being able to analyze them opens up a whole new dimension for understanding language.

Jim Peterson had heard that someone at the State Board of Education was worried the recitation part of the charter would damage young kids, but it has done the opposite.

Board member Courtney Carpenter said recitation is an emboldening activity, even if they struggle at first.

Principal Brad Larsen said recitation supports the school's mission statement of having students be successful in an ever-changing and complex society. Today, most people find their voice behind a screen and make anonymous comments, but recitation teaches children to use their voices in front of their peers.

Board member Ryan Reeves said memorization will help kids throughout their lives.

## **8. Financial Report: Jim Peterson**

Each month, Jim presents a chart that succinctly shows the school's financial snapshot. The green horizontal line is the projected average expenses with the cash surplus. The light blue line is the projected average expenses without the cash surplus. The dark blue line is the plot of actual monthly expenses. The red line is the cumulative average of actual expenses.

The schools are both showing the red line is below the light blue line, which means the schools are spending below the monthly average. There are larger expenses expected by the end of the year, but both schools are in good standing.

Board Chair Lindsey Fowers asked if the spike in September for North Campus was from the remodel. The answer is no, the remodel costs were taken out of cash surplus, and the spike is likely from purchasing all office and classroom supplies at the beginning of the year.

## **9. Final Budget FY25: Jim Peterson**

The proposed final budgets for both schools can be found in the handouts. The reason for the final and proposed annual budget is to follow a board rule that requires all charter schools to submit their final FY budget and their proposed annual FY budget before the end of June. The budgets do not have to be exact, but rather to make sure the school is thinking about their budgets and to make sure they are exercising good fiscal management practices. The final budget is an estimate based on where the school stood at the end of May. The budgets show expenses on the first page,

and the second page shows the revenues. Numbers that are in green mean money was moved to the cash surplus, and numbers that are red mean money needed to be added to those categories.

**Motion to approve the Final Budget as presented by Jim for the fiscal year ending on June 30:**

Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Courtney Carpenter

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

#### 10. Preliminary budget FY26: Jim Peterson

There is a lot that goes into projecting the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, like enrollment projections, growth factors, payroll estimates, supplies and services expenses, and medical insurance premiums. Some salary adjustments that have not been made yet, so those numbers are estimated in the budget.

**Motion to approve the preliminary budget as presented by Jim for FY26:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Ryan Reeves

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

#### 11. Strategic Outcomes Report: Angela Barton

The school sets seven strategic goals for the year in early literacy and numeracy. The goals for this past year were:

1) There are two parts:

a. Increase kindergarten reading score from BOY to EOY by 4%- this goal was met, and scores increased by 8%

b. Increase first-grade BOY to EOY math by 3%- this goal was not met; the scores decreased by 2%

2) Average annual growth with an increase in monthly testing – the data is not compiled yet, so we do not know if this goal was met

3) The schools will achieve an NPS of 60-80 – this goal was met

4) Annual results of positive to negative reinforcement will be at least 8:1 – this goal was met

5) There are two parts:

a. 95% of students will achieve high citizenship – this goal was not met, there was only 94.4% of students who achieved high citizenship.

b. 95% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders will indicate post-high school education or training plans – this goal was met.

6) The number of students on the waitlist will be at least 107% of capacity – this goal was not met.

7) The school is to make an early principal payment on the mortgage – this goal was met in 2024.

Jim Peterson suggests the school change this goal to the school will add more than 5% of its revenue to the cash surplus.

## **12. LEA Licenses: Angela Barton**

The school would like to put the following teachers on an LEA Specific License:

Jenna Oakey – a secondary music endorsement

Brooke Geary – a PE endorsement

Rob Davis – a secondary art

**Motion to approve Jenna Oakey, Brooke Geary, and Rob Davis for the LEA Specific License as presented by Angela:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Courtney Carpenter

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

## **14. Library Report: Noelle Harrild**

Highlights from the library report:

- The year's checkout statistics, which provide valuable information on student interests.
- The Library Review Committee had a goal to read 90% of the library collection, but it only made it to about 87%.
- The library tried the Sky Tree Book Fair, and although it was fun, they have decided to try Story Cupboard for next year's book fair.
- Author Bethany Barton came to visit, and it was very successful
- The Library offers "challenges" for students to complete. The librarian will create a Google Classroom next year to help increase middle school student participation.

## **15. Guidance counseling program report: SarahAnn Delaney**

- Each counselor did a data project:  
North's project was to see if the therapist was helping to reduce the number of students with anxiety-related symptoms. She saw a decrease of 5% from the previous year. In addition, suicide ideation is down by 2%, which is a huge improvement.

South's project was to see if students receiving therapy showed improved classroom functioning by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> term. Students showed a 27% improvement.

- Counseling provides the following for students:
  - Citizenship parties
  - Meet state assurances for time allocation for college and career readiness, collaborative classroom instruction, dropout prevention, and administration of the program.
    - Both counselors met their state assurances.
- The students performed extremely really well on their Pre-ACTs, most ranking in the top 50% of the nation and some ranking as high as the top 5% in the nation.

## 16. Principal Reports: Melani Kirk and Brad Larsen

South:

- The school ended the year with 694 enrolled students, and next year's enrollment is currently at 695 students.
- The Hope of America students are listed in the report.
- The school had 40 students who earned the Great American Award.
- For 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, the school had students be the speakers and read the graduation certificates.
- The school had 39 students come to the senior wave, and they represented every high school in the valley.
- The school had 65 students placed in the top 50% in the nation for the Pre-ACT. 25 students placed in the nation's top 15%, and nine students placed in the top 5% in the nation. These kinds of scores show the success of the school's program.
- The parent organization is helping update the front office, conference room, and teacher bathrooms.
- MTSS stats are in the report to show how the program is helping to decrease the learning gaps for their students.

North –

- May was full of music recitals and the middle school musical. They were all very successful events.
- Student council elections are complete, and the students who were elected are listed in the board report.
- The school hosted a cybersecurity event to create more awareness of online safety.
- There was a mother-son night at a movie theater, and it was a great turnout.
- The school awarded their Hope of America and Great American awards to their 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Author Bethany Barton held a very engaging assembly.

- The parent organization did a great job with Teacher Appreciation Week.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation was very successful.
- The school had a very fun and successful field day and end of year parties.

## 17. Vendor and Personnel Requests: Melani Kirk and Brad Larsen

Vendors North –

- Crack fill, resurface and paint parking lot for about \$14,000
- System Service Specialists – for North and South campus to update camera systems
- Crisis Go- new emergency response system for \$13,330 over a 5-year period

**Motion to approve System Service Specialists to upgrade the camera system at both campuses, the parking lot improvements at North campus for \$14,000, and to use Crisis Go and approve the amount of \$13,300:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Courtney Carpenter

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

Vendors South –

- Kindergarten playground improvements for up to \$27,000
- Replacement of the carpeted walls for up to \$28,000
- Crisis Go – new emergency response system for up to \$14,000

**Motion to approve the kindergarten playground improvement for up to \$27,000, the carpet walls up to \$28,000 and Crisis Go for up to \$14,000:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Ryan Reeves

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

Personnel Requests –

South –

New or “returning” new aides: Jami Maughan, Jodie Miles, Addison Loveland, Carlie Wright, Roy Robledo, Bronwyn Tyers, and Olivia Kirkham.

**Motion to approve the aides as presented in the handouts:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Ryan Reeves

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

North –

Teachers: Camille McCammon – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

Aides: Kina Gunnell, Kristen Hale, and Sariah Lowe

**Motion to approve the people listed in bold with the exception of Rose Williams and Luba Percival:**

Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Courtney Carpenter

**Affirmative Vote:** Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Ester Israelsen, Ryan Reeves, Jeff Mason, and

Eric Snelson

**Resolved:** unanimous

13. Adjourn at 7:09 pm