

Thomas Edison Charter Schools  
Governing Board Meeting  
Date: August 6, 2025

**Meeting called to order at 5:33 by Lindsey Fowers**

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

**Board Members Participating Electronically:** none

**Board Members Absent and Excused:** Eric Snelson

**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, Jeff Mason, and Ryan Reeves

**Resolved:** unanimous

**4. Board Reminders: Business Meeting sign ups (still need someone Aug 20th); no group texts; not texting to say I emailed- check email on Monday and Tuesday week prior to board meeting for training materials, and week of board meeting for agenda, meeting link.**

There will be no more board group texts to remind everyone when the board training and agendas are out due to they may be in violation of the open and public meetings act. Board Chair Lindsey Fowers asked all the board member to check their emails the week before board meeting for these materials.

Board chair Lindsey Fowers asked all board members to sign up for 3-4 business meetings. The sign-ups were shared via Google forms.

**5. Staff Pictures: North- August 19, 11am-1pm; South- August 19th, 12-2 pm**

Board members have been asked to get their pictures at either campus to get their pictures taken.

**6. Board Training - Brian Carpenter Podcast #10: Annual Check-ups: They're not just for physicals**

In this training, Brian Carpenter teaches about the importance of formal evaluations of the board regarding its responsibilities. The evaluation should focus on three main items: progress toward charter renewal, the performance of the school leader, and the performance of the board. In all three areas, the evaluations should determine “how well” the charter, administration, and board are working to meet the charter standards and needs of the students.

Board chair Lindsey Fowers is being amended and is reviewed frequently to ensure compliance. The Administration did not have recommendations for the Board, but they did express appreciation for all the work the board members do.

#### **7. Board Training Discussion: P&P Manual 5000 (Finance and Facilities)**

Board Chair, Lindsey Fowers, mentioned on page 169, the Fiscal Year did not have an entry. The Cash Disbursement and Purchasing policy mentions financial statements will be reviewed monthly by the business manager, financial consultant, and board representative. She confirmed the business manager as Steve Finley, the financial consultant as Jim Peterson, and the board representative as the financial sub-committee members. The finance sub-committee would like to set up a quarterly review to go over the details of the financial reports, in addition to the monthly statements and financial summaries that are shared with board members.

#### **8. TECS Philosophy: Jim Peterson**

The state allows charter schools to set some enrollment preferences, and Jim reviewed the enrollment preferences of Thomas Edison Charter Schools. Please see handouts for a list of preferences. The preferences were made because it was anticipated that the schools would have waiting lists for enrollment.

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

Since August is the first fiscal month of the year the monthly expenditures graph only has one plot of data. The green line represents all the school funds without a cash surplus, the blue line represents funds with a cash surplus or the projected monthly average. Currently both schools are at or below the blue line. July and August typically have more spending due to the start of school and summer projects. The graph includes teacher pay rises.

#### **10. Student Data Report & Early Learning Plan: Angela Williams**

The data report is a comparison of this year’s RISE scores compared to previous years. The school used to have a few grades each year that scored below the state average. Since COVID, the school has been performing at or above the state’s average. This past school year, every grade scored above the state’s average in Math and Science. The only class that didn’t was the high math

Secondary Math 1H, there were four students who didn't perform well and that brought the average for that group below the state's average. All the scores, though higher than the state's average, are slowly decreasing which is something the school will be looking into, but overall the scores show the students are learning and progressing.

Board member Jeff Mason asked if the school tracks the opt-outs or if they change over time and by grade? Principal Kirk said there is not as many as there used to be. Board member Courtney Carpenter, said she would have about 10 kids in her class opt out. Angela explained that when the state testing program was Sage, there were lots more parents opting out their students.

The Early Learning Plan is in the handouts. In the Early Learning Plan, it shows the programs the school is using, how the school is utilizing teaching strategies, and the goals the school's set. The state has a growth goal of 60% of students in 1-3 grade to make typical or above progress in math. The state has started to shift their focus to math, where as in the past it was mostly focused on ELA. The school's goals are:

- 1) First grade students will show an increase of 1-3% in their math composite EOY scores.
- 2) Kindergarten students will increase 4-6% in their EOY Number Identification Fluency

Last year, one goal was for the first-grade composite scores to increase by 6% from beginning to end of year. The beginning of year scores 77% proficient and at the end of the year it was 75% proficient. The second goal was to increase the composite score for kindergarteners by 5%. The beginning of year proficiency was 67% and the end of the year proficiency was 75%.

#### **11. Proposal for Charter Update Ad Hoc Committee: Lindsey Fowers**

Jamie Lewis suggested to create an Ad Hoc Committee in order to finish updating the charter and to have Olivia Kirkham head up that committee since she had been working previously on updating the charter while she was the board chair. Current Board Chair, Lindsey Fowers, would like the administration to be in charge of forming and picking committee members.

**Motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee lead by the administration and left to their discretion as to how it should be formed and who should be on it, to finalize the updated charter agreement:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Courtney Carpenter

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

**Resolved:** unanimous

#### **12. UAPCS Membership Renewal and Approve Delegates: Melani Kirk**

UAPCS (Utah Association of Public Charter Schools) is a group that advocates for charter schools at the state level, they provide trainings, the principals meet with them monthly to go over new laws that affect charter schools, provide the Charter Day on the Hill for students, and they allow the school to send through two participants in the APPL program each year free of charge.

**Motion to renew our membership with UAPCS and approve delegates as Melani and Brad and Christina and Brook as alternates:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Ryan Reeves

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

**Resolved:** unanimous

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

South –

- Current enrollment is at 709, there is always movement of kid leaving and enrolling but the hope is the enrollment count will stay around this number.
- Kindergarten enrollment is very low at 71, but despite marketing efforts the school could not get an increase in kindergarten enrollment.
- The school won the Best of Northern Utah for best Charter School
- The summer Spalding classes were very successful and the participants did a wonderful job
- Teacher training is coming up, and Angela and Carolyn have great lessons prepared.
- Summer projects – The half-wall carpet was removed, but it damaged all the walls. New drywall was put up to fix the damage and then the new carpet was installed before August. The concrete was raised on the kindergarten playground, and new bark chips installed so the drop-off from the slide was not as deep for the little kids. The school is looking into privacy slats for the kindergarten fence as well. In addition, the school had intervention tables installed in the hallways by classrooms for students and aides to use when work is done out in the hallways.

North –

- Current K-1 enrollment is the lowest of all the grades.
- The schools are creating new social media handles to get the word about the schools and its programs.
- The school has updated their camera system, it will be an improvement in quality, coverage, usability, and user friendly.
- The parking lot improvements look great and are about complete.
- The front entryway school check-in system is about set up and complete.
- The school summer pool party was well attended.

- The school had two students attend the National History Day competition in Washington, D.C. this summer. Although they did not place, the students had a great time learning and exploring the D.C. area.

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

The schools will be putting in Vape Sensors in the bathrooms, because it's covered under a grant and the sensors not only sense smoking but it senses when someone yells for "help".

##### Personnel

North – Please refer the handouts for personnel details. Bolded names are new employees and italicized names indicate change in position from last year. North campus still needs one more aide for the upcoming year.

Madalyn Jarvis – SLT

Crystal Mather – classroom aide

South –

Two new employees:

Melanie Kopenheffer – 5<sup>th</sup> grade SpEd aide

Amelia Young – 4<sup>th</sup> grade SpEd aide

**Motion to approve the faculty and staff as proposed by administration:** Lindsey Fowers

**Second:** Courtney Carpenter

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

**Resolved:** unanimous

#### 15. Adjourn at 6:33 pm