

Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
Date: September 3, 2025

Meeting called to order at 5:34 by Lindsey Fowers

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

Board Members Participating Electronically: Jeff Mason

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, Ester Israelsen, Courtney Carpenter, Ryan Reeves, and Jeff Mason

Resolved: unanimous

- 4. Board Update:** Lindsey Fowers on board vacancy (we're hoping to be able to find a replacement for the October meeting)

Board member Eric Snelson has a professional conflict with the governing board position and is stepping down effective immediately.

- 5. Board Training – Welcome to the Board, Open & Public Meetings, Utah Code 53G:** Debby Llewelyn

Debby Llewelyn is a member of the UAPCS and is at the meeting to provide training. Debby reviewed Open Meeting Law by reviewing the why it's important to keep records of meetings, agendas, and minutes. She reminded the Board that since it is a public body it must follow the laws outlined in Utah code 53G. She reviewed that the Board's decisions and discussions must be done in a meeting, and she reviewed what is considered a meeting and what is not, and notice requirements. She recommended having a board meeting policy as well as a public comment policy because the area of public comment became a required part of the meeting agenda in the recent legislative session.

Principal Brad Larsen asked if a public comment policy needs to state what is considered disruptive. Debby said it's recommended to put in some specific parameters but not to put too many specifics

that it boxes the board in or makes it too complicated, but address things like when disrupting the meeting makes making people feel unsafe, threatened, or if the disruption prevents the meeting from progressing.

Debby reviewed parts of Utah code 53G, which covers charter school law. She highlighted topics regarding the purpose of a charter schools and the role of the State Charter School Board. Board member Ryan Reeves asked why charter school applications are on the rise. The answer is there are not more students necessarily enrolling in schools, but rather parents are wanting more charter schools and options for their students.

Debby continued her training by reviewing the following parts of Utah code 53G: powers and duties of charter schools, affiliate charter schools, the role of state authorizers, documents held by contracting entities, making curriculum and instructional materials readily available to parents, supplemental materials policy, library policies, charter schools can ask for exemptions from some laws, employment compensation, annual employee forms, volunteer back ground checks, charter schools employing relatives, the need to adopt rules of order and procedures to govern a public meeting, and charter school non-compliance procedures,

6. TECS Philosophy: Jim Peterson

This month's topic comes from page 1 of Exhibit A, section 5B regarding encouraging innovative teaching. One thing that is unique to Thomas Edison Charter Schools is they have a position called Directors of Instruction and they provide teacher training, teacher observations, assist teachers with classroom management skills, ensure Glen Latham procedures are being followed, essentially, they are a core part of the school's program. Board member Courtney Carpenter said she feels like the Directors of Instruction provide a fantastic support system for teachers.

7. Financial Report: Jim Peterson

The spending of both campuses is well below the monthly budgeted average, which is a great way to start the school year.

8. Student Data Report: Angela Barton

The Utah State Board of Education released state-wide information on third-grade students reading on grade level (ROGL) from the 2024-2025 school year. The Utah state average is 48.7%. Thomas Edison is 5th in the state with 71.9% of their third-grade students reading on grade level.

For the Early Reading and Math proficiency scores from 2024-2025, the Thomas Edison school district's average is finalized, but the states average is unknown. Angela estimated if the district scores would be above, the same, or below the state's average based on previous years' data.

Overall, the students are performing well on their assessments and the majority of grade levels are performing at or above the state's average.

Angela presented the Early Learning Goals for the 25-26 school year. The goals do not need approval from the Board, but both goals are focused on math per state requirement. The first goal is similar to last year's goal, which is for first graders to increase BOY to EOY math proficiency by 1-3%. The second goal is for kindergarteners to increase BOY to EOY number identification fluency by 4-6%.

Angela reviewed last year's goals, and unfortunately the first goal to increase 1st grade math proficiency by 6% was not met, but the second goal to increase kindergarten reading proficiency by 5% was met.

9. Mental Health Grant: SarahAnn Delaney

SarahAnn is seeking the Board's approval for one more year of the Mental Health Grant and the collaboration with The Family Place.

Board Member Jeff Mason left the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Motion to continue to endorse the Mental Health Grant as it currently stands: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ryan Reeves

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Ester Israelsen, Courtney Carpenter, and Ryan Reeves.

Resolved: unanimous

10. Student Fees Policy: Jamie Lewis

Jamie Lewis is asking the Board to approve the continuation of the No Fees School Policy of Thomas Edison Charter Schools.

Motion to continue our No Fees Student Fees Policy: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ester Israelsen

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

Resolved: unanimous

11. TECS SHiNE Policy: Jamie Lewis

Jamie Lewis is asking for approval of a new policy for the SHiNE program. In the past the state has offered a grant for teachers who took on "difficult to fill" subject areas, like math, science, and special education. The state has changed the grant so schools are now in charge of how to distribute the funds and run the program in their own districts. The details for the school's proposed SHiNE policy and procedures can be viewed in the meeting handouts. For the 2025-2026

school year, the school has chosen secondary mathematics, secondary science, and special education as the high-need instructional areas for this program.

Motion to approve the SHiNE Policy as distributed: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

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

Resolved: unanimous

12. TSSA Guiding Framework and Budget Plan for 2025-26: Jamie Lewis

Jamie Lewis asked the Board to approve the school's plan for the Teacher Student Success Act Grant. The total grant amount for this school year is \$386,618.82. The state requires the school to use the money for specific purposes. This grant is not new nor does it add additional funds to the budget, the school relies on these funds each year and these funds have already been included in this year's budget. Please reference the TSSA Grant plan in the board meeting handouts for details on how the school plans to use TSSA Grant funds.

Motion to approve the TSSA Grant as distributed: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ryan Reeves

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

Resolved: unanimous

13. Principal Reports: Melani Kirk and Brad Larsen

North –

- This current student enrollment for North campus is 453, with 12 students on the waitlist for 6th grade. Administration is working on ways they can increase awareness of the school to help increase enrollment.
- Back to School was successful
- Welcome Week has been great
- The Fall Family Activity will be happening soon

South –

- The current student enrollment for South campus is 690. The biggest concern with enrollment is the how low kindergarten enrollment is this year.
- At Back-to-School Night, 94% of students attended, which shows parents and students were excited to come back to school.
- The school is currently looking into bids to apply a security film to all the school windows and doors.

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

No Vendor Requests.

Personnel

North –

Rachel Roos – 3rd grade aide

Melany Clark – part-time MS aide and lunch helper

South –

Keiko Foote – Special Education Aide

Motion to approve personnel as requested: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

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

Resolved: unanimous

15. Adjourn at 7:05 pm