

Board of Education Meeting - Oct 14 2025 Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM

Tooele County School District 92 Lodestone Way Tooele, Utah 84074

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

Page

1. Executive Session, 5:15 pm (Closed to Public)

Board Members Present: Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, Todd Thompson

Excused: Scott Bryan

Administration Present: Dr. Mark Ernst, Superintendent, Lark Reynolds, Business Administrator, Dr. Jeff Hamm, Assistant Superintendent, Jackie Gallegos, Board Clerk, Terry Christensen, Director of Policy, Property, and Legal Affairs

At 5:15 pm Member Syphus made a motion to enter into executive session.

- 1.1 Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual
- 1.2 Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation
- 1.3 Purchase, Exchange, or Release of Real Property

2. Business Meeting 6:00 pm (Start of Public Meeting)

Board Members Present: Melissa Rich, Elizabeth Smith, Robert Gowans, Todd Thompson, Emily Syphus, ValaRee Shields

Excused: Scott Bryan

Administration Present: Superintendent Ernst, Lark Reynolds, Dr. Jeff Hamm, Angie Gillette, Marissa Lowry, Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Brad Hranicky, Terry Christensen, Brett Valdez, Jackie Gallegos, Ian Silva

2.1 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

At 6:00 p.m., President Rich called the meeting to order and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.2 Energy Solutions Donation

Point of Contact: Keith Bird, Executive Director, Tooele Education Foundation

Keith Bird, Executive Director of the Tooele Education Foundation, introduced Chris Sloan, representing Energy Solutions. Mr. Sloan announced a donation of \$10,000 to the Foundation, designated to support less fortunate students in purchasing books at school book fairs.

3. **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.)**

3.1 Patron Comments

- **Mandy Larson** – Spoke on behalf of the Tooele Education Association (TEA) regarding teacher morale.
- **Travis Pravitt** – Addressed the Board as a concerned parent of two students attending Middle Canyon Elementary.
- **Mitzi Belverstone** – Represented the Support Professionals of Tooele School District in her comments to the Board to recognize Support Professional Employees.

4. **Academics**

4.1 Beginning of Year Data

Point of Contact: Dr. Cody Reutzel, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

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Dr. Cody Reutzel, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, and Andy Peterson, Director of Assessment and Research, presented the Fall 2025 benchmark data from Acadience and RISE assessments to the Board. The presentation highlighted student proficiency levels in literacy and mathematics across grade levels, with a focus on early learning outcomes.

Acadience assessments, administered in grades K–3, showed varied proficiency levels in both literacy and math. For example, in first-grade literacy, 71% of students scored at or above benchmark, while in math, only 61% met that threshold. RISE assessments, administered in grades 4–10, revealed that a majority of students scored below proficient in both ELA informational text and math, with proficiency rates ranging from 2% to 13% depending on grade level.

Dr. Reutzel outlined specific achievement goals for the 2025–2026 school year, including:

- **Early Literacy Goal #1:** Increase the percentage of first-grade students scoring “at or above benchmark” from 53% to 68%.
- **Early Literacy Goal #2:** Increase the percentage of kindergarten students scoring “at or above benchmark” from 43% to 68%.
- **Early Math Goal #1:** Advance 59% of second-grade students who were “below benchmark” at the beginning of the year to “at or above benchmark” by year-end.
- **Early Math Goal #2:** Increase third-grade students scoring “at or above benchmark” from 42% to 57%.

To support these goals, the district will implement the **Into Math** curriculum and launch targeted intervention plans beginning next month.

The benchmark data will continue to inform instructional planning, curriculum development, and support systems across the district..

[Fall Benchmark Data 2025.pdf](#) 

5. Consent Items

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| 5.1 | Minutes | # - # |
| | Board of Education Meeting - Sep 09 2025 - Minutes - Html  | |
| | Board of Education Work Session - Sep 23 2025 - Minutes - Html  | |
| 5.2 | Expenditure Report | # - # |
| | Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director | |
| | September Board Expenditure Report.pdf  | |
| 5.3 | Revenue Report | # - # |
| | Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director | |
| | September Board Revenue Report.pdf  | |
| 5.4 | Disbursement Report | # - # |
| | Point of Contact: Myken Hurst, Accounts Payable | |
| | 9.25 Disbursement Report.pdf  | |
| 5.5 | Financial Reports | # - # |
| | Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director | |
| | FY25 August Combined Financial Statements.pdf  | |
| | FY26 August Combined Financial Statements.pdf  | |
| 5.6 | Personnel Decisions | # - # |
| | Point of Contact: Charles Hansen, Human Resources Director | |
| | September Personnel Decisions 2025.pdf  | |
| 5.7 | LEA Specific License | # - # |
| | Point of Contact: Krystal White, Licensing Specialist | |
| | Oct LEA Specifics.pdf  | |
| 5.8 | Amended Trustland Plans | # - # |

Point of Contact: Area Directors

[DPHS Amendment 25-26.pdf](#) 

5.9 Surplus Items # - #

Point of Contact: Emily Spendlove, Fixed Assets

[Memo surplus to board 25-10-8.pdf](#) 

5.10 Request for Proposal # - #

There are two RFP approvals submitted for Board Approval

Stansbury Jr. High Weight Room Equipment

[Weight Room Equipment - Stansbury Jr High.pdf](#) 

[Scoresheet Weight Room Equipment.pdf](#) 

Social Studies Curriculum

[RFP Board Approval Form-Social Studies Curriculum.pdf](#) 

[Award Recommendation - Online Social Studies Program
for Grades 8-12 Solution.pdf](#) 

[Online Social Studies Program for Grades 8-12.pdf](#) 

[Scoresheet Online Social Studies Curriculum.pdf](#) 

[BAFO - Cost Analysis Online Social Studies Curriculum.pdf](#)



Approve consent items as presented or amended # - #

Moved by: Emily Syphus

Seconded by: Robert Gowans

Yea Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields,
Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd
Thompson

Motion Carries 6-0

6. Action Items

6.1 2025-2026 TSSA Plans

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Area Directors submitted the Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA) plans for each school, outlining how funds will be allocated to support student achievement. Each plan included a detailed budget and strategies focused on staffing, interventions, and instructional support aligned with school improvement goals..

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/136MD6ij0pYc7Vwb3OCJSCrzmvfJqPTzW4iDCKluXWcU/edit?usp=sharing>

[GRANTSVILLE AREA TSSA Plans FY26.pdf](#) 

[TOOELE AREA TSSA Plans.pdf](#) 

[STANSBURY AREA TSSA Plans FY26.pdf](#) 

Approve the TSSA Plans as presented.

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Moved by: ValaRee Shields

Seconded by: Robert Gowans

Yea

Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd Thompson

Motion Carries 6-0

6.2 Capital Project Fundraiser


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Point of Contact: Lark Reynolds, Business Administrator

Mr. Lark Reynolds, Business Administrator, presented a proposal for improvements to the Stansbury High School baseball facility. The presentation included the scope of work, safety enhancements, and alignment with District Policy 5006. Formal Board approval was requested to initiate fundraising efforts under the Capital Projects Fund.

During the discussion, Board members emphasized the importance of transparency with donors. Member Thompson requested that the fundraising procedure clearly state that if sufficient funds are not raised within five years, the collected donations will be redirected to other district programs. This

condition should be communicated to donors upfront to ensure understanding and agreement.

[Stansbury Baseball Facility Improvement Project Summary v4.pdf](#) 

[TCSD Capital Fundraising Procedure.pdf](#) 

Approve the Capital Fundraising Project for SHS Baseball Facility

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Moved by: Elizabeth Smith

Seconded by: ValaRee Shields

Yea Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd Thompson

Motion Carries 6-0

6.3 Revised Policy 5047, Safe Schools-Emergency Safety Interventions, 2nd Read

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Point of Contact: Marissa Lowry, Director of Special Education

Marissa Lowry, Director of Special Education, presented revisions to Policy 5047 for a second reading. The policy was updated to align with changes to R277-608, including requirements that seclusion rooms may not be used without Board approval and that foundational behavior training must be provided to all staff within 30 days of hire. No changes were made since the first reading..

[Revised Policy 5047, Safe Schools-Emergency Safety Interventions, 2nd Reading.pdf](#) 

[ESI Policy Template.pdf](#) 

Approve Revised Policy 5047, Safe Schools-Emergency Safety Interventions for implementation

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Moved by: ValaRee Shields

Seconded by: Todd Thompson

Yea Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields,
Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd
Thompson

Motion Carries 6-0

6.4 Revised Policy 1001, Board Power and Duties, 2nd Read # - #

**Point of Contact: Terry Christensen, Director of Policy,
Property and Legal Affairs**

Terry Christensen, Director of Policy, Property, and Legal
Affairs, presented revisions to Policy 1001 – Board Powers and
Duties – for a second reading. The policy has been rewritten
to better reflect the Board’s commitment to student
achievement.

[Revised Policy 1001, Board Power of Duties, 2nd Reading.pdf](#)



Approve Revised Policy 1001, Board Power and Duties as # - #
presented for implementation.

Moved by: Emily Syphus

Seconded by: Robert Gowans

Yea Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields,
Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd
Thompson

Motion Carries 6-0

6.5 Revised Policy 9001, Use of Tooele County School District # - #
Facilities, 1st Read

**Point of Contact: Tiffany Miner, Building Scheduling
Coordinator**

Tiffany Miner, Building Scheduling Coordinator, presented
revisions to Policy 9001 for a first reading. The updates
reflected organizational changes within the district,

transferring responsibilities from the Assistant Superintendent to the newly established role of Building Scheduling Coordinator. The revised policy also incorporated references to state code regarding insurance requirements to ensure alignment with current legal standards and district safety protocols. member Thompson has concerns about waiving fees and the potential of having it not be fair and waive fees for Operations Director

[Revised Policy 9001, Use of Tooele County School District](#)

[Facilities, 1st Read.pdf](#) 

[Policy 9001, Changes.pdf](#) 

Move Revised Policy 9001, Use of Tooele County School District Facilities forward for a 2nd read.

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Moved by: Elizabeth Smith

Seconded by: ValaRee Shields

Yea Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd Thompson

Motion Carries 6-0

6.6 Sex Education Materials

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Point of Contact: Chantel Cowan, Assistant Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

Chantel Cowan, Assistant Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, presented materials reviewed by the Sex Education Curriculum Committee. The Committee recommends Board approval of the proposed materials for classroom use.

[Board agenda Item for sex ed materials Oct 2025.pdf](#) 

[Contraception Presentation 2025.pptx](#) 

[Tooele - High School 2025—26.pdf](#) 

[Tooele - Middle School 2025—26.pdf](#) 

Move Sex Education Materials forward for a second read.

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Moved by: Robert Gowans

Seconded by: Elizabeth Smith

Yea Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields,
Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd
Thompson

Motion Carries 6-0

7. Information, Discussion, or Calendar Items

7.1 Business Administrator Report

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Lark Reynolds, Business Administrator, presented the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The reports, which included the Annual Financial Report and Annual Program Report, were submitted to the State through UPEFS and made publicly available on the District's website. Mr. Reynolds reviewed fund balances, noting a net decrease of \$42.9 million primarily due to one-time construction expenditures. He also reported that nearly all bond proceeds from the 2020 election and MBA bonds for Stansbury Junior High School had been spent.

In addition to the financial review, Mr. Reynolds initiated a high-level discussion on the District's Capital Projects Fund and capital reserves to support strategic planning and future decision-making.

[BA Report November 2025.pdf](#) 

[Financial Statements For June 30, 2025.pdf](#) 

[AFR Year Ended June 30, 2025.pdf](#) 

[APR Year Ended June 30, 2025.pdf](#) 

[Bond Proceeds Spend Summary 6.30.25.pdf](#) 

7.2 Semester Plans

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Area Directors submitted Semester Plans for each school, outlining targeted objectives aligned with the Tooele County School District's Strategic Model. Each plan detailed specific actions, implementation timelines, and criteria for measuring success. The plans serve as a roadmap for continuous improvement and strategic alignment across the District.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1254Ndhs5tdS5nEskemvy2E_WVv2o2-iREWUyPTQKr6Y/edit?usp=sharing

[GRANTSVILLE Area Fall Semester plans FY26.pdf](#) 

[STANSBURY AREA Fall Semester Plans FY26.pdf](#) 

[TOOELE AREA Fall Semester Plans FY26.pdf](#) 

GHS Semester plan: https://tooelesd-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/smedina_tooeleschools_org/Efgka9oDPg5DktrW9lXGn0YB4NDdjlsq1dnKgTjHdZuhMg?e=5piflU

7.3 Board of Education Committee Reports

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Board of Education Committee Reports for October:

- **Audit and Budget Update**

Vice President Gowans reported that all audits previously requested by the Board have been completed. He informed members that a survey will be distributed in the near future to gather input on future audit priorities. Board members will be asked to identify their top three areas of interest for upcoming audits.

- **Delegate Assembly Report**

Member Syphus provided an overview of the purpose of the Delegate Assembly, which is to establish joint legislative priorities for the Utah School Boards Association (USBA). She referenced the USBA website for a full list of priorities and highlighted several key initiatives, including:

- Establishing an education working group
- Providing a 2% increase above guaranteed inflation and growth in the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU)

- Fulfilling prior commitments to increase funding for at-risk students
- Supporting student attendance through targeted resources
- Developing a plan for the Economic Stabilization Account to allocate 85% of available funds directly to LEAs for school safety capital needs, small school building funds, and educator-directed hours
- Collaborating with the Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) on a long-term educational funding framework

Member Smith also shared insights from the Pre-Delegate Assembly, noting the topics that participants found most important and relevant to current district needs..

[Board Committee Assignments 2025-2026.pdf](#) 

8. **Adjourn (10:00 pm Curfew)**

At 8:41 pm a motion was made to adjourn

Adjourn

Moved by: Robert Gowans

Seconded by: Elizabeth Smith

Yea Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields,
Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd
Thompson

Motion Carries 6-0

Board President