

Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
Date: November 5, 2025

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

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

Board Members Participating Electronically: Jeff Mason

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

Resolved: unanimous

4. Board Training - Brian Carpenter Podcast #10 Brian's Top Ten Board Bonks: board self-evaluation

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 commented that she feels the governing board does a good job of evaluating its own performance. Principal Kirk agreed, noting that the board not only evaluates itself effectively.

5. Board Training Discussion: P&P Manual 3000 (Personnel)

Keys to Classroom Management; Seven Outs- GB meeting in Dec only if necessary (electronic), no meeting Jan

There were no comments by board members in regards to section 3000 in the P&P manual.

6. TECS Philosophy: Jim Peterson

This month's training is from Exhibit A of the school's charter, and focused on the importance of including aides in the classroom. There has been a push for smaller class sizes nation-wide, but in Utah that is difficult due to there is more children per capita than other states. Board member Courtney Carpenter, said she appreciated that all the aides are trained, even in Spalding, and they are set up for success which is shown by the low aide turnover. Having a trained aide also allows the aide to be the substitute in the teacher's absence which helps to keep consistency in classroom instruction.

Principal Melani Kirk said the school's philosophy is to teach by direct instruction, and having an aide in the classroom allows the teacher to keep providing that direct instruction while the aide helps to keep students on track and assist with any needs. This helps with efficiency and higher-level learning.

The direct instruction approach, curriculum, and the Glen-Latham philosophy is unique to Thomas Edison, and provides students with the best path of success.

7. Financial Report: Jim Peterson

The monthly expense average is below the projected monthly average. South Campus is spending \$58K below and North Campus is spending just under \$34K a month.

8. Audit Report: Steve Finley

The school's audit report is included in the handouts. The audit is for the previous school year, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and was performed by Eide Bailey. The school is audited on their finances, grant compliance, restrictive funds, school fees, procurement, board training and compliance, website compliance, and this year they added data privacy compliance. The schools passed the audit.

The school's assets were valued at \$16.6 million, which includes the buildings, all the property inside the buildings, and cash equivalents. The net position of the school is very positive.

9. Student Data Report: Angela Williams

Usually, this time of year Angela presents the School Report Card, but that has been pushed back to January. Instead she presented the state ELA test results from RISE. The school's proficiency percentages are as follows: third grade is at 71%, fourth grade is at 58%, fifth grade is at 56%, sixth grade 53%, seventh grade is at 62%, and eighth grade is at 65%. The students performed really well, but the data still shows that the transition from 5th grade to 6th grade may need more support.

The second handout provides additional details about the annual Acadience Math and Reading scores, with data dating back to 2020. Board member Ester Israelsen had previously requested more historical information on Acadience scores, which was provided at this meeting. Overall, the scores are generally above the state standard.

10. Discipline & ESI Policy #2210: Jamie Lewis

This policy had not been updated for some time, and recent changes to state law required adjustments to ensure compliance. Please review the handouts for details on the updates.

There were no questions or comments about the required changes.

Motion to approve the policy #2210 as distributed with the intended amendment of adding Qualtrics survey link: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ester Israelsen

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

Resolved: unanimous

11. Seclusionary Time Out Areas (Policy 2210): South- Melani Kirk, North- Brad Larsen

Principal Kirk and Principal Larsen explained the location and design of the seclusionary time-out areas at each campus. Please refer to the handouts and recording for details.

Motion to approve the Seclusionary Time Out Areas as presented for South Campus: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ryan Reeves

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

Resolved: unanimous

Motion to approve the Seclusionary Time Out Areas as presented by North Campus: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

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

Resolved: unanimous

12. Background Check Policy #1306

The policy needed to be updated to include specifically “A volunteer who will be given significant unsupervised access to a student in connection with the volunteer's assignment is required to submit to a background check.”

Motion to approve the Background Check Policy as presented: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ryan Reeves

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

13. Student Personal Electronic Device Policy #2211

The administration felt the policy needed more clarity. Principal Kirk explained the policy adds clarity to when, where, and how a student can use their phone on school property.

Board member Courtney Carpenter agreed with the changes especially since Governor Cox came out with the no phones at school policy.

Motion to approve the Student Electronic Device Policy as distributed: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ester Israelsen

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

Resolved: unanimous

14. Principal Reports: Melani Kirk and Brad Larsen

North –

- 23.6% of students reported as “economically disadvantaged”
 - The younger grades had a higher percentage than the older grades
 - The parents report this via a survey given out, and it’s a federal chart that helps to identify students in need of free or reduced lunches
 - Board member Ryan Reeves asked if the school is keeping track of kids who don’t have lunches. The principals explained that the aides keep an eye out for the student’s in their classes and if a lunch is not brought than the school calls the parents to bring one. The schools also do a giving tree every year to help students and their families that are in need.
- Parent Teacher conferences had good attendance.
- The maturation clinic for 5th graders was recently held after school

South –

- The school had 98.6% of parents attend Parent Teacher conferences. This included only those who were required to attend, which includes all parents of elementary students, and middle school parents whose students had a D or F in any class or an N for citizenship.
- Thomas Edison Charter School South was mentioned in the Herald Journal as one of the top charter schools in the state. It ranked first for charter middle school, 6th in the charter school elementary category, and ninth overall.

- UAPCS sent out a survey requesting information on how far away students live from the school. The percentage of students living at specific distances can be found in the handouts.

Board member Ester Israelsen asked whether the low attendance at the maturation clinic is typical. Principal Larsen said he wasn't sure but noted that it can be difficult to get parents to attend after-school meetings or events. Board member Ryan Reeves then asked if the school is required by the state to hold the maturation clinic. Jamie Lewis explained that the clinic was previously presented as a video but is now offered through a video link as well as an in-person meeting. The principals confirmed that providing the maturation clinic is a state requirement and that offering it after school, with the Bear River Health Department conducting the session, fulfills the state's requirements.

15. Vendor Requests: Melani Kirk and Brad Larsen

Both campuses –

Thomas Edison Charter Schools and the Cache County Sheriff's Department have mutually agreed to terminate the existing School Resource Officer (SRO) agreement. Currently, the assigned SRO serves both campuses on a part-time basis, which does not meet the state's safety requirements for SRO coverage.

As a result, the school notified the Sheriff's Department that the SRO contract would not be renewed at the end of its current term. Subsequently, the Sheriff's Department requested an early termination of the agreement so the deputy could fill a vacancy within the department. Both parties agreed to conclude the contract effective November 14, 2025.

The early termination of this contract frees up funds from the safety grant which can be applied to other safety improvements.

Safe Haven Defense – A state contractor that will apply safety film to the interior windows of classrooms, and the entrances and immediate adjacent glass. The film is designed to slow down an intruder by 3-5 minutes if they were to try to gain access through the building by breaking through the windows or front doors.

Motion to approve Safe Haven Defense for the bid of hardening the perimeter as presented: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

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

Resolved: unanimous

Motion to approve Safe Haven Defense for the same purpose for South Campus: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ryan Reeves

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

Resolved: unanimous

16. Adjourn at 6:37 pm