

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2026

The Board of Education of the Timpanogos School District met in a board meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The board meeting took place in the meeting room of the ASD SPED Office.

Board members present: President Jennifer Lyman, Guy Fugal, David H. Smith, Michele Sorensen, and Ada Wilson. Arrived Late: Vice President Sterling Hilton and Grace Rex.

Also present: There were approximately 72 others in attendance.

President Jen Lyman called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Abby Olsen.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT OR REFLECTION

An inspirational thought was given by Collin Gill, Assistant Principal of Pleasant Grove High School.

RECOGNITIONS

Board member Fugal recognized the Pleasant Grove High School Marching Band, Color Guard, and Director for winning the 5A State Scholastic Championship in November 2025. He commended their dedication, hard work, discipline, and teamwork, noting their ability to transform music into emotion and expressing pride in their accomplishments.

Board President Lyman recognized Jill Davis, Administrative Assistant in the Special Education Office, noting that she effectively manages operations, provided valuable assistance with the Superintendent search, and stayed late to accommodate participants' schedules.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Tony Kretschmer of Orem expressed appreciation to the Board for listening to constituents and involving the community in the process of naming the new district. He also thanked the Board for the new survey released on Sunday. Mr. Kretschmer presented a letter from Timpanogos Nation, authored by Mary Murdock Meyer, granting permission to use "Timpanogos" as the name of the new school district, and read an excerpt from the letter.

Jenna Flood & Catherine Tyler of Lindon French teachers in ASD who also hold district-level positions, expressed their passion for teaching and the joy they find in working with their students. They shared their commitment to introducing students to global perspectives, real-world issues, and practical solutions. They noted that 13% of students earned the Seal of Biliteracy last year, provided additional context on the importance of these courses, expressed pride in their students' hard work, and encouraged the Board to continue supporting the program in the new district.

Jordan Blanchard of Mountain View High School, representing the PE Department, shared an overview of the strength and conditioning program and the work being done by PE teachers. He noted that the department authored the state core standards for strength and conditioning, regularly presents at state conferences, and actively promotes weightlifting programs statewide. He explained that Mountain View High School hosts a divisional competition for schools in the South, while Cedar Valley High School hosts the divisional for schools in the North, with both male and female participants. He extended an invitation to the April 15 divisional qualifier at Mountain View High School, with qualifying students advancing to the unofficial State Meet on April 29 at Pleasant Grove High School, describing the event as a unique athletic experience with enthusiastic student participation.

Lisa Baldwin of Orem expressed her support for the district name decision. She noted that she has lived in Orem for 26 years and that her children attended schools in the community. She described the creation of a new school district as a meaningful opportunity and expressed appreciation for the responses to her emails, stating they gave her hope and optimism. Ms. Baldwin encouraged all individuals involved in forming the new district to think positively of one another and to avoid negativity. She thanked the Board for considering name suggestions, emphasized that Mount Timpanogos is deeply cherished by the community, and described it as a symbol of strength, protection, beauty, and love. She stated that these qualities would provide a strong foundation for the district and affirmed her support for the name.

Victoria White Bahoravitch of Pleasant Grove addressed the Board regarding student safety on walking routes. She reported recent serious incidents in school crosswalks, including one fatality, two who sustained traumatic brain injuries, and four students who have been struck by a car, all in range of her home. Ms. Bahoravitch pleaded that the Board has the moral authority to advocate with city officials on behalf of thousands of families to establish better safety protocols for students. She further noted that while schools are expected to conduct safety reviews and coordinate with municipalities, she believes this is not occurring, and urged the Board to prioritize prevention to better protect students.

MINUTES

President Lyman recommended the approval of the December meeting minutes. Board member Smith made the motion to approve the December meeting minutes, and it was seconded by Vice President Hilton. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS

President Lyman recommended the Board accept the December Claims report. Board member Smith made the motion to accept the December Claims report, and it was seconded by Board member Sorensen. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Adoption of Proposed Alpine Calendar

President Lyman reviewed the recommended calendar developed by the ASD Calendar Committee, noting that three years were proposed to allow the new districts the option of maintaining concurrent calendars at the outset of their formation. She shared that she served on the committee and briefly outlined the calendar development process, including consideration of input from teachers, staff, students, and parents. President Lyman noted that the top staff member request was for three (3) full weekends during the Christmas break. She advised the survey is available on the Alpine website and can be reviewed in its entirety.

President Lyman made the motion to adopt the calendars created by Alpine School District for the years 2027-2028, 2028-2029, and 2029-2030, and it was seconded by Board member Rex.

Board member Smith requested clarification on which years were being adopted and whether the calendar could be amended at a future date. **President Lyman** advised that it could be amended if needed.

Board member Sorensen noted that while she was not a member of the committee, she attended the Board meetings where the calendars were discussed and observed the significant time and effort invested in the process. She acknowledged that substantial feedback is gathered and carefully considered, including input on the placement of teacher workdays, and expressed support for the ability to amend the calendar as needed based on feedback.

Vice President Hilton asked how many years in advance calendars are typically approved. **President Lyman** responded that calendars are usually approved one year at a time, generally two years in advance.

Board member Wilson noted that the Board documents include a link to the survey referenced by President Lyman. She highlighted some of the top survey requests, including: extending winter break to

include three weekends, having school in session before Memorial Day, providing a full week off for Spring Break, starting school as late as possible in August, and ensuring terms are as equal in length as possible. She also mentioned that these aligned calendars will be useful in discussions regarding shared transportation services.

Vice President Hilton asked whether Lake Mountain and Aspen Peaks had adopted these calendars. It was confirmed that Lake Mountain has adopted them, and Aspen Peaks has the item scheduled on its agenda for the following evening.

Board member Rex agreed that it will be very beneficial for all three (3) districts to be aligned from the start.

President Lyman noted that Alpine School District included student representation on the committee, with one student from each area participating to provide feedback.

The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Vote on the District Name

Board member Sorensen noted that each survey conducted received over 5,000 responses, reflecting substantial community engagement. She observed that the level of input was both overwhelming and energizing for the Board and expressed appreciation for the community's support. She reported that the most recent survey, which focused on selecting a name, indicated that "Timpanogos" was the community's preferred choice, while students were the group least supportive of this name. She stated that, overall, the community favored and supported "Timpanogos" as the new district name, and noted that the Naming Committee recommended formally adopting "Timpanogos School District" as the name of the new district.

Ada Wilson made the motion to name the new school district "Timpanogos School District", and it was seconded by Vice President Hilton.

President Lyman noted that one of her initial concerns was in representing a non-Orem area and that she found it interesting to see the support from Pleasant Grove for the proposed name. She reported that her perspective shifted when she received a significant number of emails requesting that the full name be used. She observed that, in attempting to please everyone, there were challenges that created dissatisfaction among some individuals. She stated that the process was necessary to gather the information needed and noted that it addressed concerns that the name might be perceived as territorial.

Board member Wilson noted that Lisa Baldwin had done an excellent job expressing the community's perspective on the proposed name. She stated that she appreciated that the name is unique and easily searchable online, which clearly identifies the location of the school district. **President Lyman** asked how she had initially felt about the name. **Board Member Wilson** responded that she generally prefers to follow the established process and had initially been resistant to using the name before the Board's vote. She noted that after considering the name and exploring its possibilities, she became a believer.

Board member Fugal noted that, as a member of the Interlocal representing Pleasant Grove as Mayor, he had strongly disliked the "South" designation. He reported that the first action taken was to assign a temporary name, with the understanding that the new Board would select a permanent name. He stated that the Board had spent an entire afternoon debating potential names and noted that he feels validated by the significant effort that went into the final choice. He observed that the name "fits well" and expressed approval with the outcome.

Board member Smith noted that he represents the Mountain View area and reported that the proposed name received a roughly even split in support and opposition, making it neither particularly popular nor unpopular in his community. He stated that he does not find the name unifying and noted that his area preferred an alternative to "Timpanogos." He indicated that he had encouraged the consideration of the name "Mountain View," reflecting the broader mountain region rather than a single peak. He observed that

he does not find the proposed name unifying and stated that he does not support it. He further noted that students also do not support the name, and emphasized that student input is an important consideration.

Board member Sorensen noted that the goal of the naming process was to unify the district. She reported that the first open-response survey overwhelmingly indicated support for “Timpanogos,” though she acknowledged that significant negative feedback was also received and not reported to the public. She stated that, in considering the second survey, the Board sought to honor the will of the community while avoiding favoritism toward the high school and emphasizing the use of the full name. She observed that many districts share a name with a high school in their area, with the district typically being named first. She reported conducting research on the origin and meaning of the name “Timpanogos,” noting that it means “water running over rocks” or “a stream in a rocky bed,” and stated that she believes this meaning aligns with the vision of the new district. She referenced their Vision Statement: “High levels of genuine learning for each student in an environment of exceptional care, curiosity, and community,” and observed that the name and its meaning reflect the district’s commitment to continual learning for the Board, school district staff, parents, and students.

Board member Rex noted that, as a mother of children with dyslexia, she initially had concerns that the name “Timpanogos” could present challenges for students in spelling. She reported that administrators and teachers had also expressed concern due to the length of the name. She stated that she waited for the survey results before forming an opinion and observed that there are eleven (11) different ways the name “Timpanogos” can be spelled. She noted that the majority of spelling errors came from adults rather than students. She stated that she loves Mount Timpanogos but typically refers to it as “Timp,” and did not see an issue with using a shortened form. She indicated that she had not anticipated that the “Timp Nation” community would have concerns about abbreviating the name. She expressed her support for the name “Timpanogos” and stated that she would vote in favor, noting that the Board is largely unified on this choice. She encouraged the community to be understanding of those who misspell the name.

Vice President Hilton noted that the naming process has been interesting and observed that naming carries a significant degree of influence, which is understood by those with experience and by parents. He stated that, while the choice of a name does not have a direct impact on education, it holds substantial emotional and symbolic significance. He reported that he could see both perspectives and considered the process a valuable opportunity for the Board. He observed that a majority of constituents support this name to represent the district. He stated that for those who did not select this name as a first choice, the process serves as a reminder that decisions will not be universally accepted, and that it is not possible to make everyone happy. He emphasized that opinions and needs vary, and noted that the Board will make choices that are in the best interest of the majority of the community.

President Lyman noted that these experiences were helping both the Board and the community better understand the processes. She reported that the Naming Committee had completed the necessary groundwork and emphasized that no discussions had occurred behind closed doors. She stated that the Board had aimed to be as transparent as possible and noted that committees would continue to operate in this manner.

The Board members who voted in favor were: Guy Fugul, Grace Rex, Ada Wilson, Vice President Sterling Hilton, President Lyman, and Michele Sorensen. Board members who voted against were: David H. Smith. With a 6:1 vote, the motion passed.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Board member Fugal noted that the public input received that evening had been very valuable. He addressed Ms. Barhovotich, stating that it is difficult to understand why such incidents have occurred in Pleasant Grove. He reported that the mayor is notified when these types of events happen and that he personally responded to two of the incidents to support first responders. He stated that debriefings are held afterward to discuss potential

improvements and expressed hope that an awareness program could be implemented to encourage safer driving. He emphasized that there is no excuse for such behavior, describing it as reckless driving, and expressed the desire to work together to reduce and prevent future accidents. He acknowledged the city's efforts, including newly painted crosswalks and tree removals, but noted that additional community engagement is needed.

Board member Rex thanked everyone for attending the meeting that evening. She expressed excitement about being in the new building and appreciation for the staff and community members who support and assist the Board.

Board member Wilson thanked the thirty-six (36) community members who had served as superintendent screeners. She noted that they had worked diligently and stated that the input they provided was vital to the Board's work moving forward.

Vice President Hilton echoed appreciation to the superintendent screening committee. He noted that, as a member of the hiring committee, he valued the willingness of both Board members and community members to assist. He reported that a large number of applications had been received from highly qualified individuals, exceeding expectations. He stated that each application was being carefully screened to ensure consistency across the process. He further noted that, as the Board moves forward with interviews, the goal is to select the most qualified candidate to lead the district and expressed encouragement regarding the strength of the applicant pool.

Board member Sorensen extended an invitation to the public to attend the "District Celebration" on February 11 at Timpanogos High School. She reported that efforts were underway to have the district branding ready for a reveal that evening and stated that superintendent applicants would be introduced. She noted that the celebration would feature talent representing all four (4) high schools, including choir, band, and student coalitions, and described it as a special opportunity to come together and celebrate the new district.

Board member Smith noted he had settled on cardinal red and gold as the district colors, if that was ok with everyone else. He provided an overview of the superintendent screening process, explaining that all screeners were from the South: certified staff, administrators from the district office, community members, the mayor, and two additional appointees from each Board member. He reported that time had been spent that afternoon, and will continue on most Wednesdays moving forward, visiting facilities within the district. He stated that visits had included four schools and the Space Center, and expressed that he was eager to see the facilities, meet with principals, and learn more about ongoing activities at the schools, as well as the properties owned by the district.

President Lyman wanted to publicly recognize their families who are supporting them in this effort, noting that it requires a significant investment of time and that they have also devoted considerable effort. She reported that she had attended the USBA conference the previous weekend and, in discussions with other school board leaders, observed that while they offered advice, no one fully understood the experience as it is a new process. She publicly thanked their families again, for the time and effort they are contributing on their behalf.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Board member Rex and seconded by Vice President Hilton, the meeting adjourned into a closed session to discuss personnel, property, and litigation at 7:02 PM. The Board Members Guy Fugal, Grace Rex, Ada Wilson, Vice President Sterling Hilton, President Lyman, Michele Sorensen, and David H. Smith.

MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION – JANUARY 14, 2026

The Board of Education of the Timpanogos School District met in a closed session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7:25 PM. The meeting was held in the meeting room of the ASD SPED Office.

Board members present: President Jennifer Lyman, Vice President Sterling Hilton, Guy Fugal, Grace Rex, David H. Smith, Michele Sorensen, and Ada Wilson.

The purpose of the closed session was to discuss personnel, property, and litigation.

ADJORNMENT

On motion by Board member Wilson and seconded by Board member Fugal, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

APPROVED