

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 28, 2026

The Board of Education of the Timpanogos School District met in a board meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 6:02 PM. The board meeting took place in the meeting room of the ASD SPED Office in Lindon, UT.

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

Also present: There were approximately 100 others in attendance.

President Jen Lyman called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anya Becerra.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

An inspirational thought was given by Kim Jones.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

John Gadd of Pleasant Grove addressed the Board regarding concerns about the excessive use of closed meetings. He stated that Utah has a strong tradition of conducting public meetings and that school boards are required to meet publicly. He noted that, in recent weeks, the Board has held an unusually high number of closed meetings—more than any other board in the state—which limits transparency and prevents the community from understanding the matters being discussed. He expressed that the community would prefer these meetings not be held in closed session and questioned the Board about the frequency of the closed meetings and the topics being discussed outside of public view. Mr. Gadd also referenced a breakfast meeting held on January 5 with politicians and mayors, stating that the public was not invited to participate and that the meeting was not properly noticed in accordance with state code, which he characterized as illegal. He urged the Board to reconsider its practice of holding closed meetings.

MINUTES

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. Appointment of the New Superintendent of Schools

President Lyman explained that the superintendent search was a lengthy and deliberate process. A committee was formed to screen the 22 applications received. Closed meetings were held to identify candidates for interviews, followed by additional closed meetings over two days to conduct the interviews. The process resulted in narrowing the field to two finalists, who were then asked to provide presentations to the Board and participate in panel interviews with administrators and teachers. This process allowed the Board to observe the candidates and evaluate their qualifications as part of the hiring committee's work.

Board member Fugal motioned to appoint Dr. Joseph N. Jensen as the inaugural Superintendent of the Timpanogos School District, and it was seconded by President Lyman. The Board Members who voted in favor were President Jennifer Lyman, Vice President Sterling Hilton, Guy Fugal, Grace Rex David H. Smith, Michele Sorensen, and Ada Wilson.

Board member Sorensen expressed strong confidence in Dr. Jensen as superintendent. She shared that she previously had the privilege of serving as his PTA president at Timpanogos High School and described him as wonderful to work with. She noted his commitment to welcoming families and encouraging engagement, as well as his ability to build and strengthen a positive school culture. She stated that staff, students, and families all enjoy working with Dr. Jensen and offered her wholehearted recommendation of Dr. Jensen as superintendent.

Board member Wilson shared that the Board heard from several exceptional candidates, which made the decision challenging. The candidates included outstanding individuals from both within and outside the state, as well as candidates from within Alpine School District and beyond. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to observe the candidates and learn from their approaches. She noted being particularly impressed with Dr. Jensen for his ability to engage the Board in thoughtful discussion around complex challenges, encouraging exploration of values and priorities. She expressed confidence in his leadership abilities and stated that while Alpine School District has been a strong district in many respects, they are ready to move to the next level under his leadership.

Board member Smith stated that he has known Dr. Jensen for many years and expressed enthusiasm for the vision he has articulated—one the Board has discussed for a long time. He shared his eagerness to see that vision move forward and become a reality for students, extending beyond the District Office and into classrooms. He welcomed Dr. Jensen and expressed excitement for the work ahead.

Vice President Hilton expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to work with Dr. Jensen and stated confidence in moving the district toward its full potential. He affirmed the Board's commitment to achieving that vision together.

Board member Fugal shared that he wished the public could have been present during Dr. Jensen's question-and-answer session with administrators and teachers. He remarked that Dr. Jensen brings energy into a room and noted the positive reactions of those who will be working with him. He stated that Dr. Jensen has a strong ability to unite people and lead them forward, acknowledged the significant work ahead, and expressed confidence that it will be an exciting journey.

Board member Rex stated that the superintendent selection process had been a fascinating and enjoyable experience. She expressed appreciation to President Lyman for the significant time and effort she devoted on behalf of the Board, as well as gratitude to the screening committee members for their assistance. She noted the strong pool of applicants and shared that it was valuable to involve community members, teachers, and employees in the process. She thanked all participants for their contributions and efforts in supporting the Board through this endeavor.

2. Oath of Office

Board President Jennifer Lyman administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Joseph N. Jensen, who was appointed Superintendent for the Timpanogos School District, effective July 1, 2026.

Superintendent Jensen stated he would keep his remarks brief out of respect for everyone's other obligations. He shared that it was difficult not to become emotional seeing everyone gathered and expressed admiration for the Board's accomplishments in such a short period of time, noting the dedication and commitment of the Board members. He affirmed his own commitment to working alongside them to achieve the vision described by Board member Smith, aiming to make the district exceptional.

Superintendent Jensen shared that his first grandchild will be entering kindergarten in a few years and expressed his desire for every child in the district to have the same opportunities he wishes for her. He thanked his family, acknowledging that leadership is not a solo endeavor and requires the engagement of

many people. He concluded by expressing confidence that, together with the Board and others, they can achieve success and thanked everyone for their dedication and presence.

3. Resolution #2026-001 – Resolution authorizing Alpine School District Board of Education to Declare 25 Buses as Excess for Disposition

President Lyman presented a resolution for consideration from the Alpine School District, to declare 25 buses as excess for disposition. Per state code, the dividing school district must get approval from the divided districts before disposing of these assets.

Board member Sorensen motioned to approve Resolution #2026-001, and it was seconded by Board member Smith.

Board member Smith asked for clarification on whether these are the buses that are so old that repair costs would exceed their value. **President Lyman** confirmed, stating that the buses will be disposed of at the district's discretion.

The Board Members who voted in favor were President Jennifer Lyman, Vice President Sterling Hilton, Guy Fugal, Grace Rex David H. Smith, Michele Sorensen, and Ada Wilson.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Vice President Hilton noted that the Board conducted an authentic process to identify the right candidate and expressed excitement about Dr. Jensen's future contributions.

Board member Smith reported that the team has been visiting properties, with four visited today and five more scheduled for tomorrow. Expressed gratitude to the principals for hosting, noting that significant work has been done and there is still much to accomplish.

Board member Sorensen expressed appreciation to the Alpine School District for their ongoing support and training across all departments. Noted that tonight's meeting is being live-streamed thanks to the IT department. Invited everyone to the district celebration, now scheduled for Thursday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Timpanogos High School. Highlighted that all schools will be represented, attendees will have the opportunity to meet Superintendent Jensen, enjoy student musical performances, and see the unveiling of the new district logo.

Board member Wilson shared enthusiasm following the recent study session with Alpine on community engagement. Emphasized the importance of involving the community, noting that residents fund the schools, have ownership of them, and have elected the Board to provide oversight. Stated confidence that the community's expectations are being met in the schools and expressed strong trust in the district's staff and Superintendent Jensen.

Board member Rex shared enjoyment in visiting the various schools and encouraged everyone to review today's study session. Discussed a potential partnership with MakeUtah to transform several vacant schools into community centers aimed at supporting and educating the community, describing it as an exciting idea and requesting feedback. Also mentioned plans to eventually build a specialized school and expressed enthusiasm for determining the timing and location.

Board member Fugal—expressed appreciation to the Physical Facilities team for providing valuable information and noted that further collaboration is planned. Thanked Frank Pulley for bringing the Board up to speed and looked forward to continued work with him. Addressing Superintendent Jensen, remarked that he is the third superintendent that he has served with and joked about inviting him to future breakfasts with past superintendents, acknowledging that he has big shoes to fill.

Superintendent Jensen noted that while board meetings may appear smooth and routine, the board members face the same difficult human experiences as anyone else and handle them with dedication. Expressed gratitude to both the board members and their families for their commitment.

President Lyman thanked attendees for their support of the Board over the past few months, noting it has been an eventful period. Expressed excitement about having a new superintendent, mentioning that multiple documents have already been shared with him and more will be provided. Highlighted the importance of working collaboratively with the superintendent, the Business Administrator, and staff, emphasizing that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Acknowledged that some meetings were closed due to personnel discussions but wished the public could have seen the Board's energy and dedication in determining the district's needs. Described the experience as amazing and expressed enthusiasm for the momentum moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Vice President Hilton and seconded by Board member Fugal, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM. The Board Members who voted in favor were President Jennifer Lyman, Vice President Sterling Hilton, Guy Fugal, Grace Rex David H. Smith, Michele Sorensen, and Ada Wilson.