



Board of Education Meeting - Feb 10 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 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, President; Robert Gowans, Vice President; Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, Emily Syphus, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith (5:27 pm)

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

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

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

- 2.1 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
At 6:00 pm President Rich opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.2 Recognition of our District Digital Poster& Video Contest Winners

Esther Barney, Educational Technology Specialist, presented the winners of the district’s 4th–6th Grade Digital Citizenship Poster Contest: Keylee Ritz, 6th grade, Settlement Canyon Elementary (Hand-Drawn Poster Winner), and Kingsley Lee, 5th grade, Northlake Elementary (Digital Poster Winner).

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

- Travis Prawitt, Parent
- GHS students via video

4. Academics

4.1 Mid-Year Data

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Dr. Cody Reutzler, Assistant Superintendent, and Andy Peterson, Assessment Director, presented the Mid-Year Benchmark Data, providing an update on student performance in early literacy, early math, and RISE interim assessments. Their presentation offered a mid-year review of district academic goals, including progress toward early literacy and math targets, and updated the Board on efforts to reduce the number of schools with groups in turnaround status.

[Mid Year Benchmark Data 2026.pdf](#) 

5. Consent Items

5.1 Minutes

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[Board of Education Meeting - Jan 20 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

[Board of Education - Executive Session - Jan 27 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

[Board of Education - Executive Session - Jan 28 2026 - Minutes](#)

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[Board of Education - Executive Session - Feb 03 2026 - Minutes](#)

[- Html](#) 

[Board of Education - Executive Session - Feb 05 2026 - Minutes](#)

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|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 5.2 | Expenditure Report
Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director

January Board Expenditure Report.pdf  | # - # |
| 5.3 | Revenue Report
Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director

January Board Revenue Report.pdf  | # - # |
| 5.4 | Disbursement Report
Point of Contact: Kristen Evans, Accounts Payable

01.26 Disbursement Report.pdf  | # - # |
| 5.5 | Financial Reports
Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director

December Combined Financial Statements.pdf  | # - # |
| 5.6 | Personnel Decisions
Point of Contact: Charles Hansen, Human Resources Director

Personnel Decisions January 2026.pdf  | # - # |
| 5.7 | LEA Specific License
Point of Contact: Krystal White, Licensing Specialist

February 26 LEA Specifics.pdf  | # - # |
| 5.8 | Surplus Items
Point of Contact: Emily Spendlove, Fixed Assets | # - # |

[Memo surplus to board 26-2-4.pdf](#) 

Remove Consent item 5.9 and approve items 5.1-5.8 as presented.

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Moved by: Scott Bryan

Seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0

5.9 Request for Proposal/Invitation for Bid
Point of Contact: Shonie Guymon, Curriculum Director

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[IFB - Digital Library Books Re-Solicitation.pdf](#) 

Member Bryan requested that the Invitation for Bid for the SORA online reading platform be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. He inquired about the current number of student users accessing SORA.

Member Syphus questioned the cost of purchasing physical copies of the books available through SORA and whether the District would have adequate shelving and storage capacity for such a collection.

President Rich questioned the possibility of partnering with Tooele City and Grantsville City to access their online library systems. Curriculum Director Shonie Guymon responded that such an arrangement would limit the District's ability to control restricted content. She also noted that SORA provides Dual Language Immersion (DLI) materials in students' target languages, which is an essential resource not fully replicated through other platforms.

Approve the IFB for Digital Library Books as proposed.

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Moved by: Emily Syphus

Seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6. Action Items

- 6.1 Revised Policy 8015, Records Officer, 1st Read # - #
Chantel Cowan, Director of Policy and Math Curriculum, presented revisions to Policy 8015, Records Officer, to the Board for a first read. The prior reference designating the Business Administrator as the Records Officer had been removed. The revised policy stated that the District Records Officer would be designated by the Superintendent.

[Revised Policy 8015, Records Officer, 1st Read.pdf](#) 

[8015 Review and Implementation Summary.pdf](#) 

Approve revised policy 8015, Records Officer, as presented for implementation. # - #

Moved by: ValaRee Shields

Seconded by: Todd Thompson

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

Motion Carries 7-0

- 6.2 Revised Policy 11009, Early Learning Plan, 2nd Read # - #
Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendent, presented Revised Policy 11009 to the Board for a second reading. No changes had been made since the first review. The proposed revisions brought the policy into alignment with current State Code and Board Rule and added updated requirements related to early math plans and achievement goals.

[Revised Policy 11009, Early Learning Plan, 2nd Read.pdf](#) 

[11009 Review and Implementation Summary.pdf](#) 

Approve the revised policy 11009, Early Learning Plan, as presented for implementation

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Moved by: ValaRee Shields

Seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.3 New Policy, Credit Evaluation Standards and Guidelines, 2nd Read

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Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendent, presented a new policy, Credit Evaluation Standards and Guidelines, to the Board for a second reading. No changes had been made since the first review. The policy established clear standards and guidelines for evaluating credit, ensuring consistency and transparency in the process.

[New Policy, Credit Evaluation Standards and Guidelines, 2nd Read.pdf](#) 

[New Policy, Credit Evaluation Standards and Guidelines Review and Implementation Summary.pdf](#) 

[Policy 11006, Credit Evaluation Standards and Guidelines--Retire.pdf](#) 

Retire Current Policy 11006 and approve the New Policy, Credit Evaluation Standards, and Guidelines for implementation

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Moved by: Elizabeth Smith

Seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.4 New Policy, Admission and Attendance-Out of Boundary Student, 1st Read # - #

Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Stansbury Area Director, presented the new Admissions and Attendance: Out of Boundary Students policy for a first reading. The policy established a clear framework for admitting students who reside outside their assigned school boundaries. It formalized the open-enrollment process, aligned district practices with updated 2025 Utah Code and State Board of Education Rules, and outlined requirements for standardized state application procedures.

Dr. Jarnagin explained that during recent updates to the Out of Boundary (OOB) form, the need for policy revisions became apparent, particularly following State Code changes enacted in May 2025. The OOB provisions previously contained in Policy 5017 were determined to be cumbersome, leading to the decision to remove them and develop a stand-alone policy for improved clarity and accessibility.

[New Policy, Admission and Attendance- Out of Boundary Students, 1st Read.pdf](#) 

[Admissions and Attendance comparison chart.pdf](#) 

[New Policy, Admissions and Attendance Review and Implementation Summary.pdf](#) 

Approve New Policy, Admission and Attendance Out of Boundary Students for Implementation. # - #

Moved by: Robert Gowans

Seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.5 Revised Policy 5017, Admissions and Attendance: Eligibility and Admissions Requirements for Resident, and Non-resident Students, 1st Read # - #

Dr. Sarah Jarnagin presented revised Policy 5017, Admissions and Attendance: Eligibility and Admissions Requirements for Resident and Non-resident Students, for a first reading. She explained that recent updates to the Out-of-Boundary (OOB) form, along with State Code changes made in May 2025, had highlighted the need to refine the policy. The OOB provisions previously embedded in Policy 5017 had been found to be cumbersome, resulting in their removal and relocation to a stand-alone policy for improved clarity and accessibility. The revised version reflected these changes while maintaining all remaining admissions and attendance requirements applicable to resident and non-resident students..

[Revised Policy 5017, Admissions and Attendance Eligibility and Admissions Requirements for Resident and Nonresident](#)

[Students.pdf](#)  [New Policy, Admissions and Attendance](#)

[Review and Implementation Summary.pdf](#) 

[Admissions and Attendance comparison chart.pdf](#) 

Approve revised policy 5017, Admissions and Attendance- Eligibility and Admission Requirements for Resident and Non- Resident Students as presented. # - #

Moved by: Robert Gowans

Seconded by: Todd Thompson

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.6 Grantsville High School Pod

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Ian Silva, Operations Director, presented the preliminary cost estimates and project scope for the **Grantsville High School 10-Room Modular** for Board consideration.

Vice President Gowans asked when the final deadline would be for the Board to approve the project. He also inquired about the cost of preparing the District's existing portables for use at another location.

Member Shields asked about the student capacity of the modular pod. Mr. Silva stated that the capacity would be approximately **300 students**. She also asked whether an additional administrator would be needed to oversee the modular building. Superintendent Ernst responded that an additional administrator would **not** be required.

Mr. Silva further noted that the proposed modular classrooms offer significantly improved safety features, including the ability to install cameras and integrated security systems. He emphasized that the modular unit would meet state standards and expressed that the modular would be the most effective and safest option and is in the best interest of students.

[GHS Modular Costs 10 Room Updated.pdf](#) 

Approve the GHS 10 Room Modular

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Moved by: Elizabeth Smith

Seconded by: ValaRee Shields

Yea Melissa Rich, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, and Emily Syphus

Nay Robert Gowans, Todd Thompson, and Scott Bryan

Motion Carries 4-3

DISCUSSION TO MOTION:

Member Bryan requested classroom-level data comparing class sizes at Grantsville High School with those at Tooele High School and Stansbury High School, specifically for

English and math courses. Dr. Jarnagin provided the Board with FTE information for the high schools as part of the discussion.

Mr. Silva reminded the Board to account for an anticipated 6–8% inflation increase if the project approval were delayed. He also noted that, if the modular classrooms were intended for use in the upcoming school year, the current week would effectively serve as the final deadline for Board approval.

President Rich asked whether the net financial impact would be less than the \$4M after factoring in the potential need to purchase additional portables if we did not purchase the 10 room modular.

Member Syphus commented that the FTE formula shared by the Area Directors appears to protect the District from adding classroom space solely because it is available, helping ensure staffing is aligned with actual student need.

6.7 Sensitive Materials Review

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The Board will review the following books for sensitive material:

- Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jessie Andrews
- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
- Looking for Alaska by John Green

[The Handmaid's Tale.pdf](#) 

[Copy of Looking For Alaska.pdf](#) 

[Copy of Me and earl and the dying girl.pdf](#) 

President Rich explained that *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews were previously reviewed under the former Utah code, which did not require an objective review process. Under the updated code, these titles must now be evaluated by an Objective Review Committee to determine whether they contain material that meets the standards outlined in §76-5c-207(1)(a)(i)(A), (B), or (C). Therefore, the Board proceeded to review only *Looking for Alaska* by John Green at this meeting, and *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* will be returned to the committee for review.

Member Bryan noted that the law requires the Board to consider three specific statutory questions when conducting this review. Curriculum Director Shonie Guymon clarified that although the Objective Review Committee recommended retaining the book, the decision was appealed; therefore, the Board is required to complete its own review using the three questions outlined in statute.

Question A: Does the material contain a description or depiction of human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal? - **No:** ValaRee Shields, Emily Syphus, Todd Thompson, Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans - **Yes:** Scott Bryan, Elizabeth Smith **Outcome:** *Majority No*

Question B: Does the material contain a description or depiction of acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse, or sodomy? - **Yes:** Elizabeth Smith - **No:** Scott Bryan, Robert Gowans, Melissa Rich, Todd Thompson, Emily Syphus, ValaRee Shields **Outcome:** *Majority No*

Question C: Does the material contain a description or depiction of fondling or other erotic touching of human genitals or the pubic region? - **Yes:** ValaRee Shields, Todd Thompson, Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, Scott Bryan, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus - **No:** None **Outcome:** *Unanimous Yes*

Motion to remove "Looking for Alaska" to be removed due to the law.

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Moved by: Todd Thompson

Seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

7. Information, Discussion or Calendar Items

7.1 Business Administrator Report

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Lark Reynolds presented a Mid-Year budget update. Property tax and state revenues were on target, with collections at about 91–92%. Salaries, benefits, and expenditures were tracking within budget, with the General Fund projected to use \$5 million of fund balance by year-end. Debt Service and Capital Projects Funds were also on track, though Capital Projects reflected a \$10 million revenue reduction due to the non-certified tax increase. Several cost-saving measures were implemented across the District.

[February BA Report.pdf](#) 

[Mid-Year Analysis FY26.pdf](#) 

7.2 Semester Plans - 2nd Semester 2025-2026

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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 the specific actions to be taken, the implementation timeline, and the criteria for measuring successful outcomes. These plans served as a roadmap for continuous improvement and strategic alignment across the District.

[Spring Semester Plan Board Summary](#)

[GRANTSVILLE AREA Spring Semester Plans FY26.pdf](#) 

[Grantsville HS SIPT Monitoring Table \(2024-25\) \(2\).xlsx](#)

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

[TOOELE AREA Spring Semester plans FY26.pdf](#) 

8. **Adjourn (10:00 pm Curfew) 8:48**

at 8:48 a motion was made to adjourn public session and return to executive session.

Motion we adjourn to Executive Session in the Executive Conference room to continue our executive session agenda.

Moved by: Todd Thompson

Seconded by: Scott Bryan

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

Motion Carries 7-0

9. Executive Session

Draft