

Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Governing Board Meeting
Date: February 4, 2026

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Lindsey Fowers

Board Members Present: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, Ester Israelsen, Jeffrey Mason, and Ryan Reeves

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: Jeffrey Mason

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

Abstained: Mikelshan Bartschi

Resolved: unanimous

4. Welcome to The Board: Mikelshan Bartschi

Welcomed new board member Mikelshan Bartschi, representing North Campus, whose background includes law enforcement, organizational behavior, and significant expertise in safety and policy at local, state, and national levels.

5. Thomas Edison Charter School – Updated Charter: Utah SCSB – Brendan McGinn

Brennan McGinn from the Utah State Charter School Board presented the updated charter agreement for Thomas Edison Charter Schools.

The school is recognized by the state as providing an exemplary model for Schedule A, which they use as a template to help other charter schools going through this same process.

6. Comments from Charter Update Team: Administration team & Olivia Kirkham

Olivia Kirkham initiated and did the majority of the work to update the charter, but she did rely on the knowledge and assistance of Jamie Lewis. The updated charter streamlines goals, aligns with all institutional documents (handbooks, policies, website), and focuses on dynamic, adaptable goals

versus static ones. Process involved cross-referencing original and new charter, aligning philosophy and core statements, and engaging historically knowledgeable members for continuity. Charter changes were mainly organizational, removing outdated requirements and ensuring adaptability.

Board and contributors acknowledged for their hard work; and a group photo was taken to commemorate the signing.

7. Board Training – Brian Carpenter Podcast #12 Brian’s Top Ten Board Bonks: board self-evaluation

Listened to Brian Carpenter’s board training covering the top ten causes of charter school board failures, emphasizing governance/management distinctions, the need for policy compliance, and dual accountability (market and authorizer).

Discussion affirmed the board’s current strengths—teamwork, checks and balances, separation of duties—while expressing gratitude for board/administration collaboration.

Board member Ryan Reeves said he feels the issues mentioned in the training are irrelevant to the school’s board since they just received good kudos from the SCSB representative.

President Lindsey Fowers agreed and said the success is due to a great team of people at Thomas Edison.

8. Board Training Discussion: Keys to Classroom Management, Seven Outs, Philosophical Policies, and Board Self-Evaluation

Members reflected on the unique culture and success of Thomas Edison Charter School, especially its impact on student development and academic rigor.

Discussed classroom management philosophies and the importance of parent involvement, particularly in early grades. Board member Ester Israelsen said after reading “Keys to Classroom Management”, she realized what a “treasure” the school is and how well the school implements his teachings. Board member Courtney Carpenter agreed, the school does a fantastic job focusing on positivity and using that to drive behavior and change. Board member Ryan Reeves also agreed, and although when some students enroll there may be a learning curve to catch up, the quality of work and education given at Thomas Edison is way ahead of other schools. Board member Ryan Reeves said parent involvement is key to the success of the student. Principal Kirk agreed with Ryan, and said teachers will put in all they can to help a student, but students still need parent involvement in order to really be successful in the program, especially in the older grades. Board Chair Lindsey Fowers said success of the students depends on what their parents’ goals are for the student.

Clarified the board's evolving role in hiring (now handled by principals/administration) and the importance of clear organizational structure and delegation.

Explored relationship-building with political representatives, noting advocacy organizations and the potential benefits of local engagement.

9. TECS Philosophy: Jim Peterson

Jim provided a brief school history, noting the influence of Benjamin Franklin schools in Arizona, legislative hurdles, and the early evolution of Utah's charter law. A brief school history can be found on the school's website, and the link to that was added to the agenda in the handouts.

10. Legislative Update: Jim Peterson

Legislative update highlighted educational bills affecting charter and public schools, with details available for board review.

11. Financial Report: Jim Peterson

Financial report showed that both campuses are operating within budget, with expenditures below projected average monthly expenditure lines and both campuses have sufficient cash surplus. Both schools are operating very well financially.

12. Student Data Report: Angela Williams

Reviewed mid-year Acadience reading and math scores for K-3 for middle of year testing. The scores show strong growth and high proficiency, especially in math (up to 96% proficiency in some grades).

Discussed third grade reading results and the influence of a higher SPED population, clarifying the importance of tailored interventions.

13. Appoint/Review members of the Curriculum Review Committee (Deadline Aug 1st): Carolyn Larsen

Curriculum Materials Review Committee roster re-approved with no committee member changes; committee rarely needs to review new core materials, but maintains oversight as required.

Motion to approve the curriculum materials review committee as presented: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Ryan Reeves

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, Ester Israelsen, Jeffrey Mason, and Ryan Reeves

Resolved: unanimous

14. Approval/Review of 2026-2027 School Calendar: Melani Kirk

The school calendar for 2026-27 mostly matches Logan and Cache school districts. Cache County is starting school a week later than Thomas Edison due to the new middle schools and changing boundaries, which means they will also end school a week later than Thomas Edison.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 calendar as resented: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, Ester Israelsen, Jeffrey Mason, and Ryan Reeves

Resolved: unanimous

15. Board self-evaluation and goal setting: Lindsey Fowers – Board visits, training adjustments

Board self-evaluation and goal-setting will be discussed via email due to lack of time.

16. Principal Report & Vendor Requests: Melani Kirk

- Enrollment trends are lower than in past year but the principal is most concerned with the low kindergarten enrollment. Currently there are only 60 kindergarteners enrolled for next year, which is only 2 classes worth of students. The administration working to boost enrollment via advertising through Target River.
- The citizenship party was reported as successful and well attended.
- Mr. Bingham, the school counselor, has almost completed all his PCCR meetings with 8th grade students and their parents/guardians. He expects to get 100% attendance with these meetings.
- Pre-ACT scores strong, with 90% of eighth graders college-ready in math, and most students scored above the state average. Mr. Bingham will be presenting more details about the scores in next month's meeting.
- The school hosting a kick-off activity for their Positive Behaviors Program called "Treasure your Time". The focus for this year's positive behavior plan is healthy screen habits and family engagement. The school had over 300 parents and over 400 students attend the event.
- Safety upgrades in progress, all of the exterior doors had the safety film installed. If there are additional funds in the safety grant, the school will start doing the exterior windows.

Vendor approval: Norcon Industries selected for gym curtain replacement (\$19,765.23)

The school's gym curtain is about 20 years old and the gears and motor are starting to fail. There are only a few companies that make the size curtain that the school needs, and the process for replacing the curtain takes about 6-7 months. The school would like to request Norcon Industries as the vendor.

Motion to approve Norcon Industries to replace the curtain as requested: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, Ester Israelsen, Jeffrey Mason, and Ryan Reeves

Resolved: unanimous

17. Principal Report & Vendor Requests: Christina Smith

Principal Larsen had a family emergency and was unable to attend the meeting as well as was unable to get his board report sent to Christina Smith.

- Enrollment situation is similar to South Campus, with filling lower elementary classes as the biggest concern.
- Both campuses are hosting a “bring your friend to school day” on February 27th since Cache County Schools do not have classes on that day.
- PCCR meetings are underway at North Campus, with Mrs. Delany headed up those meetings.
- Students took the Pre-ACT test and student scores/performance increased from the previous year.
- Land Trust meeting was held and funds were approved
- The schools Positive Behavior Program has just begun and they have three aides teaching small groups and those classes will be held up until Spring Break.
- The middle school combined campus orchestra concert was beautiful and stunning.
- Last week was Harry Potter week. The school librarian, Mrs. Harilld, does an amazing job making the week very magical.
- The middle school Citizenship party was held and it was well attended and students had a blast singing karaoke at Pizza Pie Café
- There were two Requests for Proposals (RFP) presented, one for fixing the roof of the school and the other for a redesign of the front office area/school entrance. The RFP’s are included in the handouts for board review, Mr. Larsen still needs to go out to bid for these projects.
 - The roof needs to be replaced, there are several leaks throughout the building. The yellow sections in the handouts are the areas that need to be replaced.
 - The entrance to the school is not recognizable and is kind of hidden. The school would like improve this to make the entrance visible and welcoming. In addition, they want to expand their vestibule area to make it more welcoming and have a larger secure check-in area. This particular RFP is just a draft as they are unsure if there are enough school funds for this project.

Board member Ryan Reeves asked about a mascot for the bring a friend to school day. The school have one mascot but it needs to be replaced. The schools will look at purchasing a new one.

18. Adjourned at 7:03 pm