MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 25, 2026

The Board of Education of the Timpanogos School District met in a board meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 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, Joining remote: Michele Sorensen, and Ada Wilson.

Also present: Superintendent Jensen. There were approximately 85 others in attendance.

President Jen Lyman called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeff Schoonover.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

An inspirational thought was given by Dave Mower.

President Lyman recognized and thanked the Pleasant Grove culinary students for providing dinner for the Board that evening in-between meetings.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Anthony Kretschmer of Orem addressed the Board, noting that he raised eight children in the Alpine School District. He offered condolences to two Board members who recently experienced the loss of loved ones. Mr. Kretschmer referenced an email he sent to the Board expressing concerns regarding the selection of Jason Sundberg as the TSD Business Administrator. He stated that he had prepared a document outlining what he described as a lack of transparency in Mr. Sundberg's work. He also cited prior comments made at an ASD Board meeting by John Barrick and John Gadd. Mr. Kretschmer expressed disappointment with the continued use of closed-door meetings in the Business Administrator hiring process and stated that members of the community are frustrated by what they perceive as a lack of transparency. He indicated that he does not support the decision and urged Board members to carefully consider the matter and vote according to their conscience.

Evan Thacker of Orem addressed the Board regarding the hiring of the Business Administrator. He stated that the community elected the members of the School Board and entrusted them with their leadership responsibilities, including the hiring of the Superintendent. He expressed that, as the Board and Superintendent move forward in selecting a Business Administrator, the community places its trust in their judgment. Mr. Thacker conveyed his support for a candidate who is recommended and supported by both the Board and the Superintendent.

Anna LaDoux of Orem addressed the Board regarding the Orem preschool program, which her children have attended. She spoke highly of the program and expressed her trust in both the school and the staff. Ms. LaDue stated that while she is disappointed with the district split, she was even more concerned upon receiving the email indicating that the preschool programs may be eliminated. She emphasized that the program plays a critical role in preparing preschool students for full-day kindergarten and provides significant academic and developmental benefits. She also noted the value of the partnership with UVU in preparing future teachers, expressing concern that this opportunity would also be lost. Ms. LaDoux shared that these changes have made it difficult for her to consider remaining in the community and urged the Board to reconsider the decision and maintain the preschool programs.

Chuck Bearce a 45-year resident of Orem, addressed the Board. He shared that his children attended schools in the Alpine School District and that he looks forward to his grandchildren attending school in the new TSD. He noted that he currently has five grandchildren ranging from junior high to preschool age. Mr. Bearce encouraged TSD leadership to remain attentive to the needs of students, teachers, and support staff, ensuring they are provided with the necessary tools and resources to succeed. He expressed appreciation for the work being done, particularly the site visits and efforts to understand and meet the needs of students, staff, and the broader community. He thanked the Board for the time and dedication they have invested and will continue to invest, and conveyed his trust and support.

MINUTES

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. Appointment of New Business Administrator

   On behalf of the Hiring Committee, President Lyman put forward the recommendation of Jason Sundberg for the position of Business Administrator in the Timpanogos School District.
   Board member Smith motioned to appoint Jason Sundberg as the Business Administration of the Timpanogos School District, and it was seconded by Vice President Hilton.
   Board member Smith stated that there were several strong candidates for the Business Administrator position and that the Board conducted interviews accordingly. After reviewing the needs of the district and those identified by Superintendent Jensen, he indicated it became clear that Jason Sundberg was the best fit. Board Member Smith noted he has previously worked with Mr. Sundberg, trusts his work, and looks forward to collaborating with him moving forward. He expressed confidence that the selection will benefit the district and its communities.
   Vice President Hilton expressed appreciation for the hiring process, noting that the position was posted for four weeks and attracted eight to nine applicants. Four candidates were selected for interviews. He echoed Board Member Smith's comments, stating that by the conclusion of the interviews, it was evident that Jason Sundberg was the most qualified candidate to meet the district's current needs.
   Board member Rex addressed concerns expressed by some community members regarding Mr. Sundberg. She suggested that much of the concern may stem from the divisive nature of the district split and related vote. She acknowledged that individuals do not always communicate ideally in high-pressure or emotionally charged situations. While recognizing that some community members have concerns, she also noted that many others have had positive experiences working with Mr. Sundberg. Board Member Rex stated her agreement that Mr. Sundberg was the most qualified candidate and the best choice for the position.
   Board member Wilson stated that the hiring process was rigorous and fair. While she expressed appreciation for the other candidates, she indicated it became evident who the strongest candidate was. She acknowledged that there is always room for improvement in transparency and emphasized the Board's commitment to that standard. Board Member Wilson noted that school finance in the State of Utah is highly complex, particularly due to equalization formulas designed to balance funding among districts, as well as the coordination required with county entities and tax structures. She described Jason Sundberg as honest, reliable, and knowledgeable in school finance, and stated that the district will prioritize transparency, holding business staff to that expectation. She expressed full support for Mr. Sundberg, noting that strong financial leadership will be essential in balancing the budget and navigating the difficult decisions ahead. She referenced discussions during study sessions as evidence of those challenges and added that she wished certain preschool-related administrative decisions had not been made at the ASD level.
   Board member Sorensen expressed confidence in Jason Sundberg, noting his more than 10 years of experience with Alpine School District. She highlighted his unique combination of experience in district finance and as a former middle school math teacher, stating that this blend of instructional and financial expertise will benefit the district. She also noted his familiarity with legislation related to the district split and its impact on the local area. Board Member Sorensen shared that Mr. Sundberg has committed to maintaining an open-door policy, along with Superintendent Jensen, and that both the administration and the Board are willing to meet with community members to ensure transparency and open communication. She concluded by stating her support for his appointment.

Board member Fugal stated that, through his professional experience, he has had the opportunity to work with three previous Business Administrators. He shared that he was impressed with Jason Sundberg's interview, found him to be highly qualified, and believed he was the most qualified candidate for the position. He expressed gratitude that Mr. Sundberg applied and stated that he will be a strong addition to the team. Board Member Fugal indicated confidence that the district will be in capable hands, affirmed his trust in Mr. Sundberg's commitment to transparency, and stated that the district is moving in the right direction.

Superintendent Jensen echoed the sentiments of the Board, stating that Jason Sundberg was the most qualified applicant. He added that Mr. Sundberg's strengths extend beyond technical qualifications, describing him as both a culture builder and a leader—qualities that, combined with financial expertise, create a powerful skill set for a Business Administrator. Superintendent Jensen expressed personal gratitude, noting that Mr. Sundberg's strengths complement areas where he relies on support. He shared appreciation for Mr. Sundberg's willingness to accept the position and reiterated that both he and Mr. Sundberg maintain an open-door policy and welcome conversations with community members regarding any concerns.

President Lyman reflected on her experience participating in the Superintendent and Business Administrator interview processes, noting that she had not previously been in a position to interview candidates for such roles. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn from each applicant. For the Business Administrator position, she noted that there were eight applicants and that the Board followed a similar process as with the Superintendent search, despite time constraints and personal commitments. Four candidates were interviewed, and she stated that she learned something valuable from each. President Lyman acknowledged the significant financial challenges the district will face moving forward and expressed appreciation for Mr. Sundberg's willingness to provide information and guidance to help the Board understand those issues. She shared that she was pleased Mr. Sundberg accepted the offer and appeared equally enthusiastic about serving as Business Administrator. President Lyman emphasized that the Board has developed a strong working dynamic and that it was important to select a candidate who would align with that culture and function effectively as part of the team. She stated her belief that Mr. Sundberg fulfills that role.

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. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Oath of Office

Board President Jennifer Lyman administered the Oath of Office to Jason Sundberg, who was appointed Business Administrator for the Timpanogos School District, effective February 26, 2026.

Business Administrator Sundberg thanked those in attendance and expressed that he felt humbled and honored for the opportunity to serve alongside the Superintendent and Board. He shared that he has deep roots in the communities within the district, noting that his grandparents, parents, he and his wife, and their children have all attended schools throughout the district boundaries. Mr. Sundberg stated that his focus will be to provide strong and steady support to the Board and Superintendent. He expressed enthusiasm for helping build the culture they are striving to create and shared his belief that the district has the potential to become a premier district in the state. He conveyed his excitement to serve and work on behalf of the community.

3. Resolution #2026-003: (16) Vehicles as Excess for Disposition

Superintendent Jensen referenced the previous Board meeting and explained that, pursuant to state law, any assets identified by ASD for surplus must receive approval from all three new boards. He noted that Board Member Smith had requested clarification confirming that the items in question were no longer in use. Mr. Frank Pulley verified that the assets are not currently being used and are ready to be declared surplus.

Vice President Hilton motioned to approve Resolution #2026-003: (16) Vehicles as Excess for Disposition, and it was seconded by Board member Smith. The Board voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Board member Smith thanked the Board for taking a deliberate approach during the previous meeting. He expressed that slowing down allowed him to fully understand what he was voting on and provided the opportunity to ask additional questions of Mr. Frank Pulley. He conveyed appreciation to the Board members for allowing this thoughtful process.

4. Resolution #2026-004: Special School

Superintendent Jensen shared that the Board spent over two months researching options for special schools and that the Board's study session two weeks ago focused on examining those options in depth. He noted that the goal was to balance financial considerations with what would best serve the needs of the new district. He explained that the resolution authorizes the TSD and ASD Boards to begin planning a special school to open in August 2026 at the Sharon property. This approach will allow principals and teachers at the new school to collaborate with staff from existing special schools, providing opportunities to learn from their experience and best practices.

Board member Smith motioned to approve Resolution #2026-004: Special School, and it was seconded by Board member Fugal.

Board member Sorensen expressed support for the district's plans for special needs students, acknowledging that it is a multifaceted issue. She stated that the Board has taken all possible steps to address as many needs as they can. She highlighted that the plan provides a safety net, with the special school opening in Fall 2026 and ASD providing support to help establish the school and serve students initially, after which TSD will assume full responsibility. She voiced her support for the resolution.

Board member Rex thanked ASD employees who shared their insights, helping the Board better understand the district's needs. She also expressed appreciation to Board Member David Smith for visiting the Sharon site to confirm that the property meets the requirements. She noted that this plan represents a temporary solution designed to ensure the school is established correctly.

Vice President Hilton expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Board and others involved in the decision-making process. He described the decision as a strong one to address the needs of the district's most vulnerable students. He noted gratitude for the collaboration and the range of ideas discussed, stating that he feels confident in the plan to temporarily retrofit the Sharon property. He emphasized that this serves as a short-term solution to meet immediate student needs while the district continues evaluating the best long-term options.

President Lyman agreed, noting that the Board had previously felt rushed but appreciated the willingness of all members to take a long-term perspective. She highlighted the importance of providing a temporary space for students who need it immediately, while ensuring that the Board does not make hasty decisions. She expressed appreciation that the Board was able to approach the matter collectively and thoughtfully.

Board member Smith asked Jason Sundberg if he had any comments regarding the estimated costs provided by Mr. Frank Pulley. Mr. Sundberg responded that he did not anticipate any issues, noting that funds could be allocated from ASD if needed. Board Member Smith then asked Superintendent Jensen whether contacting UTA could allow for adjustments to bus routes. Superintendent Jensen stated that he had spoken with Dave Mower, who indicated that route adjustments should be very feasible. Board Member Smith shared that he and Superintendent Jensen had walked through the Sharon property while the Utah County Task Force was conducting training there. He described taking a careful, deliberate approach and reflected on envisioning his son attending the school, noting that it is a beautiful setting. He recalled that the Principal of Dan Peterson remarked that Sharon might even be a better location than his own school. Board member Smith highlighted features such as a bright, remodeled facility, a large playground, ample parking, and spacious classrooms with natural light—making it ideal for his son and all students.

Board member Wilson acknowledged the urgency of the decision, explaining that once the district split occurs, there will be insufficient space in the current facility. She noted that the Sharon site is the more cost-effective option and that a permanent solution will ultimately require a bond discussion to determine the ideal location. She emphasized the importance of having a temporary solution in place now, describing it as an upgrade with ample space for students and their equipment. She stated his support for the plan.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Board member Rex reflected on the hiring processes for the Superintendent and Business Administrator, calling it a strong and effective process. She stated that the district hired two highly competent individuals who will serve the district well. She acknowledged that there are opportunities to improve transparency to help build confidence in these leaders and support both their work and the community. She expressed gratitude for the dedication of the Board.

Superintendent Jensen praised the Board, describing them as phenomenal. He noted that they have visited 28 of 29 schools, emphasizing the significant time commitment involved. He also shared that the Board has visited various other sites to ensure they make well-informed decisions. Superintendent Jensen highlighted that these visits provide valuable opportunities to get to know the schools and the work ahead, helping the Board understand the issues they will need to address in the future.

President Lyman addressed comments suggesting that this new district would be “ASD 2.0.” While not a software developer herself, she explained that “2.0” represents improvement and growth, which is the Board’s goal. She acknowledged that, given financial limitations, it will be challenging to hire staff from outside ASD during the first year before taking on students, and emphasized that the district is building this new system with the talented individuals already in place. She expressed confidence that the district will emerge stronger and better—“ASD 2.0”—and underscored that the work being done is meaningful and directly impacts students. She confirmed that the Board will continue engaging with the community to understand and address needs. President Lyman also announced that Karen Carter will join the team as the Executive Assistant; although she is currently in Hawaii on vacation, she joked that she will soon be put to work. She added that preschool matters remain under ASD’s purview and will be addressed as the transition occurs.

Vice President Hilton expressed gratitude to his fellow Board members for their support of him and his family during a recent period of personal loss. He appreciated their willingness to step in and share responsibilities he might otherwise have carried. He reflected on lessons learned over the past few months, noting that while Board members are individuals with different perspectives, those differences are a strength, and mutual respect allows the Board to work effectively together. He emphasized that difficult decisions lie ahead to set the district up for success and expressed gratitude for the Board’s commitment to gathering information and making well-informed decisions.

Board member Fugal noted that the Board has completed its two primary hires and acknowledged that there is still much work ahead, adding, “let the fun begin.”

Board member Sorensen echoed VP Hilton’s sentiments, highlighting that each Board member brings unique strengths to the team. She emphasized the depth of experience and strong relationships among the Board and within the community, calling this a significant asset. She expressed excitement for the team they have built and readiness to begin work. Board member Sorensen also referenced the last work session, where the Board reviewed tools to support the upcoming boundary study, noting that the process is ready to move forward.

Board member Wilson shared that it was valuable to meet with the district principals, praising them as outstanding leaders. He expressed enthusiasm about having such capable leaders as part of the district. He also recognized the district support team, led by Anna Bacerra, noting that they had received two additional state recognitions, further highlighting the district’s strengths. (Connection cut in and out; was unable to get the entire statement.)

Board member Smith shared that the Board has visited 97% of the district’s facilities and expressed gratitude to the principals, administrators, and others who guided the Board through the properties. Regarding preschool, he encouraged attendees to review the information presented in the day’s study session, noting it would provide further context for the decisions being made.

Business Administrator Sundberg thanked his family—including his wife, children, parents, and siblings—for being present. He also expressed appreciation to everyone who attended and offered support. Mr. Sundberg acknowledged his team from Alpine, praising them as wonderful colleagues and a blessing to work with. While he noted that there are many responsibilities in his role, he expressed enthusiasm about assembling a team to work alongside him to accomplish the district’s goals.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Board member Rex and seconded by Vice President Hilton, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.