



Board of Education Meeting - Mar 10, 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Tooele County School District 92 Lodestone Way Tooele, Utah 84074

1. **Executive Session, 5:15 pm (Closed to Public)**

Board Members Present: Melissa Rich, Scott Bryan, Emily Syphus, Elizabeth Smith (5:36 pm), ValaRee Shields, Todd Thompson

Excused: Robert Gowans

Administration Present: Dr. Mark Ernst, Superintendent, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendent, Terry Christensen, Director of Property and Legal Affairs, Jackie Gallegos, Board Clerk

Excused: Jeremy Walker, Business Administrator, Dr. Jeff Hamm, Assistant Superintendent

At 5:23 pm, a motion to enter executive session was made.

- 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 6:01 pm, President Rich called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.2 Business Administrator Oath of Office

Due to extenuating circumstances, Mr. Walker was not present and did not take the Oath of Office.

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

- Mitzi Belverstone, SPOTSD President, spoke of concerns regarding the new time and attendance policy.

The following patron comments were received online for inclusion in the Board Meeting Minutes:

[Submission ID 3237 Received for Board of Education Public Comment.pdf](#) 

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4. Academics

4.1 Advanced Course Offerings and Programs in TCSD #

Dr. Corley Ward presented an overview of the Tooele School District's Accelerated Programs, including GEM, PEAK, and AP/Concurrent Enrollment. He explained that the GEM program provides enrichment opportunities for gifted elementary students, the PEAK program offers advanced learning and project-based enrichment for middle school students, and AP/Concurrent Enrollment courses allow high school students to earn college credit while completing rigorous, college-level coursework. Dr. Ward summarized current student participation, outlined the district's process for identifying gifted students, and highlighted continued growth across all program levels. His presentation also detailed upcoming priorities, including expanding elementary enrichment, supporting PEAK teacher training, and sustaining professional development for AP/CE courses.

[Accelerated Programs Board Presentation March 2026.pdf](#) 

5. Consent Items

5.1 Minutes #

[Board of Education Meeting - Feb 10 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

[Board of Education Work Session - Feb 24 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

5.2 Expenditure Report #

[February Board Expense Report.pdf](#) 

5.3 Revenue Report #

[February Board Revenue Report.pdf](#) 

5.4 Disbursement Report #

[2.26 Disbursement Report.pdf](#) 

5.5 Financial Reports #

[January Combined Financial Statements.pdf](#) 

5.6 Personnel Decisions #

[February Personnel Decisions 2026.pdf](#) 

5.7 Policy #

- Retire Policy 6025
- Retire Policy 6026
- Retire Policy 6028

Newly passed policy 6035, Safe Schools: Discipline of Students with Disabilities, and policy 5047, Safe Schools: Emergency Safety Interventions, address the information in policies 6025, 6026, and 6028

[5047.pdf](#) 

[6025.pdf](#) 

[6026.pdf](#) 

[6028.pdf](#) 

[6035.pdf](#) 

5.8 Surplus Items #

[Memo surplus to board 26-3-4.pdf](#) 

5.9 Business Administrator Employment Agreement for 2025-2026 #

5.10 2026-2027 Board of Education Meeting Schedule #

[Board Meeting Schedule 27.pdf](#) 

Approve consent items as presented or amended #

Moved by: Emily Syphus; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 6-0

6. Action Items

6.1 2024-2025 Trustlands Final Report #

2024-2025 Trustlands Final Reports are submitted for Board approval.

[GRANTSVILLE AREA FINAL REPORTS 24-25.pdf](#) 

[GHS Final report 24-25.pdf](#) 

[STANSBURY AREA FINAL REPORTS 24-25.pdf](#) 

[TOOELE AREA FINAL REPORTS 24-25.pdf](#) 

Approve the 2024-2025 Trustlands Final Reports as presented. #

Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 6-0

6.2 Revised Policy 11007, Plan for College and Career Readiness, 1st Read #

Chantel Cowan, Director of Policy and Math Curriculum, presented revisions to Policy 11007 – Plan for College and Career Readiness (PCCR). The updated policy aligned with current state requirements, initiated PCCR planning beginning in grade 7, and strengthened collaboration among students, families, and school staff. The revisions expanded academic and post-secondary planning options and clarified that the PCCR functioned as a supportive guidance tool rather than a binding agreement.

[11007 Plan for College and Career Readiness](#) 

[11007 comparison table.pdf](#) 

[Policy Request Form 11007](#)

Approve Revised Policy 11007, Plan for College and Career Readiness for implementation. #

Moved by: ValaRee Shields; seconded by: Todd Thompson

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

Motion Carries 6-0

6.3 New Policy, Time and Attendance-including Flex Time and Overtime, 1st Read #

Charles Hansen, Director of Human Services, presented a new Time and Attendance policy for its first reading. The policy established districtwide guidelines for workweeks, regular hours, flex time, and overtime for support professionals. It clarified overtime approval requirements, defined expectations for lunch and break periods, and reinforced adherence to district time-keeping procedures. The policy was intended to ensure consistent scheduling practices, accurate compensation, and clear expectations across all sites.

During the discussion, Board Member Thompson asked whether the policy lacked clarity regarding the payment of overtime that had not been pre-approved. Director Hansen confirmed that employees would be paid for all hours worked, including time-and-a-half for overtime. Member Thompson also inquired whether the policy allowed employees to bank lunch periods in order to leave early on Fridays. Director Hansen stated that such banking was not permitted; however, the policy did allow for limited flex-time scenarios.

[Time and Attendance, including Flex Time and Overtime \(1\)](#) 

[Policy Request Form Time and Attendance.pdf](#) 

Approve new policy, Time and Attendance, including Flex time and Overtime for implementation. #

Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 6-0

7. Information, Discussion or Calendar Items

7.1 Superintendent's Report

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Superintendent Dr. Mark Ernst presented an update on the 2026–2027 leadership hiring and transfer plan. He reviewed the district’s administrative hiring timeline, which outlines key dates for posting vacancies, conducting interviews, and finalizing placements for the upcoming school year. As noted in the report, the district planned to have “administrators in place for 2026–27” by April 13, following a structured sequence of postings, interviews, and candidate reviews.

Dr. Ernst also summarized the purposes behind administrative transfers, emphasizing that leadership placements are designed to align principal strengths with school needs, support new district initiatives, balance leadership capacity across schools, and prepare sites for growth or change. The report highlighted that transfers help ensure “equitable access to strong, experienced leadership” and provide administrators with broader experience to support long-term career development.

He further explained that leadership moves may also address school culture, team dynamics, operational needs, or contextual factors such as vacancies, enrollment shifts, or community circumstances. The report underscored that the district’s approach is grounded in transparency and consistency, noting that administrator moves are intended to “support principals rather than feel punitive.”

Dr. Ernst concluded by outlining the advantages of making certain leadership changes mid-year rather than waiting until year-end, including improved stability, smoother transitions, and better-informed planning for the following school year.

[Superintendent's Board Report March 10, 2026 \(2\).pdf](#) 

[ADA-Superintendents Report](#)

7.2 Board of Education Committee Reports

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Board Committee Reports for March:

- Policy Development and Review Committee - President Rich noted that the Policy Committee is composed of three members. Board Member Syphus provided an update on the committee’s recent work, highlighting the significant effort invested in developing the committee’s current processes. He explained that committee members thoroughly review materials, ask detailed questions, and work collaboratively to refine policy proposals. He also encouraged board members to review the documentation from the most recent work session. Member Thompson added that the committee has begun using AI tools to help streamline its workflow and expressed appreciation for the progress being made.

[Board Committee Assignments 2025-2026.pdf](#) 

8. Adjourn (10:00 pm Curfew)

At 7:28 pm, a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjourn

Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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