



**Friday, February 20, 2026**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Catalyst Center, 1265 Sportsplex Dr, Kaysville, UT**

Present:

**Angela Mitchell, Angie Osguthorpe, Arrika Von, Becky Wooten, Brian Slagle, Carrie Froyd, Chad Horne, Chad Hunt, Chris Keime, Dan Pratt, Dawn Brandbold Gray, Jason Smith, Jeanne Jackson, Jonathan Ostler, Kallyn Gren, Kathleen Chronister, Kara Toone, Kellee Belnap, Keri Masson, Oliver Young, Shannon Anderson, Shelly Van Noy, Spencer Richins, Tami Tran, Terry Capener, Tim Allen, Tim Leffel**

Excused:

**Amber Greenwell, Brian Hunt, Burke Bess, Cory Watson, Dave Anderson, Diana Windley, Dr Daniel Linford, Dean Adam, Doug Forsgren, Emily Price, George Davidson, Heidi Murdock, Jason Lund, Jennifer Whitworth, Jenny Freeman, Kyle Brostrom, Marie Stevenson, Scott Ellenson, Spencer Carver, Terra Cooper,**

Opening Remarks

Board leadership welcomed attendees and opened the meeting. Keri Masson noted she would need to leave early, with Shelly Van Noy assisting as needed during the meeting. The board then turned to remarks from district leadership.

Superintendent Message

Tim Leffel attended on behalf of Superintendent Linford and shared updates on several major district priorities. He expressed appreciation for working with Kara Toone and praised her passion, perspective and collaborative approach.

He reported that the Davis School District Board of Education is focused on updating the district strategic plan, originally created about eight or nine years ago. Community input has been gathered from students, teachers and community members to help shape the district's next "North Star." Key issues informing that work include appropriate student technology use, teacher quality and broader student support needs.

He also shared that literacy remains a major legislative and district priority, with likely funding and bills connected to improving reading outcomes. Attendance has re-emerged as a significant concern following the long-term effects of COVID-era online learning. He also reviewed enrollment decline across the district, noting a loss of more than 2,100 students year over year and the corresponding financial impact on district funding.

#### Consent Items

The board reviewed the meeting minutes previously distributed by email. A motion was made by Terry Capner to approve the minutes, Jeanne Jackson seconded and passed unanimously.

The board then reviewed the financial report. A motion was made by Jason Smith to approve the financials, Oliver Young seconded and passed unanimously.

#### Investment Report

Brian Slagle reported on the performance of the Foundation's investment account. Since the beginning of the calendar year, the account had generated approximately \$20,000 in actual income from interest and dividends, along with an unrealized gain of roughly \$37,000. He noted that the Foundation's investment balance had reached approximately \$5 million.

#### Gala Update

Sherry Miggin shared an update on gala sponsorship sales. She thanked board members who had already committed and noted strong early support, including platinum sponsors and positive momentum. Board members were encouraged to secure sponsorships and tables and to share contact information for additional prospects.

The gala will be held Wednesday, June 10 at the Megaplex Theatre in Centerville, and the event will again use two shifts to accommodate attendance.

Val also introduced the annual gala basket and gift card donation effort. Board members were invited to sign up to contribute items, with a request for restaurant or grocery gift cards in \$25 or \$50 amounts when possible.

#### Catalyst Center Expansion Grant Update

Kara Crosby and Tim Allen shared major news regarding the Catalyst Center expansion. Davis School District applied for a state Catalyst Grant to expand the Catalyst Center and

submitted a proposal for a new 70,000-square-foot building on adjacent property. The application included six additional pathways and two program expansions.

The proposed pathways include aviation maintenance, expanded construction, expanded business education, law, teaching as a profession, advanced manufacturing and an engineering capstone. The expansion is intended to support high-skill, high-wage career pathways, many of which align with workforce needs connected to Hill Air Force Base and projected regional growth.

The district requested \$20 million and was awarded \$19.3 million. Board members were told the project is expected to move forward with support from the state grant, district funding and future corporate sponsorships, including naming-rights opportunities tied to pathways and spaces. The team hopes to have the new facility open within three years.

Kara Crosby thanked board members who provided letters of support during the grant process.

#### Foundation Highlights

Kara Toone reviewed recent Foundation activity and highlighted several successful initiatives.

#### Excellence in Education Awards

The Foundation has recently presented multiple Excellence in Education Awards sponsored by the Heidi Martin Mighty Heart Educator of Excellence Award and Murdock family support. Elementary recipients were recognized for top literacy growth and received unrestricted \$200 classroom grants. Secondary awards were scheduled to continue in the following weeks.

#### Community Engagement

The Foundation participated in the district's school board community night on January 26 and reported positive conversations with community members about the Foundation's work. Unified basketball was also highlighted as a recent favorite event, with junior high unified basketball and unified snowshoeing still upcoming.

## Upcoming Events

Unified Snowshoeing — February 26 at Solitude Ski Resort

Next Board Meeting — March 20 at the Catalyst Center

Unified Sports Jr High Basketball – March 24 Central Davis Jr High

TechHers Event — March 24 at the Catalyst Center

April Board Meeting — April 17

Mother's Day Tea — May 8

Final Board Meeting of the school year — May 15

## Board Governance and Funding Discussion

Kara Toone and Keri Masson led a discussion about board expectations, board structure and the purpose of the Foundation's governance role. With leadership transition ahead, they wanted to clarify the role of the board and how funding decisions should be viewed through the Foundation's charitable mission and legal requirements as a 501(c)(3).

Kara reviewed the basic function of nonprofit organizations, noting that the Foundation receives tax and charitable benefits in exchange for complying with IRS and state nonprofit requirements, honoring donor intent and ensuring that funds are used only for mission-aligned charitable purposes. The board's role in approving financial reports, maintaining bylaws and managing conflicts of interest was framed as part of that compliance responsibility.

The Foundation's mission was reviewed: to remove barriers to learning, provide educational opportunities for every student and foster partnerships that connect the community through giving. Kara explained that staff use that mission as a filter when evaluating requests for funding. Factors include whether a request removes barriers to learning, directly benefits students or educators, fits charitable purposes, aligns with donor restrictions and supplements rather than replaces public funding obligations.

## Funding Request Evaluation Exercise

Board members participated in a discussion exercise using sample funding requests to help clarify how the Foundation should respond to requests that fall in gray areas. Requests discussed included gift cards for counselor endorsements, funding tacos for a

community event, support for the “Big Friend in a Book” literacy initiative, a classroom virtual reality request and all-ability playground equipment.

#### Key Discussion Themes

- Consumable items and recurring event expenses generally do not align well with Foundation funding priorities.
- Requests that could be covered by school, PTA or district processes should usually be directed there first.
- Student-centered, mission-aligned literacy or innovation efforts are stronger candidates for support.
- Some larger capital requests may align with the mission but require broader planning, outside funding partners or a districtwide strategy rather than immediate Foundation funding.
- The Foundation would benefit from clearer public guidance about what kinds of requests are typically funded and what falls outside its charitable role.

#### Current Status of Sample Requests

Staff shared the current outcomes tied to the sample requests. Gift cards and taco funding requests were declined, with suggestions for alternate support pathways. “Big Friend in a Book” was being pursued through grant funding. The innovative classroom request had been approved through the existing grant process. The playground request remained under consideration pending additional districtwide context and funding possibilities.

#### Closing

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the board’s service and participation. Leadership emphasized the importance of clearer funding guidelines and thanked members for helping shape how the Foundation should evaluate requests in alignment with its mission and charitable responsibilities.