



Board of Education Meeting - Jun 09 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 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, Scott Bryan, Emily Syphus, ValaRee Shields, Robert Gowans, Todd Thompson, Elizabeth Smith (5:17 pm).

Administration Present: Dr. Mark Ernst, Jeremy Walker, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Jackie Gallegos, Jill Whiting.

At 5:15 pm a motion was made to enter executive session.

- 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

Board Members Present: Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, Emily Syphus, ValaRee Shields

Administration Present: Dr. Mark Ernst, Jeremy Walker, Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Heather Castagno, Marissa Lowry, Angie Gillette, Brad Hranicky, Shalon Jones-Miller, Brett Valdez, Ian Silva, Chantel Cowan, Andy Peterson, Jackie Gallegos

At 6:01 p.m., President Rich convened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

4. Academics

- 4.1 Academic Goal and End-of-Year Data Review

#

Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendent, presented end-of-year data for Academics, highlighting districtwide assessment results, instructional implementation, and progress toward early learning goals. He reported that 176 academic calibration observations were completed and that CFA development and reporting reached 97% completion, reflecting strong districtwide implementation of GVC's and PLC practices.

Dr. Reutzel reviewed performance across all major assessments—Acadience, RISE, Utah Aspire+, and ACT—showing areas of improvement as well as continued gaps compared to state averages. He noted that consistent use of CFAs and data-driven instruction contributed to measurable gains, including examples of schools demonstrating significant proficiency growth.

Dr. Reutzel also reviewed outcomes for the district's Early Learning Goals, with three of the four goals met or exceeded.

- Kindergarten literacy: +30 (goal +25)
- 2nd grade math: 65% moved to benchmark (goal 59%)
- 3rd grade math: +17 (goal +15)
- 1st grade literacy: +11 (goal +15)

Dr. Reutzel concluded with an overview of the TCSD Turnaround Support Program, outlining continued efforts to strengthen instructional systems and accelerate student learning.

[Summative Data and Goal Outcomes 2026.pdf](#) 

5. Consent Items

5.1	Minutes	#
	Board of Education Meeting - May 12 2026 - Minutes - Html 	
5.2	Expenditure Report Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director	#
	May Board Expenditure Report.pdf 	
5.3	Revenue Report Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director	#
	May Board Revenue Report.pdf 	
5.4	Disbursement Report Point of Contact: Kristen Evans, Accounts Payable	#
	5.26 Disbursement Report.pdf 	
5.5	Financial Reports Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director	#

[April Combined Financial Statements.pdf](#) 

- 5.6 Personnel Decisions #
Point of Contact: Charles Hansen, Human Resources Director

[May Personnel Decisions 2026.pdf](#) 

- 5.7 Policy #
Point of Contact: Chantel Cowan, Policy Director

The following policies have been reviewed, and non-substantive revisions are presented:

- Policy 7009, Media
- [7009 Media](#) 

- 5.8 Digital Education Center-Springboard School Improvement Plan #
Point of Contact: Hal Strain, Principal

[DEC Springboard SIP 2026-29 for TCSD Board.pdf](#) 

[CSI and Springboard Budget Spreadsheet.pdf](#) 

Approve Consent Items as presented or amended. #

Moved by: Robert Gowans; seconded by: Emily Syphus

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 FY27 Capital Improvements, 2nd Read #
Michael Garcia, Building Official/Construction Manager, presented the Capital Improvement Plan for its second reading. His presentation included updated cost estimates, multi-year projections, and initial steps for future planning and design.

[Capital Outlay 2026-2027 Second Read PDF.pdf](#) 

[Operations Capital Outlay Narrative Second Read.docx](#) 

Approve the 2026-2027 Capital Improvements as presented. #

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

- 6.2 Science Curriculum Adoption #
Ricky Scott, Curriculum Director, presented the proposed Science Curriculum Adoption for the 2026–2031 cycle for its second reading. He recommended

adopting OpenSciEd for grades K–8 and utilizing flexible, phenomenon-based resources for high school science courses. Mr. Scott reported that the proposal aligned with current Utah standards, reflected a comprehensive committee-driven review process, and included a phased implementation plan designed to strengthen instructional quality and support long-term cost efficiency.

[TCSD Science Instructional Materials Presentation.pdf](#) 

Adopt the Science Curriculum as presented

#

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

6.3 2026-2027 Support Professional Employee Negotiated Agreement

#

Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Stansbury Area Director, along with Mitzi Belverstone, SPOTSD President, presented the 2026–2027 SPOTSD Tentative Negotiated Agreement for Board consideration. During the presentation, Member Thompson requested clarification on the proposed Lunch Break Policy, which would allow employees working 30 hours or more to opt out of a lunch break at the start of each year.

[26-27 SPOTSD Tentative Negotiated Agreement FINAL.pdf](#) 

Move to Table this agreement until they have further information on the budget and the impact this agreement would have on it.

#

Moved by: Todd Thompson; seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.4 Revised Policy 11012, Grading, Students K-12, 1st Read

#

Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendent, presented proposed revisions to Policy 11012, *Grading, Students K–12*, for a first read. The updates included structural and procedural changes, revised late-work timelines and penalties, expanded assessment-makeup windows, and the integration of attendance into grade calculations.

[Revised Policy, 11012 Grading, Students K-12, 1st Read.pdf](#) 

[11012 Submission Form.pdf](#) 

[Summary of Grading Policy Changes.pdf](#) 

Move Revised Policy 11012, Grading, Students K-12 forward for a second read.

#

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

DISCUSSION TO MOTION: Member Shields requested clarification on the percentage threshold for Pass/Fail and asked how many teachers support including attendance in grade calculations. Board members discussed the broader question of whether attendance should factor into academic proficiency, with Member Bryan noting the difficulty of teaching students who are not present. Dr. Reutzel stated that the draft policy would be sent to teachers for feedback prior to the July Work Session.

6.5 Revised Policy 5048, Student and Staff Memorials, 2nd Read #

Heather Castagno, Student Services Director, presented revised Policy 5048: Student and Staff Memorials for a second reading. She noted that the primary revision since the first reading was the addition of Section D, which clarifies that any item donated to a school or district entity for display on district property must comply with all requirements outlined in the policy.

[Comparison of changes, 5048.docx](#) 

[Honoring with Care - Do No Harm Memorial Policy graphic.pdf](#) 

[Revised Policy 5048 - Student and Staff Memorials, 2nd Read.pdf](#) 

[Updates to Policy 5048 Student and Staff Memorials.pdf](#) 

Approve Revised Policy 5048, Student and Staff Memorials, as presented, for implementation. #

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

6.6 Revised Policy 5004, Student Dress Code, 2nd Read #

Heather Castagno, Student Services Director, presented revisions to Policy 5004, Student Dress Code, for a second reading. She explained that the updates were based on identified district needs and are intended to provide clear, consistent, and respectful expectations for student dress across all schools.

[5004 Student Dress Code](#) 

[5004 comparison table.pdf](#) 

[5004 Student Dress Code Policy Request Form \(2\).pdf](#) 

Approve Policy 5004, Student Dress Code, 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

- 6.7 Revised Policy 5034, Student Groups, 1st Read #

Catham Beer, District Activities Director, was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, the Board reviewed the proposed revisions to Policy 5034: *Student Groups (Clubs)* and agreed to move the policy forward for a second reading.

[Revised Policy 5034 Authorization of Student Clubs and Organizations in Secondary Schools, 1st Read.pdf](#) 

[Comparison for 5034.docx](#) 

[Authorization of Student Clubs Policy Request Form.pdf](#) 

Move Revised Policy 5034, Student Groups forward for a second read. #

Moved by: Emily Syphus; seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0

- 6.8 Revised Policy 7010, School Climate, 1st Read #

Andy Peterson, Assessment Director, presented revisions to Policy 7010: School Climate Survey. He explained that the updates align the policy with current State Board Rule R277-623 and clarify the district's flexibility in administering the school climate survey.

[Policy 7010 Implementation Form \(1\).pdf](#) 

[7010 School Climate Survey](#) 

Approved Revised Policy 7010, School Climate, as presented 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

- 6.9 Revised Policy 4034, Employee Survey, 1st Read #

Andy Peterson, Assessment Director, presented revisions to Policy 4034: Employee Survey. He explained that the updates align the policy with current State Board Rule R277-325.

[Policy 4034 Implementation Form \(1\).pdf](#) 

[4034 Employee Survey](#) 

Approved Revised Policy 4034, Employee Survey as presented for implementation. #

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

- 6.10 Revised Policy 1000, Board Legal Status, 1st Read #

Chantel Cowan, Policy Director, presented proposed revisions to Policy 1000, Board Legal Status. She explained that the updates consolidate content from Policy 1001, Board Powers and Duties, into Policy 1000, remove outdated references, and align the policy with current district needs. As part of this revision, Policy 1001 was recommended for rescission.

[Revised Policy 1000, Board Legal Status, 1st Read.pdf](#) 

[Policy 1000 Request Form \(1\).pdf](#) 

Approved Revised Policy 1000, Board Legal Status, as presented for implementation. #

Moved by: ValaRee Shields; seconded by: Emily Syphus

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

Motion Carries 7-0

- 6.11 Rescind Policy 1001, Board Power and Duties, 1st Read #

Chantel Cowan, Policy Director, presented proposed revisions to Policy 1000, Board Legal Status. She explained that the updates consolidate content from Policy 1001, and as part of this revision, Policy 1001 was recommended for rescission.

[1001 Board Power and Duties.pdf](#) 

Rescind current Policy 1001, Board Power and Duties #

Moved by: ValaRee Shields; seconded by: Emily Syphus

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 #

Jeremy Walker, Business Administrator, presented an overview of the district's current financial status and projected outlook. The presentation highlighted key changes in revenue, increasing costs associated with inflation, and areas where funding has been reduced or eliminated.

Mr. Walker also reviewed the district's long-term financial projections, noting that current trends indicate the use of deficit spending over the next three, five, and seven years if no corrective actions are implemented.

In addition, Mr. Walker outlined the upcoming budget development timeline and discussed future planning efforts, including the district's revenue stabilization plan and long-term capital improvement strategy. These efforts are intended to address ongoing financial challenges and support the district's sustainability over time.

[Financial Overview for Board Meeting.pdf](#) 

7.2 Student Behavior System

Heather Castagno, Student Services, presented the Tooele County School District Behavioral Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Blueprint (2026–2031). The five-year strategic framework is designed to establish a consistent, districtwide system of behavioral supports.

Ms. Castagno outlined the plan's phased approach to implementing Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 supports, as well as efforts to strengthen data-driven decision-making, build staff capacity, and ensure long-term sustainability. The framework is intended to improve student outcomes, promote equitable practices, and create a unified system of behavioral support across all schools.

[Board Presentation June 2026 Behavior AHLP.pdf](#) 

7.3 Human Resources Director Report

Charles Hansen, Human Resources Director, presented an overview of staffing trends for the 2025–2026 school year. His report included information on employee turnover, recruitment efforts, and overall staffing patterns across the district.

Mr. Hansen provided updates on substitute services, employee growth, and vacancy trends, highlighting ongoing challenges and progress in maintaining adequate staffing levels. He also discussed the district's continued efforts to recruit, train, and retain qualified personnel.

Additional highlights included updates on educator licensure and participation in the Alternative Pathway to Professional Educator Licensure (APPEL) program, as well as volunteer engagement within the district. Mr. Hansen further reviewed key operational functions that support hiring processes, ensure regulatory compliance, and deliver human resources services across the district.

[School Board Presentation 2026 June.pdf](#) 

[ADA-Compliant Version of HR Report \(June 9, 2026\).docx](#) 

7.4 Board of Education Committee Reports

The Board of Education Committee Reports for June were:

- **Policy Development and Review**-Board Member Syphus noted the committee has created a clearer prioritization process, which has helped to streamline reviews and ensure critical policies are addressed in a timely manner. She also noted the process has helped to maintain efficiency as policy volume increases.

8. Adjourn (10:00 pm Curfew)

At 8:20 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjourn

Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

Draft