

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION- MAY 27, 2026

The Board of Education of the Timpanogos School District met in a study session on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 3:36 pm. The work session took place in the Timpanogos High School Media Center, in Orem, UT.

Board members present: President Jennifer Lyman, Vice President Sterling Hilton, David H. Smith, Michelle Sorensen, Grace Rex (remote). Ada Wilson arrived at 3:42 pm., and Guy Fugal arrived at 3:57 pm.

Also present: Superintendent Jensen & Business Administrator Sundberg and members of the administrative staff. There were approximately 10 others in attendance.

BOUNDARY & PROGRAM STUDY CRITERIA- BOARD DRAFT

The Board reviewed and discussed the draft criteria developed to guide the district's Boundary and Program Study. Discussion focused on establishing a clear framework that would assist the Board, staff, committees, and community members in evaluating future boundaries and program recommendations through a consistent and transparent process.

Board members reviewed proposed criteria intended to support the creation and maintenance of robust schools throughout the district. Discussion included academic programming, extracurricular opportunities, student support services, school culture, enrollment sustainability, operational efficiency, transportation impacts, community connections, and long-term district viability.

Board members emphasized the importance of creating criteria that prioritize student opportunities while remaining flexible enough to address changing enrollment patterns and future district needs. Discussion included ensuring all schools have access to strong academic programs, elective offerings, fine arts opportunities, extracurricular activities, student support systems, and qualified staffing.

The Board also discussed the need for transparency throughout the study process and the importance of gathering meaningful feedback from stakeholders. Consideration was given to how the criteria would be presented to community members, committees, and school leaders during upcoming engagement opportunities. Members expressed a desire for the criteria to serve as a decision-making tool rather than a predetermined outcome and emphasized that recommendations should be evaluated against established criteria before any future decisions are considered.

Additional discussion included balancing educational opportunities across schools, maintaining strong neighborhood and community connections where possible, preserving fiscal responsibility, and ensuring that future recommendations support the district's vision of providing high levels of learning and exceptional care for students.

DISCUSSION FOR BOARD GOVERNANCE TOPIC

The Board concluded the study session with an initial discussion regarding board governance practices, specifically focusing on how Board members should respond to communications received through the district's public comment portal and other constituent inquiries. The discussion was intended to begin by establishing consistent expectations and procedures that align with effective governance practices.

Board members discussed the distinction between governance responsibilities and administrative responsibilities. Members emphasized that the Board's primary role is to establish vision, values, policy, and strategic direction for the district, while the day-to-day management of schools, personnel matters, student concerns, and operational issues appropriately belong to district administration. The discussion reinforced the importance of maintaining clear governance boundaries and avoiding situations where Board members become directly involved in matters that should be handled by administrators.

The Board also discussed the need for a standardized process for responding to public inquiries submitted through the district website. Several members expressed support for routing inquiries through Board leadership and, when appropriate, assigning responses to district staff members who possess the expertise and authority to address the concern. Members noted that many inquiries involve operational, personnel, student, or school-level issues that are best handled by administration rather than individual Board members.

Discussion included the importance of protecting both Board members and district employees by ensuring communication channels remain appropriate and consistent. Members recognize that, as the new district continues to develop governance structures, there is value in providing clear expectations regarding how Board members respond to constituent concerns while preserving transparency and public trust.

Board President Lyman indicated that administration and Board leadership would work on developing a formal process and possible policy guidance regarding constituent communications for future Board consideration. Board members were asked to reflect on potential approaches and be prepared to continue the discussion at a future study session.

The Board further expressed support for continuing a recurring “Board Governance” topic during future study sessions. Members noted that regular governance discussions could provide opportunities for Board development, review of governance principles, clarification of roles and responsibilities, and ongoing training regarding effective Board practices and responses to community concerns.

The discussion concluded with consensus that additional work is needed to establish clear communication protocols and governance expectations as the district prepares for full implementation of the new Board governance structure.

The study session adjourned at approximately 5:39 PM.