Board of Education Meeting - Aug 11 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 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, Robert Gowans, Todd Thompson, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, ValaRee Shields, Scott Bryan

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

At 5:17 pm, a motion was made to enter executive session.

1.1 Purchase, Exchange or Release of Real Property

1.2 Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation

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)

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

Administration Present: Superintendent Ernst, Jeremy Walker, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Andy Peterson, Shalon Jones Miller, Marissa Lowry, Heather Castagno, Charles Hansen, Dustin Nelson

2.1 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Rich called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led those present in 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 #

The following patrons addressed the board:

- Cliffette Munson Submission ID 3626 for public comment.pdf
- Lisa Johnson, TEA

- Nykel Thompson addressed the board regarding the elimination of the Bus Route in Rush Valley to Dugway School. Submission ID 3634 Received for Board of Education Public Comment - Jacqualine Gallegos - Outlook.pdf
- Jerami Ferris addressed the board regarding the elimination of the Bus Route serving Rush Valley and Dugway School.
- Vonshae Ferris addressed the board regarding the elimination of the Bus Route serving Rush Valley and Dugway School.Submission ID 3636 Received for Board of Education Public Comment - Jacqualine Gallegos - Outlook.pdf

4. Academics

4.1 Overview of the TCSD Turnaround Support Program #

Shalon Jones-Miller, Director of School Improvement, presented an overview of the District's School Improvement System.

Ms. Jones-Miller explained that the School Improvement System focuses on providing clear expectations and high levels of support for school leaders and leadership teams to improve student outcomes. She reviewed the District's three-tier support framework, which categorizes schools according to need and provides varying levels of intensive, moderate, and monitoring support for schools identified through accountability designations.

Board members were informed of the direct support provided to schools through in-school coaching, data collection, collaboration with the Utah State Board of Education, professional development, systems evaluation, and regular reporting to district leadership and the Board. Future plans include developing a School Improvement Dashboard to increase community awareness and communication about school performance and improvement efforts.

Ms. Jones-Miller concluded by outlining long-term goals to help schools exit improvement designations, increase student achievement, and establish a culture of continuous improvement, with the ultimate vision of ensuring that all students receive a high-quality education that prepares them for future success.

August 2026 School Improvement Board Presentation.pdf

5. Consent Items

5.1 Minutes #

Point of Contact: Jackie Gallegos, Board Clerk

Board of Education Budget Hearing - Jun 16 2026 - Minutes - Html

Board of Education Work Session - Jul 28 2026 - Minutes - Html

Board of Education Meeting - Jun 09 2026 - Minutes - Html

5.2 Expenditure Report #

Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director

JUL26 Board Expenditure Report.pdf

JUL27 Board Expenditure Report.pdf

June Board Expenditure Report.pdf

5.3 Revenue Report #

Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director

JUL26 Board Revenue Report.pdf

JUL27 Board Revenue Report.pdf

June Board Revenue Report.pdf

5.4 Disbursement Report #

Point of Contact: Kristen Evans, Accounts Payable

6.26 Disbursement Report.pdf

Disbursement Report July 2026.pdf

5.5 Financial Reports #

Point of Contact: Jill Whiting, Budget Director

June Combined Financial Statements.pdf

May Combined Financial Statements.pdf

5.6 Personnel Decisions #

Point of Contact: Charles Hansen, Human Resources Director

June Personnel Decisions 2026.pdf

July Personnel Decisions 2026.pdf

5.7 Policy #

Point of Contact: Chantel Cowan, Policy Director

- Review of Policy 4043 SHiNE

  4043 Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (SHiNE).pdf

5.8 Employment Agreements for Superintendent and Business Administrator for 2026-2028 #

Point of Contact: Melissa Rich, Board President

5.9 Surplus Items #

Point of Contact: Emily Spendlove, Fixed Assets

Memo surplus to board 26-8-1.pdf

5.10 Request for Proposal/Invitation for Bid/RFQS #

Point of Contact: Ricky Scott, Curriculum Director, and Jill Whiting, Budget Director

RFQS - AIR Science Curriculum Support.pdf

5.11 2026-2027 Support Professional Employee Negotiated Agreement #

Point of Contact: Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Assistant Superintendent

26-27 SPOTSD Tentative Negotiated Agreement FINAL.pdf

Approve all Consent items as presented or amended #

Moved by: Emily Syphus; seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Nay: Scott Bryan

Motion Carries 6-1

6. Action Items

6.1 Revised Policy 11019, Positive Behaviors Plan, 1st Read #

Julie Spindler, YIC/Prevention Specialist, presented revised Policy 11019, Positive Behaviors Plan, to the Board for a first reading. The proposed revisions were intended to align the policy with Utah Code 53G-10-407 and current Utah State Board of Education guidance, while providing greater clarity regarding plan development, approval, implementation, oversight, and reporting requirements.

DISCUSSION TO MOTION: Member Thomspon requested clarification that each school had a specialist. Ms. Spindler confirmed they did.

11019 Positive Behavior Plans

Comparison Document-11019.pdf

Policy 11019 Request Form Positive Behaviors Plans.pdf

Approve revised policy 11019, Positive Behavior Plans, 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

6.2 Revised Policy 9003, Integrated Pest Management, 1st Read #

Phil Reynolds, Custodial Supervisor, presented revised Policy 9003, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), to the Board for a first reading. The proposed revisions streamlined and modernized the policy, aligned it with current Utah Department of Health regulations, and removed operational procedures that were more appropriately addressed in the District's IPM Plan.

9003 Integrated Pest Management

IPM policy comparison.docx

IPM Policy NEW READ.pdf

Approve revised policy 9003, Integrated Pest Management, as presented for implementation. #

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

6.3 Revised Policy 7003, Parent and Family Engagement, 1st Read #

Heather Castagno, Student Services Director, presented revised Policy 7003, Parent, Guardian, and Family Engagement, to the Board for a first reading. The proposed revisions aligned the policy with current federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements and Utah Code provisions, reorganized it into the District's standardized format, and eliminated redundant language. The revisions had been reviewed and recommended by the District Family Engagement Committee.

7003 Parent and Family Engagement

Policy 7003 comparison document.pdf

Policy Request Form Parent & Family Engagement 7003_SY26.pdf

Move Revised Policy 7003, Parent and Family Engagement, forward for a second read. #

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

6.4 New Policy, Fuel Management, 1st Read #

Chlorissa Goddard, Transportation Director, presented a new Fuel Management Policy to the Board of Education for a first reading. The proposed policy established standardized procedures for the assignment and use of fuel cards and employee PINs, fuel purchasing, vehicle mileage documentation, and oversight of fuel usage for District-owned vehicles and equipment. The policy was intended to strengthen accountability, safeguard District resources, and support consistent fuel management practices across the District.

Fuel Management

Policy Request Form-Fuel Management.pdf

Approve the new policy, Fuel Management, as presented for implementation. #

Moved by: Robert Gowans; seconded by: Todd Thompson

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.5 Revised Policy 11012, Grading, Students K-12, 2nd Read #

Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendent, presented proposed revisions to Policy 11012, Grading, Students K-12, for a second reading. The proposed revisions included significant structural and procedural updates, revised timelines and penalties for late work, expanded assessment makeup windows, the addition of assessment retake opportunities, and provisions allowing attendance to comprise a portion of students' grades.

Board members discussed the proposed late work and attendance provisions. Member Shields and Member Bryan expressed support for allowing teachers discretion in determining whether to apply percentage reductions for late work and in determining attendance-related grade reductions, up to the 20% maximum permitted under state law. Member Thompson emphasized the importance of maintaining consistency across the District and stated that students should be held accountable for submitting work on time. Member Syphus supported retaining incentives that encourage students to complete and submit work by established deadlines.

President Rich stated that, if permitted by law, she supported increasing the attendance component from the proposed 10% to as much as 20% of a course grade, noting that a consistent districtwide approach would provide students with an incentive to attend class regularly.

11012 Grading, Students K-12

Grading Policy Examples.pdf

Pass Fail Grading Criteria.pdf

Revised Policy 11012, Grading Students K-12, 2nd Read Clean Version.pdf

11012 Submission Form.pdf

Approve Revised Policy 11012, Grading Students K-12, with the four changes outlined by Dr. Reutzel, and attendance up to 20% and a late work penalty of 0-15%, for implementation. #

Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: Melissa Rich

Yea: Melissa Rich and Scott Bryan

Nay: Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd Thompson

Motion Fails 2-5

DISCUSSION TO MOTION: Member Syphus stated she felt that a 5% penalty for late work was not a significant consequence and expressed support for maintaining a penalty for assignments submitted after the due date. Member Bryan stated that student attendance is a significant concern because students who are absent from class miss learning opportunities.

Member Syphus further noted the importance of striking an appropriate balance between accountability and flexibility for students. Member Smith stated that students across the District should have similar educational experiences and expressed concern that allowing too much variation in grading practices could lead to inconsistent experiences across schools and classrooms.

Vice President Gowans acknowledged that some variation among teachers is inevitable but stated that the proposed revisions represented a strong starting point. He also noted that a 10% attendance component already equates to a full letter grade and provides a meaningful incentive for students to attend class regularly.

Approve revised policy 11012, Grading, Students K-12, as presented with the four changes presented by Dr. Reutzel for implementation. #

Moved by: Emily Syphus; seconded by: Elizabeth Smith

Yea: Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, and Todd Thompson

Nay: ValaRee Shields and Scott Bryan

Motion Carries 5-2

DISCUSSION TO MOTION: Member Syphus emphasized the importance of closely monitoring the policy as it is implemented to ensure its effectiveness and to identify any necessary adjustments.

6.6 Revised Policy 5034, Student Groups, 1st Read #

Catham Beer, District Activities Director, presented revised Policy 5034: Student Groups (Clubs) for consideration. The proposed revisions updated the policy by expanding definitions, streamlining application timelines and the appeals process, strengthening parent transparency requirements, and providing clearer guidelines for club operations and prohibited activities.

Board members discussed the proposed club application deadlines of March 15 and October 15. Member Smith stated that she had received feedback indicating that the March 15 deadline was not ideal. Member Syphus noted that the proposed timeline already provided students with additional time to complete the application process. Vice President Gowans stated that the Policy Committee had discussed the matter and that the policy already offered flexibility by providing two application deadlines, March 15 and October 15, rather than a single annual deadline.

Member Shields suggested moving the March 15 deadline to April 15. Mr. Beer responded that doing so would cause the District to miss the timeline for advertising clubs to incoming freshmen before the start of the following school year.

Member Smith also inquired whether students could participate in a club offered at another school if that club was not available at their own school. Dr. Mark Ernst, Superintendent, stated that such participation had occurred in the past.

Revised Policy 5034 Authorization of Student Clubs and Organizations in Secondary Schools,2nd Read.pdf

Comparison for 5034.docx

Authorization of Student Clubs Policy Request Form.pdf

Approve Revised Policy 5034, Student Groups, as presented for implementation. #

Moved by: ValaRee Shields; seconded by: Robert Gowans

Yea: Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields, Emily Syphus, and Scott Bryan

Nay: Elizabeth Smith and Todd Thompson

Motion Carries 5-2

7. Information, Discussion or Calendar Items

7.1 Business Administrator Report #

Jeremy Walker, Business Administrator, presented information regarding the District's transition from the Equal Pay payroll system to the Summer Pay Advantage program, as well as an overview of the Tooele County School District Revenue Stabilization Plan. The presentation explained that the Equal Pay system would remain in effect through the August 20 payroll date and outlined the reasons for its discontinuation, including payroll compliance concerns, time-and-effort reporting requirements, overpayment risks, and administrative challenges. Mr. Walker reviewed the Summer Pay Advantage program, which allows eligible employees to have a portion of their earnings withheld during the school year and distributed during the summer months.

Member Bryan reminded employees that they have the option to direct payroll deposits to multiple accounts and may choose to set aside a portion of their earnings during the school year to cover the summer months, while retaining the opportunity to earn interest on those funds. Member Thompson noted that the transition from Equal Pay had been discussed during SPOTSD negotiations and that association leadership had been present, providing opportunities for input and discussion regarding the proposed changes.

Mr. Walker also presented the District's Revenue Stabilization Plan, a multi-year strategy designed to address long-term funding challenges and maintain fiscal stability. The presentation outlined concerns regarding the sustainability of Utah's K-12 funding model, statutory limitations on local revenue growth, rising operational costs, and the District's projected long-term financial outlook. The plan's goals include increasing stakeholder awareness, limiting spending growth to sustainable levels, and pursuing a more equitable and sustainable revenue model before fiscal challenges require significant reductions in educational services

Changes to Equal Pay.pdf

Revenue_Stabilization_Plan_Overview_Board.pdf

7.2 Title IX Information #

Catham Beer, District Activities Director, presented the 2025-26 Tooele County School District Title IX Report, providing the Board with the annual review of student participation in interscholastic athletics, athletic program expenditures, facility equity, fee waiver data, and compliance with state and federal Title IX requirements. The report examined participation opportunities and funding for male and female student-athletes across the District's high schools and included analyses of athletic offerings, participation rates, expenditures, and facility access.

Mr. Beer reported that all District high schools remained within the state-established 10% participation gap threshold for male and female athletic participation. The participation gap for female athletes was reported as 7.8% at Deseret Peak High School, 4.5% at Dugway High School, 0.8% at Grantsville High School, 9.9% at Stansbury High School, 7.2% at Tooele High School, and +1.5% at Wendover High School. No school exceeded the 10% threshold requiring a corrective action plan.

2025-26 Title IX Presentation .pdf

TCSD Title IX Report (2025-26 SY).pdf

7.3 Board of Education Committee Reports #

August Reports:

- **Audit Committee**
  Audit committee members had nothing to report.
- **Policy Committee**
  Member Syphus noted that increased collaboration within the Policy Committee has made policy development and preparation more efficient.
- **Communication, Culture, Relationship Committee**

Member Shields noted that the primary focus during the previous year was the implementation of ParentSquare. For the upcoming year, efforts will shift toward gathering feedback through surveys and engaging staff through small-group discussions.

Board Committee Assignments 2025-2026.pdf

8. Adjourn (10:00 pm Curfew)

At 8:44 pm, a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjourn

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