MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING- JULY 29, 2026

The Board of Education of the Timpanogos School District met in a board meeting on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The board meeting took place in the meeting room of the Alpine School District Special Education Office in Lindon, Utah.

Board members present: President Jennifer Lyman, Guy Fugal, Grace Rex, David H. Smith, Michele Sorensen, and Ada Wilson.

Remote: Vice President Sterling Hilton,

Also present: Superintendent Joseph Jensen, Business Administrator Jason Sundberg, members of the administrative staff, and approximately 38 others were in attendance.

President Jennifer Lyman called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. President Lyman welcomed those in attendance and noted that all Board members were present for the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Peter Glahn**. Board members, district administration, staff, and members of the public joined in reciting the pledge.

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Todd Dawson shared the inspirational thought, reflecting on the importance of continual growth, improvement, and leadership in education.

Drawing upon his experiences interviewing educators and school leaders, Mr. Dawson explained that one of his favorite interview questions asks candidates to describe their personal approach to continuous improvement. He stated that the question helps reveal a person's mindset and willingness to learn, adapt, and help others improve.

Mr. Dawson referenced the Vision for Learning work introduced earlier in the year by Superintendent Jensen, emphasizing that meaningful school improvement begins with personal improvement. He observed that while school buildings provide the physical environment, it is the people within those buildings who ultimately define the culture of a school.

He shared several principles that have influenced his own leadership philosophy, including the belief that success is determined not only by what individuals are capable of accomplishing, but by what they are willing to do. He encouraged a mindset characterized by a willingness to learn, work, grow, change, and continually improve.

Mr. Dawson also reflected on the concept of providing students with "endless possibilities" upon graduation, explaining that every decision made by educators should contribute toward expanding opportunities for students throughout their lives. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the Board's efforts in establishing a new school district centered on genuine learning, healthy culture, and clearly defined guiding principles. He thanked Board members and district leadership for their dedication to serving students, families, and employees and encouraged everyone to continue earning the privilege of their work each day.

Board President Lyman thanked Mr. Dawson for his thoughtful remarks and expressed appreciation for his continued leadership and commitment to the district's mission.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The Board received the request for one public comment.

Stephen Done, a community member, expressed appreciation for the Board members' willingness to serve the community and addressed concerns regarding the potential future location of a district transportation facility. The speaker stated that a bus transportation facility would not be appropriate within any residential neighborhood and specifically opposed the possibility of locating such a facility on the Anderson Farms property.

The speaker explained that residents purchased homes in the area with the understanding that the property would eventually be used for educational purposes, specifically a future school. The speaker expressed concern that converting the property to a transportation facility would fundamentally change the character of the neighborhood and diminish public trust. Additional concerns included increased traffic, noise, diesel exhaust, light pollution, and the potential impact on surrounding property values. The speaker referenced economic research suggesting that increased noise levels can negatively affect residential property values and questioned whether a transportation facility represented the highest and best use of district-owned property.

The speaker encouraged the Board to continue evaluating alternative locations and emphasized that transportation operations should be located outside residential neighborhoods. The speaker concluded by thanking the Board for its service and requested patience and continued communication with residents throughout the district's decision-making process.

Board Response

Following public comment, Board President Jennifer Lyman thanked the speaker for participating and clarified that no proposal regarding a transportation facility had been presented to or considered by the Board. She explained that district administration remains in the study and evaluation phase of the project and emphasized that circumstances continue to evolve as additional information is gathered. President Lyman assured those in attendance that no recommendation had been brought before the Board for action and reiterated that the district continues to evaluate potential options before any future decision is made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Lyman presented the minutes of the previous Board Meeting for approval.

Motion: Board Member David H. Smith moved to approve of the minutes as presented.

Second: A Board member seconded the motion.

Board Discussion

Board Member David H. Smith jokingly observed that the previous meeting included twenty-nine separate motions to initiate the various grade configuration studies, commenting on the significant amount of work reflected in the minutes.

Board President Jennifer Lyman acknowledged that the previous meeting had indeed included twenty-nine individual motions and remarked that the resulting minutes were likely the longest the Board had approved to date.

There being no further discussion, President Lyman called for the vote.

Vote: The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. District Vision & Values Statement

Superintendent Joseph Jensen presented the proposed Timpanogos School District Vision and Values Statement for formal Board adoption. He explained that the document represented approximately eight months of collaborative work involving the Board of Education, district leadership, employees, and community members. Throughout the development process, the Board intentionally sought broad stakeholder input by visiting nearly every school in the future district to gather feedback and perspectives. Superintendent Jensen noted that Mountain View High School would be included during the fall, emphasizing that the Vision and Values Statement is intended to be a living document that can continue to evolve as the district grows.

Superintendent Jensen expressed appreciation for the Board's commitment to transparency and meaningful public engagement throughout the process. He stated that the document had been discussed extensively during previous study sessions and Board meetings and had been postponed from final adoption to allow additional refinements based on Board feedback received during the July 29 Study Session.

Board President Jennifer Lyman reminded the Board that the proposed document had been reviewed in detail during the earlier Study Session. She noted that one final addition had been made to incorporate the district motto, "We Learn to Thrive," into the Vision and Values Statement before adoption.

Vice President Sterling Hilton moved to approve the Timpanogos School District Vision and Values Statement, including the addition of the district motto, "We Learn to Thrive."

The motion was seconded Board member Rex

Board Discussion

Board Member David H. Smith requested additional explanation regarding the meaning behind the newly adopted motto.

Superintendent Jensen explained that the phrase intentionally conveys two complementary ideas. First, students learn so they can thrive throughout their lives. Second, they learn how to thrive by developing the knowledge, skills, character, and dispositions necessary to succeed. He stated that both interpretations reflect the district's purpose and are especially meaningful for students as they prepare for life beyond graduation.

Board Member Michele Sorensen expressed support for the motto, noting that it aligns well with the district's "Know, Do, Be" framework and reinforces each of those three components within the Vision and Values Statement.

Board Member Grace Rex expressed appreciation that the Board had completed one of its most important responsibilities by establishing a clear vision and set of values for the new district. She reflected that defining the district's direction and guiding principles had been a priority since the Board was elected and stated that she was pleased to see the work officially completed.

Vice President Sterling Hilton echoed those comments, stating that he looked forward to the document becoming the official framework that would guide future Board decisions.

Board Member Ada Wilson commented that the value statements provide an important foundation for Board governance. She observed that the Board has already encountered situations requiring difficult decisions and that the adopted values including accountability, transparency, and integrity will serve as guiding principles for future actions and decision-making.

Board Member David H. Smith reflected on the Board's collaborative process, stating that members had consistently been transparent with one another, openly expressed differing viewpoints, and treated one another with kindness throughout the development of the document.

Vice President Sterling Hilton added that empathy had also characterized the Board's discussions and interactions throughout the process.

There being no further discussion, President Lyman called for the vote.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote, Superintendent Jensen thanked the Board for making the Vision and Values Statement a priority. He stated that every decision, interaction, and initiative undertaken by the district will ultimately be measured against the adopted vision and values. He expressed confidence that the document will help the district make better decisions, strengthen schools, and ultimately provide greater opportunities for students.

2. <u>Location Selection of Timpanogos Education Center</u>

Superintendent Jensen introduced the proposed location for the future Timpanogos Education Center. He reviewed the Board's work over the previous several months, noting that possible district office locations had first been presented in January, revisited during study sessions in March, and further discussed following adoption of Resolution No. 2026-008 authorizing solicitation of design, engineering, and construction services for a future district office facility. He expressed appreciation for the Board's careful consideration of multiple alternatives, costs, and long-term operational needs before reaching a recommendation.

Board President Lyman opened discussion regarding the proposed location at 490 North State Street, Lindon, on the district's existing property.

Board Member Ada Wilson moved to designate 490 North State Street, Lindon, Utah, as the location of the future Timpanogos Education Center (District Office).

The motion was seconded by Board Member Guy Fugal

<u>Business Administrator Presentation</u>

Business Administrator Jason Sundberg reviewed the timeline of Board discussions dating back to January and summarized the alternatives that had been evaluated, including:

- Distributing district employees among existing schools.
- Leasing commercial office space.
- Retrofitting an existing district-owned building.
- Constructing a new Education Center.

He explained that each alternative had been thoroughly evaluated during previous Board meetings and Study Sessions before narrowing the recommendation to construction of a new centralized facility.

Board Discussion

President Jennifer Lyman explained that simply converting an existing school into a district office would require extensive renovations. She noted that retrofitting educational facilities into office space would require substantial structural and technological modifications, including meeting technology and administrative infrastructure, resulting in costs estimated at approximately $5–6 million while still providing only a temporary solution. She emphasized the importance of planning for the district's needs twenty to thirty years into the future rather than implementing short-term solutions.

Board Member David H. Smith stated that the new district should establish a permanent Education Center rather than relying upon temporary facilities. He emphasized that Timpanogos School District is building a new organization designed to serve future generations rather than simply extending Alpine School District's existing operations.

Superintendent Jensen explained that, beyond financial considerations, operational effectiveness strongly favored a centralized Education Center. He noted that district offices support much more than administrative leadership, housing departments responsible for curriculum, technology, nutrition services, finance, purchasing, payroll, special education, and numerous other operational functions that directly support students, teachers, and schools. He emphasized that bringing these departments together promotes collaboration, efficiency, and stronger service to schools throughout the district.

Board Member David H. Smith further observed that centralizing departments would strengthen collaboration and inclusion, particularly for departments such as Special Education, which historically have operated separately from other district offices due to Alpine School District's size. He stated that a unified Education Center would reinforce that every department is an integral part of serving students.

Board Member Michele Sorensen explained that Alpine School District had accumulated a building fund over several years that would provide startup funding for construction of the new Education Center. She noted that those funds were expected to cover the cost of both land acquisition and construction without requiring significant long-term debt or a lease revenue bond.

Business Administrator Sundberg presented conceptual building layouts, estimated construction costs, and proposed departmental organization. He explained that the existing facilities at the current campus would continue supporting departments such as technology, facilities, and purchasing, while the new Education Center would house district leadership and central support departments. Estimated construction costs were projected between $8.5 million and $9.5 million, exclusive of land acquisition.

President Lyman also addressed questions regarding continued use of the existing transportation property. She explained that the site no longer provides sufficient capacity for the district's future transportation needs and noted that significant portions of the existing transportation facilities would require demolition or extensive renovation if converted back into full transportation operations. She further explained that the district anticipates needing approximately 80 buses, exceeding the site's available parking capacity.

Board Member Ada Wilson stated that converting Valley View Elementary into district offices had also been considered but determined to be impractical because of the property's location within a residential neighborhood, challenging site conditions, and the uncertainty surrounding future building availability while the boundary study remains underway.

Vice President Sterling Hilton indicated that Board members had adequately addressed the key considerations during discussion.

There being no further discussion, President Lyman called for the vote.

Vote: The motion to locate the Timpanogos Education Center at 490 North State Street, Lindon passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution #2026-013- Authorization of Purchase of Real Property in Lindon, UT**

Superintendent Jensen introduced Resolution No. 2026-013, authorizing the purchase of approximately 1.35 acres immediately adjacent to the district's existing property for the future Timpanogos Education Center.

Business Administrator Sundberg reported that district staff had worked closely with the property owner and the district's real estate representative to negotiate a purchase agreement. He stated that the property was currently under contract with a scheduled closing date of August 11, 2026, contingent upon Board approval. He explained that the acquisition would improve the overall campus layout, provide additional parking, improve public access from State Street, and establish a more visible and welcoming presence for the district. The negotiated purchase price was $1,520,000.

Board Member Guy Fugal moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-013, authorizing the purchase of approximately 1.35 acres of real property in Lindon, Utah.

Board Member David H. Smith seconded the motion.

Board Discussion

Board Member David H. Smith expressed appreciation to Business Administrator Jason Sundberg for his work throughout the property acquisition process. He noted that discussions regarding the need for additional property had begun several months earlier during presentations on potential district office locations and thanked Mr. Sundberg and the district's real estate representative for their diligence in negotiating the purchase. Board Member Smith stated that the acquisition would provide long-term benefits for the district and positioned the Education Center well for future growth.

Board Member Guy Fugal also expressed appreciation to the property owner for working cooperatively with the district throughout the negotiation process. He observed that acquiring the adjoining parcel would "square up" the district's property, creating a more functional site for future development.

Business Administrator Jason Sundberg echoed those comments and thanked both the district's real estate representative and the property's current owner and tenant for their willingness to work with the district. He noted that the negotiations had been positive and collaborative and expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts in helping move the project forward.

Vice President Sterling Hilton stated that he was pleased to see the project moving forward and expressed confidence that purchasing the additional property represented a sound long-term investment for Timpanogos School District.

Board Member Grace Rex commented that the additional frontage along State Street would significantly improve the visibility and appearance of the future Education Center. She also noted that the expanded site would provide much-needed parking for employees and visitors.

Board Member Ada Wilson stated that she had long believed the adjoining parcel would be an ideal addition to the district's property. She shared that she had often driven past the site and envisioned the opportunity to improve the district's presence along State Street. She thanked Business Administrator Sundberg for his persistence throughout the negotiations and expressed confidence that the completed campus would provide a meaningful and welcoming presence for both employees and the community.

Board Member David H. Smith added that the Education Center's location would provide convenient access for residents throughout Lindon, Pleasant Grove, Orem, and surrounding communities served by the district.

There being no further discussion, Board President Lyman called for the vote.

Resolution No. 2026-013 authorizing the purchase of approximately 1.35 acres of real property in Lindon, Utah, for the purchase price of $1,520,000, passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT & BOARD MEMBER REPORTS, INFORMATION ITEMS & COMMENTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Joseph Jensen reported that district staffing efforts continue to progress successfully as Timpanogos School District prepares for full operations on July 1, 2027. He acknowledged that the transition has been challenging for many employees who have waited nearly two years to learn where they will be assigned when the new district becomes operational. He expressed appreciation that the staffing process is nearing completion and noted that many employees are now receiving clarity regarding their future roles.

Superintendent Jensen introduced several recently hired district leaders who will play key roles in building the new organization:

- Misty Rocha – Director of Professional Learning and Coaching
- Donny Baum – Director of Research, Assessment, and Analytics
- Kim Richards – Director of Purchasing
- Amber Gardner – Assistant Director of Purchasing
- Crystal Michaelis – Director of Finance
- Jodi Dougal – Assistant Director of Finance
- Allison Saban – Director of Payroll

He welcomed each of the new team members and expressed confidence that their experience and expertise would strengthen the district's ability to fulfill its mission and vision. Superintendent Jensen remarked that each successful hire provides greater confidence as the district prepares for implementation and thanked both the new employees and all district staff for their patience, professionalism, and flexibility throughout the transition process.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS, INFORMATION ITEMS & COMMENTS

Board Member Rex thanked Todd Dawson for his inspirational thought and reflected on his challenge to "earn your job every day." She stated that his message resonated with her personally and reaffirmed her commitment to continually improve in her role as a Board member while serving students, employees, and the community.

Board Member Smith reflected on the approaching start of the school year and the many annual events taking place throughout Alpine School District, including the Administrative Conference, PTA kickoff activities, open houses, and the beginning of classes. Although those events remain part of Alpine School District's calendar for one more year, he observed that Timpanogos School District is simultaneously preparing for its own important work, including additional boundary and grade configuration meetings. He remarked that the coming weeks would be busy for both districts and expressed excitement for the work ahead as preparations continue toward opening the new district.

Vice President Hilton expressed appreciation for the Board's formal adoption of the district's Vision and Values Statement earlier in the meeting. He stated that the document will serve as an essential guide for future Board decisions and thanked fellow Board members, district employees, and community members whose participation helped shape the final product. He reiterated that the Vision and Values Statement will provide a strong foundation as Timpanogos School District continues to grow.

Board Member Fugal invited fellow Board members to attend the Utah Valley University President's Scholarship Ball scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026. He explained that he has participated in the event for many years and believes it provides valuable opportunities for community engagement and relationship building. He indicated that he would follow up with Board members in early September regarding attendance.

Board Member Sorensen shared preliminary results from the district's recent public survey regarding possible future grade configuration changes. She reported that more than 4,000 respondents participated in the survey concerning the possible transition of ninth grade to high school, with approximately 63 percent expressing support and 26 percent expressing opposition.

She further reported that approximately 2,900 respondents completed the survey question regarding the possibility of moving sixth grade to junior high if ninth grade is moved to high school. Of those respondents, approximately 52 percent expressed support for the proposed change.

Board Member Sorensen also highlighted several themes emerging from the survey responses, particularly the importance of supporting the social and emotional well-being of younger students who may transition into schools with older peers. She emphasized that thoughtful planning should include support for students, families, and teachers throughout any future transition process.

Board Member Wilson expressed appreciation to the many parents and community members who participated in the district's elementary focus groups and boundary study discussions. She specifically acknowledged families who provided thoughtful feedback regarding the district's Dual Language Immersion and Gifted and Talented programs, recognizing the importance of those programs to many students and families.

She stated that the Board values the perspectives shared throughout the focus group process and emphasized that the information gathered will help guide future decisions as the district develops options during the coming months.

Board President Lyman shared her recent visit to Tabitha's Way Local Food Pantry, where she learned more about the organization's efforts to provide food assistance and additional resources to families throughout the community. She expressed appreciation for the organization's outreach and explained that it is seeking community ambassadors to help connect residents with available services. She also highlighted the organization's efforts to expand self-reliance education, including financial literacy opportunities for families.

President Lyman stated that she is encouraged by opportunities for Timpanogos School District to partner with community organizations that provide meaningful support to students and families. She also mentioned conversations with representatives from One Kind Act a Day, who have expressed interest in partnering with the district to further strengthen community engagement and student support.

President Lyman concluded by expressing appreciation for the significant public engagement taking place throughout the district's planning process. She acknowledged receiving numerous emails and communications from residents and stated that, although the volume of feedback has been substantial, she welcomes the opportunity to hear directly from community members. She emphasized that the district's public surveys are not intended to serve as elections or determine outcomes by majority vote but rather provide valuable information to help inform Board decisions alongside many other factors.

She encouraged community members to continue participating in surveys, public meetings, and public comment opportunities, emphasizing that community input remains an essential part of the Board's decision-making process. President Lyman thanked everyone who attended the meeting and reaffirmed the Board's commitment to listening carefully, considering all perspectives, and working together to build the best possible Timpanogos School District.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board and no need to convene a Closed Session pursuant to Utah Code § 52-4-205, President Lyman entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Board member Rex and seconded by Board member Michele Sorensen to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.