THOMAS EDISON CHARTER SCHOOLS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Date: August 5, 2026
Edison North: 180 E 2600 N, North Logan, UT 84341

Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm
Board Members Present: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, and Jeff Mason
Board Members Attending Electronically: Ryan Reeves and Ester Israelsen
Board Members Absent and Excused: Jeff Mason
Pledge of Allegiance: Ryan Reeves

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Public Comment

   No public comments were made.

3. Approval of Minutes

   Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as distributed: Lindsey Fowers
   Second: Courtney Carpenter
   Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, Jeff Mason, and Ryan Reeves
   Resolved: unanimous

4. Board Training – Brian Carpenter Podcast #3 Broken Promises: duties of loyalty, oversight, and obedience

   The podcast emphasizes that a charter school board should "speak with one voice," meaning that only decisions made through a majority vote represent the official will of the board. Individual board members should avoid giving separate directions or becoming involved in day-to-day management, as this can create confusion, conflicting expectations, and turnover among school leaders. Formal votes also provide clear accountability and legal protection. The board should ensure all decisions are accurately recorded in the minutes and consider adopting a policy stating that only majority votes constitute binding instructions to the school leader.

   The board members discussed whether they needed to improve clarity and focus in how they provide direction. They generally agreed that they do not experience the "board schizophrenia" described in the podcast. Members felt that discussions are appropriate, but when action is required, direction is given through the board as a whole and supported by a vote. Management also confirmed that they receive clear expectations from the board rather than conflicting instructions from individual members.

   ** Board member Ester Israelsen arrives via electronic participation at 5:43 pm **

5. TECS Philosophy

The board reviewed Thomas Edison Charter School's philosophy and academic program outlined in the charter, focusing on high expectations for students, teachers, and parents**.** The school's philosophy is to use an advanced, sequential curriculum and direct, research-based instruction to challenge students to achieve at a high level while providing additional support through MTSS for struggling students. Administrators emphasized the importance of maintaining consistent high expectations and staying aligned as a leadership team. The discussion also highlighted the importance of parent involvement as part of a three-way partnership between the school, students, and families in supporting student success.

6. Financial Report: Jim Peterson

The board reviewed the budget expense graph and noted that July expenses for both campuses were well below the projected monthly average, which is typical at the beginning of the school year before many expenses and state funding occur. Historically, overall expenses increase about 3–4% annually, although costs can vary depending on supply orders, construction, and other timing factors. The discussion also noted that state-funded teacher salary adjustments have increased significantly over the past several years, now exceeding $10,000 per eligible teacher, contributing to expenses growing somewhat faster than general inflation.

7. Student Data Report: Angela Williams

The board reviewed the LEA RISE results from 2025–2026 and noted that, while overall performance remains strong, some overall scores are falling after several years of stronger performance. Areas of concern include middle school ELA, eighth-grade math, and some sixth- and seventh-grade science results. The group discussed whether these trends could be related to specific student cohorts, including students who experienced critical early learning years during COVID, or to curriculum and instructional factors. Administrators emphasized that teachers are not pressured to "teach to the test"**;** the focus remains on teaching the curriculum well and helping students demonstrate what they know. The board agreed that the results provide much to celebrate while also highlighting areas that should be monitored and investigated to ensure performance continues to improve.

8. UAPCS membership renewal and approve delegates: Melani Kirk

The board discussed the school's membership with the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools (UAPCS), which provides advocacy, training, and updates on policies affecting charter schools. Membership costs $8 per student**,** with an estimated cost of $3,680 for North Campus and $5,600 for South Campus, for a total of $9,280 for the LEA. The group felt the membership was worthwhile because UAPCS provides valuable advocacy and has helped secure additional funding for charter schools. Administrators also participate in UAPCS's monthly member meetings and trainings to stay informed about upcoming policies and requirements.

UAPCS delegates will be Principals Melani Kirk and Brad Larsen, with the Assistant Principals Brooke Mullen and Christina Smith, as alternates.

Motion to approve as presented, the UAPCS membership and delegates: Lindsey Fowers
Second: Mikelshan Bartschi
Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, Jeff Mason, Ryan Reeves, and Ester Israelsen
Resolved: unanimous

9. Policy Update 7107: Youth Suicide Prevention (Jamie Lewis)

The board reviewed proposed updates to Policy 7107, the Youth Suicide Prevention Policy. The changes include formally requiring the school to provide parents with written information about limiting students' access to means of self-harm, identifying the school counselor as the person who may intervene, and requiring both an immediate oral report followed by written documentation when concerns are reported. The committee also raised concerns about student safety related to self-harm or threats toward others, which will be addressed separately through a review and possible update of the Safe School Policy 7101.

The board discussed revising the policy language to avoid the overly rigid term "immediately," which could create unnecessary liability or be difficult for employees to interpret in complex situations. The group agreed that "as soon as reasonably possible" better reflects the expectation that concerns are reported promptly while allowing employees to respond appropriately to the situation. They also agreed to keep the requirement for an oral report, followed by written documentation, and to identify the principal's designees, such as the school counselor or school psychologist. The proposed wording was ultimately accepted for approval.

Motion to approve Policy 7107 as presented by Jamie: Lindsey Fowers
Second: Jeff Mason
Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, Jeff Mason, Ryan Reeves, and Ester Israelsen
Resolved: unanimous

10. Oath of Office: Melani Kirk or another Notary Public

All Board Members read and agreed to the Oath of Office for the State of Utah.

11. Board Training Discussion: Utah Code 53G; Open & Public Meetings (required annually)

Board Members watched the Open and Public Meetings Act training provided by UAPCS. The training can be found at this link: https://www.utahcharters.org/training-videos

12. Principal Reports: Melani Kirk & Brad Larsen

South Campus:

- The school currently has approximately 677 students enrolled**,** with 16 additional students completing enrollment screenings and parent meetings. The goal is to reach around 700 students, while recognizing that some students may leave before the school year begins.
- Marketing efforts through Bosk Media have expanded, including social media advertising, community events, and 30 flyer placements across 29 Cache Valley locations, with early indications of increased visibility.
- The school also highlighted annual UAPCS conference participation and summer Spalding training for teachers.
- Summer facility projects included gym door safety upgrades, installation of safety film, a new gym audio system, and a new divider curtain scheduled for fall break**.**
- Staff preparation is progressing well, with only three aide positions still needing to be filled.

North Campus:

- Enrollment remains a major focus, with current numbers significantly lower than last year, largely due to a decline in middle school enrollment. The numbers are still considered preliminary and may fluctuate as additional students enroll or leave.
- The roof project is nearly complete, and field turf installation is underway, while the office renovation was not completed.
- Staffing is nearly finalized, with one aide and one teacher position still being filled.
- Upcoming and recent student opportunities, including the Science and History Fairs and participation in the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge.

13. Vendor Requests: Melani Kirk & Brad Larsen

None.

14. Adjourn at 6:53 pm