

THOMAS EDISON CHARTER SCHOOLS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Date: September 2, 2026
Edison North: 180 E 2600 N, North Logan, UT 84341

Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm

Board Members Present: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, and Jeff Mason

Board Members Attending Electronically: none

Board Members Absent and Excused: Ester Israelsen and Ryan Reeves

Pledge of Allegiance: Ryan Reeves

1. **Approval of Agenda**

2. **Public Comment**

Principal Brad Larsen thanked the governing board members for all they do.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as distributed: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Mikelshan Bartschi

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, and Jeff Mason

Resolved: unanimous

4. **Board Training – Brian Carpenter Podcast #5 Chinese Lightbulbs: student performance and achievement**

The podcast emphasizes that school boards should focus on governance and student achievement rather than getting involved in minor operational details. When meetings are consumed by issues like light bulbs, tables, sound systems, and other day-to-day matters, important discussions about student performance and school improvement get pushed aside. Boards should establish clear performance goals and metrics, then spend their meetings monitoring progress toward those goals while leaving routine management decisions to school administrators.

5. **Board Training Discussion: P&P 5000 Finance & Facilities**

No discussion.

6. **TECS Philosophy: Jim Peterson**

The discussion highlights classwork and homework as an important part of Thomas Edison Charter School's advanced academic program. Homework builds time management, personal responsibility, work ethic, and reinforces concepts learned in class while giving parents insight into their child's learning. Although the workload can be challenging for families, board members and parents felt that

developing these habits early gives students a significant advantage when they reach high school and college.

7. Financial Report: Jim Peterson

The financial report showed that South Campus was spending well below its projected monthly average, putting it in a strong financial position early in the year. North Campus had a significant expense due to a \$330,000+ roof replacement and artificial turf, but the school has accumulated enough cash surplus to cover much of these costs without taking on additional debt. It was agreed upon and emphasized that this strong financial position is the result of years of careful planning and responsible management, allowing the school to handle major expenses while remaining financially stable.

8. Student Data Report: Angela Williams

The assessment report showed strong and improving student performance in both reading and math. Reading scores have generally remained well above state averages, with kindergarten showing especially strong growth from 76% proficiency to 93%, and third-grade reading reaching 89% proficiency last year. Math performance is also consistently strong, with 97% of third graders proficient last year and most scores more than 10% above the state average.

The board discussed how some cohorts, particularly in kindergarten and early first grade, may struggle initially but often show significant growth as students become more comfortable with the Spalding curriculum. Board members praised the data visualization and the ability to track cohorts over time, noting that the results demonstrate the value of the school's instructional approach and homework in maintaining student learning.

9. LEA Specific Licenses: Angela Williams

The board discussed proposing Christina Davis for an LEA-specific license to allow her to continue teaching first grade at the North Campus. Christina already has a bachelor's degree and is exploring other pathways to full licensure, and the school feels confident in her abilities and commitment.

Because an LEA-specific license requires additional support and professional development, Christina will receive frequent classroom observations, coaching, PLC support, professional development, and mentoring from experienced teachers and staff. The administration emphasized that these supports are especially important for newer teachers and help ensure they receive the training and feedback needed to be successful.

Motion to approve Christina Davis for the LEA Specific License: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, and Jeff Mason

Resolved: unanimous

10. School-based Mental Health Grant: SarahAnn Delaney

The school was awarded this grant again, providing the LEA with \$54,525 in funding each year for the next three years. The school is partnering with The Family Place to provide therapy services, and there is already a strong need, with several students currently receiving services and additional referrals being made. The board needs to approve continuing the partnership and using the grant funds for these services.

Motion to continue to work with the Family Place and approve them for the Mental Health Grant as we have in the past: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, and Jeff Mason

Resolved: unanimous

11. School Fees Policy approval: Melani Kirk

The board reviewed the school's policy of not charging student fees. While state law allows fees for certain students or activities, Thomas Edison does not charge families; school supplies are provided if families are unable to purchase them. Parent contributions for school events and parties are voluntary donations, not required fees. The board needed to formally approve the school's designation as a no-fee school.

Motion to approve the school's fee policy as written: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Jeff Mason

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, and Jeff Mason

Resolved: unanimous

12. Future Board Training – Brian Carpenter

The board discussed scheduling a one-hour training session offered by Brian Carpenter as part of the purchase of updated materials. Members preferred a December lunchtime session, particularly on a Wednesday, but were willing to consider evening options or other dates based on the trainer's availability. The board agreed to contact the trainer with several possible options and coordinate the training by email.

13. Principal Reports:

South:

- **Enrollment:** The school currently has 443 students on the waitlist, compared with 453 last year, putting enrollment at approximately 88% capacity. Administration is encouraged by this number despite losing some students to newer schools in the valley.
- **Student Activities:** Student Council will have a new structure this year, one of the secretaries Kallie Larson overseeing Student Council, assemblies, and related activities to streamline these programs.

- **Clubs & Activities:** Art, L-Tag, robotics, and other extracurricular activities are getting underway and registrations have been sent out.
- **Student Achievement:** A student represented the school at the National History Fair and placed in the top 20 nationally.
- **Facilities:** Several rooftop HVAC units are no longer functional and cannot be repaired. The school is beginning to obtain bids for replacement, which will result in a significant expense later in the year.

South:

- **Enrollment:** Current student count is 672, continuing a downward trend over the past several years, partly due to competition from new schools in the valley.
- **New Students:** The school enrolled 61 new students this year. While growth is positive, new students can require additional support and may present academic challenges for teachers.
- **Back-to-School Night:** Attendance was strong, with 94% of elementary students and 91% of middle school students attending, for an overall attendance rate of 92.7%. This was viewed as a positive indicator of family engagement.
- **Positive Behavior Program:** The school continues its required school-wide positive behavior program, with this year's theme being "Spread Kindness Like Confetti" under the broader "Power of Kind" theme.
- **Family & Student Engagement:** The kindness program includes a variety of activities designed to involve students and families while reinforcing positive behavior and the school's culture.

14. Vendor Requests: Melani Kirk & Brad Larsen

None.

15. Adjourn at 6:28 pm