



Board of Education Meeting - Sep 08 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 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, ValaRee Shields, Emily Syphus, Todd Thompson, Scott Bryan, Elizabeth Smith (arrived at 5:30 pm)

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

- 1.1 Purchase, Exchange, or Release of Real Property
- 1.2 Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation
- 1.3 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, ValaRee Shields, Emily Syphus, Todd Thompson, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan

Administration Present: Dr. Mark Ernst, Jeremy Walker, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Brad Hranicky, Sharon Jones-Miller, Marissa Lowry, Charles Hansen, Heather Castagno, Brett Valdez, Jackie Gallegos

- 2.1 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
Board President Melissa Rich called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed patrons in attendance, and led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Recognition/Good News

- 3.1 Grant Awards from TEF
Keith Bird, Executive Director of the Tooele Education Foundation, presented grant award checks to Child Nutrition Services and the District Junior High Solo Ensemble Program.

4. 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.)

- 4.1 Patron Comments
 - Travis Prawitt addressed the board regarding bus safety

- Alaina Prawitt addressed the board regarding bus safety
- Melanee Lawrence addressed the board regarding bus safety
- Becky Darling-TEA
- VonShae Ferris addressed the board regarding the rezoning of Rush Valley and bus safety

5. Academics

5.1 Early Learning Plan Goals and Academic AHLP.

Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendent, presented an overview of the District's Early Learning Plan, including a review of literacy and mathematics outcomes from 2022-23 through 2025-26. He highlighted areas of growth, noting that several literacy and mathematics goals were met or exceeded during the most recent school year, particularly in kindergarten literacy and second- and third-grade mathematics performance.

Dr. Reutzel shared districtwide trend data and discussed the use of Acadience Reading and Math assessments to monitor student progress and inform instruction. He also reviewed the proposed Early Learning Plan goals for 2026-27 and the strategies that will support continued improvement in student achievement.

Additionally, Dr. Reutzel reviewed the purpose and structure of the District's Academic High Leverage Plans (AHLPs), explaining how they align improvement efforts, instructional practices, and student achievement goals. He provided an overview of this year's Academic AHLP and how progress will be monitored throughout the year.

[Early Learning Plan 2026-27.pdf](#) 

6. Consent Items

6.1 Minutes

[Board of Education Meeting - Aug 11 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

6.2 Expenditure Report

[AUG26 Board Expenditure Report.pdf](#) 

[AUG27 Board Expenditure Report.pdf](#) 

6.3 Revenue Report

[AUG26 Board Revenue Report.pdf](#) 

[AUG27 Board Revenue Report.pdf](#) 

6.4 Disbursement Report

- [AUGUST 2026 DISBURSEMENT REPORT.pdf](#) 
- 6.5 Financial Reports #
- [JUL27 Combined Financial Statements.pdf](#) 
- [JUL26 Combined Financial Statements.pdf](#) 
- 6.6 Personnel Decisions #
- [August Personnel Decisions 2026.pdf](#) 
- 6.7 LEA Specific License #
- [September 2026 LEA Specifics-Public.pdf](#) 
- 6.8 Surplus Items #
- [Memo surplus to board 26-9-2.pdf](#) 
- 6.9 2026-2027 SRO Agreements #
- [2026-2027 SRO Contract-Tooele City.pdf](#) 
- [2026-2027 SRO Contract-Tooele County Sherrif.pdf](#) 
- Approve 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, Todd Thompson, and Scott Bryan

Motion Carries 7-0

7. Action Items

- 7.1 Revised Policy 5032, Wellness and Nutrition, 1st Read-PULLED
This item was pulled from the agenda and not discussed.
- 7.2 Revised Policy 11005, Graduation Requirements, 1st Read #
- Mitzi Quarez, Director of Counseling and Mental Health Services, presented Revised Policy 11005, Graduation Requirements, to the Board for a first reading. Ms. Quarez explained that the proposed revisions align the policy with recent state legislative changes affecting graduation requirements for students beginning with the Class of 2029. She further noted that the revisions update and clarify policy language, streamline content, and ensure alignment with current district practices and state regulations.
- [11005 Graduation Requirements / School Credits](#) 
- [Policy Submission Form for policy 11005.pdf](#) 

[Revised Policy 11005 Comparison Table.pdf](#) 

Approve Revised Policy 11005, Graduation Requirements, as presented for implementation.

#

Moved by: Elizabeth Smith; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

7.3 Revised Policy 11025, Research Approval Process and Surveys, 1st Read

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Thomas Trotter, Assessment and Research Director, presented Revised Policy 11025, Research Approval Process and Surveys, to the Board for a first reading. Mr. Trotter explained that the proposed revisions align the policy with the District's standardized policy template, clarify procedures for research approval and survey administration, strengthen protections for student and staff privacy, and ensure compliance with applicable state requirements.

[11025 Research Approval Process and Surveys](#) 

[Revised Policy 11025 comparison table.pdf](#) 

[Revised Policy 11025, Research Approval Process and Surveys, Request Form.pdf](#)



Approve Revised Policy 11025, Research Approval Process and Surveys, as presented for implementation.

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Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0

7.4 Revised Policy 7003, Parent and Family Engagement, 2nd Read

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Stephanie Rowley, Federal Programs Director, presented revised Policy 7003, Parent, Guardian, and Family Engagement, to the Board for second reading. The proposed revisions align the policy with current federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements and Utah Code provisions, reorganize it into the district's standardized format, and eliminate redundant language. There were no changes from the first reading.

[Policy 7003 comparison document.pdf](#) 

[Policy Request Form Parent & Family Engagement 7003 SY26.pdf](#) 

[7003 Parent and Family Engagement](#) 

Approve revised policy 7003, Parent and Family Engagement, as proposed for implementation.

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Moved by: ValaRee Shields; seconded by: Todd Thompson

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

Motion Carries 7-0

7.5 Revised Policy 1019, Board Member: Code of Ethics, 1st Read #

Chantel Cowan, Director of Policy and Math Curriculum, presented Revised Policy 1019, Board Member: Code of Ethics, to the Board for a first read. The proposed revisions update and streamline the policy by transitioning it to the standardized policy template and by providing greater clarity regarding board authority and governance, conflict-of-interest requirements, meeting conduct, complaint procedures, confidentiality obligations, and compliance with applicable Utah ethics laws.

[1019 Board Members: Code of Ethics](#) 

[Revised Policy 1019, Board Code of Ethics Comparison Table.docx](#) 

[Policy Request Form \(2\).pdf](#) 

Move Revised Policy 1019 Board Members: Code of Ethics to a second read #

Moved by: Emily Syphus; seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0

7.6 Revised Policy 11020, Student Behavior and Support Framework #

Julie Spindler, Prevention and YIC Supervisor, presented Revised Policy 11020, Student Behavior and Support Framework, to the Board for a first reading. The proposed revisions update the district's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) framework by incorporating Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), restorative practices, parental engagement, and enhanced student support processes. The policy also aligns with current state and federal requirements, strengthens proactive behavior interventions, and provides clearer guidance for addressing student conduct, safety, and disciplinary matters while promoting positive school climates.

[11020 Positive Behavior Interventions and Support](#) 

[Revised Policy 11020 comparison document.pdf](#) 

Move Revised Policy 11020, Student Behavior and Support Framework forward for a 2nd Read #

Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: Todd Thompson

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

Motion Carries 7-0

- 7.7 Sex Education Materials #
- The Sex Education Curriculum Committee met and reviewed the following materials. In attendance were two parents, a nurse, a teacher, and an administrator.
- [Sex Education Curriculum Committee-Sept. 2026.pdf](#) 
- The committee recommends approval of the requested materials for classroom use.
- Move the sex education curriculum forward for a second read. #
- Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: Robert Gowans
- Yea:** Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, ValaRee Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Emily Syphus, Todd Thompson, and Scott Bryan

Motion Carries 7-0

8. Information, Discussion or Calendar Items

- 8.1 Superintendent's Annual Report #
- Dr. Mark Ernst, Superintendent, presented the 2025-2026 Annual District Report, highlighting progress toward the District's strategic goals and continued academic growth. The report included improvements in literacy and mathematics achievement, increased collaboration among educators, implementation of districtwide communication, safety, and operational initiatives, and recognition of employee and community contributions. Superintendent Ernst also outlined the District's strategic priorities for 2026-2027, focusing on strengthening instructional practices, employee support systems, school safety, communication, and operational efficiency.
- [Superintendent's Board Presentation September 2026.pdf](#) 
- [Superintendent's Board Presentation September 2026](#)
- [Superintendent's Board Presentation September 2026 Plain Text.docx](#) 
- 8.2 Child Check Transportation Update #
- Chlorissa Goddard, Transportation Director, and Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Assistant Superintendent, presented an update on student transportation safety initiatives, including child-check alert systems, recent findings from the transportation compliance audit, and a proposed capital budget amendment to support the installation of additional safety equipment. Staff reported that child-check alert systems are now standard equipment on buses and reviewed efforts to strengthen transportation safety procedures.
- Member Thompson expressed appreciation for the proactive approach to improving student safety and efforts to make transportation systems as reliable and error-proof as possible.

[Child Check Presentation.pdf](#) 

9. Adjourn (10:00 pm Curfew)

At **7:20** pm, a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjourn

Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0