

Board Members		
Name	Start Date	End Date
Wes Porter	12/14/2019	
Carl Morton	2/8/2024	
David Aldrich	9/8/2022	
Alyson Slaugh	19/12/2024	
Chandi Sainsbury	12/12/2024	
Jared McKeachnie	12/12/2024	
Jared Short	12/12/2024	



Terra Academy
Board Meeting Agenda
Date: (Thursday, Aug 20, 2026)
Public Session 6:30 PM
Location: 267 Aggie Blvd.
Vernal, UT 84078
Final

1. Opening Business: Wes Porter, Board Chair

- 1.1 Call to Order-Meeting called to order: Approximately 6:33 p.m.
- 1.2 Roll Call- Wes Porter, Alyson Slaugh, David Aldrich, Jared Short, Chandi Sainsbury, Jared McKeachnie, Carl Morton
Guest- Dr. Ammon Campbell, Karlie Thompson, Dana Durham, Pauline Manwaring
- 1.3 Vision, Mission Statement-Carl Morton read the Vision Statement, Chandi Sainsbury read the Mission Statement

1.4 Board Member School Visit Reports/Assignments

Vision Statement: Terra Academy helps students become independent lifelong learners who are respectful of other cultures, are productive, and stewards of our environment.

Mission Statement: We treat every student as a whole unique person, providing individualized instruction in a community model with project-based learning to nourish their talents, skills, and desires.

- a. **Public Comment**-Fawn Holmes, a 1st grade teacher came to thank the board for the new cabinets in the elementary classrooms. She also stated that all of the classrooms are more organized and clean.

2. Executive Director's Office - Dr. Ammon Campbell

3.1 Students- Dr. Campbell said enrollment was reported at approximately 595 students, with administration believing actual enrollment had already reached or was approaching 600 as final registrations were entered.

Dr. Campbell said that Terra had a Strong Back-to-School Night registration. Also a high student retention, positive parent enthusiasm, and also a great interest from parents in volunteering and serving the school. He also reported unusually strong professional development participation during the summer.

3.2 Faculty and Staff

- a. Lisa Perry-granted a \$7500 STEM grant to be used for the next 3 yrs.

- b. Marcela Abrams- \$1,000 classroom stipend from a summer conference

Dr. Campbell emphasized that grants awarded to the teachers will remain tied to their approved educational purposes.

- c. SPED Dept shortfall in Speech Support-Actions taken and present a new plan-Dr. Campbell said that the new special education leadership is highly focused on compliance and improvement. Administration acknowledged some initial tension as longstanding practices were reviewed and updated but reported that collaboration was improving.

The additional SLP need was one issue identified through this process.

3.3 Community Outreach-Dr. Campbell said that planning is happening for the next Fall Festival. Reconnect with previous sponsors and seek new sponsors. Recruit volunteers from parents who expressed interest at Back-to-School Night.

The board had previously approved approximately \$5,000 for three sponsored KSL articles. The first article was published and highlighted students' involvement in a history-related project connected with the country's 250th anniversary. Administration felt the article represented the school positively. The school's first town hall of the year is planned for the following Thursday.

Topics will include: Student and family success, volunteer opportunities, community involvement. Dr. Shane Whiting is expected to participate. Also our nurse Teagan Weeks. Snacks and drinks are planned for approximately the first 100 attendees.

3.4 Proposals

- a. Salary Supplement For Highly Needed Educators (SHINE) Policy-**vote require-**
- b. Dr. Campbell said that salary Supplement for High-Need Educators. Discussed changes to the state's Salary Supplement for High-Need Educators (SHINE) program. Originally, the school identified many teaching areas as eligible. The state is now limiting schools to approximately their top three to five high-need teaching areas. These are the proposed five areas. Literacy Specialist Certification, K-12 — approximately \$4,000. Secondary Literacy Interventionist — approximately \$4,000. Secondary Mathematics Endorsement — approximately \$3,000. Secondary Science — approximately \$3,000. Career and Technical Education — approximately \$3,000. The funding comes from the state. It does not reduce the school's current operating budget. The board may revise priorities in future years. Selection procedures and eligibility criteria are addressed in the school's SHINE policy.

Wes Porter asked for a motion to approve of the SHINE
Carl Morton approved of the motion of SHINE
David Aldrich 2nd the motion

Roll Call
Wes Porter
Carl Morton
Alyson Slaugh
David Aldrich
Jared Short
Chandi Sainsbury
Jared McKeachnie

3.5 Remarks- Board membership timeline-State Charter School Board Five-Year Comprehensive Review-The board discussed feedback from the recent comprehensive charter review. A significant point raised during the review was that some requirements in the original charter may no longer reflect the school's actual operations.

Example given: The original charter apparently included a requirement that approximately 80% of students have an individualized education map by September 1. The school no longer uses that particular model. The reviewer recommended updating the charter so that it accurately reflects: Current educational practices, current goals, current programs, and current accountability.

Board Membership and Succession Planning-The board discussed: three-year board terms, Community Council terms, current board members whose terms have expired or are nearing expiration. The need to stagger terms so multiple members do not leave simultaneously

Departures- Wes Porter indicated he will be leaving. Alyson Slauch said that she will be leaving her board/ community council role. Other current members indicated willingness to continue serving.

Board Size- Current policy allows approximately 5–9 members.

Discussion favored maintaining approximately 7 board members because: It provides enough perspectives, it makes maintaining a quorum easier. A five-member board can become difficult if one or two members are absent.

Recruitment Process-send board-service information to parents/community members. Invite applications, include Community Council and other volunteer opportunities. The incoming chair/vice chair will help coordinate interviews.

At least two board members should participate in candidate interviews. In the next two weeks solicit applications, conduct interviews, September board meeting, candidates presented. The board discusses candidates and votes on new members. In October board meeting new members sworn in board elects officers, and committee assignments reorganized

3.6 Policy Review

3. Assistant Director's - **Karlie Thompson**

4.1 Staff Impressions-Karlie reported on the start of the school year.

Back-to-School Night. Teachers appreciated holding Back-to-School Night earlier than in previous years. This allowed more separation between the event and the first day of school and helped reduce staff burnout.

Enrollment / Opening of School. The first several days were described as very successful. Administration continues to make small adjustments involving: Student entry/supervision, schedules, and daily procedures. Most classes are full or near capacity.

4.2 Comments on Instl Coach -Karlie stated that the new instructional coach MarKay was received very positively. Although her previous experience was primarily elementary, she has made it clear she intends to support both: Elementary teachers, and secondary teachers.

She has already visited classrooms, conducted observations, worked with special education teachers, and assisted with behavior-management plans. Begun setting individual support plans with teachers. She is supporting teachers with literacy/LETRS-related training.

4.3 SPED Director- Karlie also praised the special education director's Michelle with her communication. Although she works remotely, she is described as highly accessible. She is great at answering her emails, phone calls, and meetings. She is actively directing and supporting our Special education teachers, mentors, and related staff.

4.4 Maintenance and Kitchen-Kitchen and Maintenance- The new kitchen team received strong praise.

Students have reportedly responded very positively to homemade meals, and increased variety. Middle school and high school lunch schedules were separated, providing approximately 40 minutes for lunch. Now they are together, and the change appears to be working well.

Maintenance- staff completed numerous summer projects, including: gym floor work, painting, repairs, and classroom preparation. Other facility improvements One issue remains with the center gym-floor graphic/sticker, which will need to be redone because of the order in which the flooring and graphic were installed.

4.5 LEA licenses for Secondary Electives- Karlie said Terra added a significant number of new electives. Rather than maintaining the previous shorter end-of-day period, the schedule was reorganized into six full periods. Teachers were encouraged to offer courses aligned with their skills and interests. Approximately 15 new electives may now be available. Teachers may be teaching subjects outside the specific area listed on their existing state license, the school will need to approve several LEA-specific licenses.

A complete list will be brought to the board at an upcoming meeting for ratification.

4. Finance - Dana Durham

5.1 Bank Register May/June- Dana Durham asked if the board had any questions on the Bank register for May and June. The board members had no questions

5.2 Laptops for teachers/mentors - **vote required** - Terra obtained laptop proposals from Dell and Spectra. Discussion- The Dell proposal was somewhat less expensive and included touchscreen capability. Touchscreens were considered beneficial for teachers and mentors who use the devices for assessments. Approximately 14 laptops are needed. There was discussion regarding purchasing two different levels of laptops versus purchasing the

higher-performance model for everyone. Advantages of standardizing on the higher-performance laptop included: Easier reassignment between teachers and mentors. Consistent equipment across staff.

Accept the Dell laptop proposal, purchase all 14 units as the higher-performance Dell Pro Plus model, and allow upgraded wireless/network capability if available, with total spending not to exceed \$27,500.

Wes Porter asked for a motion to approve the Laptops

Chandi Sainsbury made a motion to approve the bid from Dell for \$27000

Alyson Slaugh 2nd the motion

Roll Call

Wes Porter

Carl Morton

Alyson Slaugh

David Aldrich

Jared Short

Chandi Sainsbury

Jared McEachnie

Motion carried

Dr. Campbell reported as a side note that we had an emergency water heater purchase. That the school's water heater failed approximately four days before students returned. Because of previously approved administrative purchasing authority, the school was able to act immediately rather than wait for another board meeting. A replacement water heater was purchased for approximately \$10,000. Administration thanked the board for providing enough purchasing authority to resolve urgent operational issues.

5.3 SLP-**vote required** -Speech-Language Pathology / Special Education Services. Dr. Campbell and Dana discussed the school's need for additional Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) support. The school currently contracts with Ashley Regional for limited SLP services. Current availability is approximately Thursday mornings 7:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. This amount of time is no longer sufficient for the school's growing special education caseload. Approximately 75 students may currently require related speech services/support. The school's on-site speech-language technician must also operate under appropriate licensed SLP supervision.

Compliance Concern: Administration emphasized that insufficient SLP supervision and services could lead to failure to meet IEP requirements,difficulty scheduling parent/teacher/administrator/SLP meetings, testing delays,documentation problems, and state/federal special education compliance issues.

Options Reviewed-contracts/proposals were reviewed from: Ashley Regional, Hedges Enterprises, and Utah Speech and Language Solutions.

Administration favored Hedges Enterprises-reasons included-experience working with approximately 30 schools, familiarity with charter and rural schools, ability to provide supervision remotely when appropriate, willingness to travel on-site when needed, and ability to supplement rather than replace the school's existing staff. The school intends to maintain its relationship with Ashley Regional while adding additional support. Administration had already discussed the change with the hospital, and hospital representatives were reportedly supportive because their own SLP staff are operating at or near capacity.

Wes asked for a motion

Chandi Sainsbury made a motion to accept the contract of Hedges Enterprises.
David Aldrich 2nd the motion

Roll Call
Wes Porter
Carl Morton
Alyson Slaugh
David Aldrich
Jared Short
Chandi Sainsbury
Jared McKeachnie

5.4Ipad Mini -**vote required** -Dana asked the board to purchase approximately 30 iPad Minis for the secondary art program. The devices will be used for digital art instruction. Chromebooks used previously were considered inadequate for the types of creative work students are expected to produce. Apple devices were viewed as better suited for: Digital art, creative applications, higher-level design work.

Although another purchasing option may have been somewhat cheaper, administration recommended purchasing through ETS because: ETS has an existing relationship with the school. ETS provides Apple technical expertise. The school's current technology provider, Spectra, does not support Apple products. ETS provides setup/service support. The service agreement was discussed as approximately three years.

Wes Porter asked for a motion to approve the Ipad

Carl Morton made a motion to approve the bid from ETS for the 30 Ipad minis

Chandi Sainsbury 2nd the motion

Roll Call
Wes Porter
Carl Morton
Alyson Slaugh
David Aldrich
Jared Short
Chandi Sainsbury
Jared McKeachnie

5. Board Governance - Wes Porter

6.1 Approval of minutes from March 12, 2026 - **vote required**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-zcl348u95WtHc6S8rbStGrvjR-ZvUYIkYVbILWfjPE/edit?tab=t.0>-Wes Porter asked for a motion

David Aldrich approve Mar 12, 2026 minutes

Chandi Sainsbury 2nd

Roll Call
Wes Porter
Carl Morton
Alyson Slaugh
David Aldrich
Jared Short
Chandi Sainsbury
Jared McKeachnie

Approval of minutes from May 14, 2026 - **vote required**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ngspq_cFXCAM63G2Tae3lFJS7GjjHvCH_rvuqRzPv30/edit?tab=t.0 Wes Porter asked for a motion to approve the

May 14, 2026

Jared Short approved of the May 14, 2026 minutes

David Aldrich 2nd the motion

Roll Call
Wes Porter
Carl Morton
Alyson Slaugh
David Aldrich
Jared Short
Chandi Sainsbury
Jared McKeachnie

b. Approval of minutes from June 18, 2026 - **vote required**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KxhgP3lvTuhb706xyi0_a6E1bPrmskN5I2DglSunMDw/edit?tab=t.0 Wes Porter asked for a motion to approve the

Jun 18, 2026

Chandi Sainsbury approve of the minutes of the June 18, 2026

Alyson Slaugh 2nd

Roll Call

Wes Porter

Carl Morton

Alyson Slaugh

David Aldrich

Jared Short

Chandi Sainsbury

Jared McKeachnie

c. Approval of minutes from June 25, 2026 - **vote required**

 Draft min_06252026 Wes Porter asked for a motion

Chandi Sainsbury moved approved of the June 25, 2026 min.

David Aldrich 2nd

Roll Call

Wes Porter

Carl Morton

Alyson Slaugh

David Aldrich

Jared Short

Chandi Sainsbury

Jared McKeachnie

6. Executive Session/Closed Session

6.1 Move to Closed Session

6.2 Move out of Closed Session

6.3 Possible Motion on Closed Session Decision- Wes Porter asked if we needed a closed session. No closed session was required.

a. **Adjourn Meeting**-Board Chair Closing -Wes Porter reflected on his years of service. Carl Morton will now be Board President.

Wes Porter asked for a motion to adjourn

David Aldrich made a motion to adjourn the meeting
Alydon Slaugh 2nd the motion

Roll Call

Wes Porter

Carl Morton

Alyson Slaugh

David Aldrich

Jared Short

Chandi Sainsbury

Jared McKeachnie