



Board of Education Work Session - Sep 22 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, September 22, 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.

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1. **Work Session 6pm (A work session is intended to provide opportunities for board members to study issues in depth, gather and analyze information, and clarify situations and potential solutions. The Board will not make decision or take any action during a work session. While open to the public, these sessions are more informal than the regular board meeting.)**

- 1.1 Welcome and Roll Call

Board Members Present: Melissa Rich, Robert Gowans, Elizabeth Smith, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields, Scott Bryan

Excused: Emily Syphus

Administration Present: Dr. Mark Ernst, Jeremy Walker, Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Brad Hranicky, Andy Peterson, Shalon Jones-Miller, Heather Castagno, Charles Hansen

- 1.2 Revenue Stabilization Plan

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Jeremy Walker, Business Administrator, presented an overview of a multi-year strategy to proactively address the District's long-term fiscal challenges.

Mr. Walker explained that current financial projections indicate the District could face insolvency by 2035 if Utah's school funding model and the District's local tax base remain unchanged. He noted that the state law limits the District's ability to increase local property tax rates, operating costs continue to rise due to inflation and unfunded mandates, and state funding increases have not kept pace with expenditures. The District is currently operating with an annual deficit of approximately \$5 million while utilizing existing fund balance reserves.

Mr. Walker outlined three primary goals of the Revenue Stabilization Plan:

1. Create Clarity and Awareness regarding Utah's K-12 funding model and its disproportionate impact on districts with low property tax bases, including Tooele District.
2. Maintain modest spending increases by limiting expenditure growth to inflationary costs and mandated requirements while protecting core educational services and staff stability.
3. Secure a sustainable revenue model by 2030 through collaboration with state leaders to pursue more equitable funding.

Mr. Walker emphasized that the plan is not an emergency response or request for special treatment but rather a proactive effort to maintain financial stability, protect

educational opportunities, and advocate for a more sustainable and equitable funding model statewide.

Looking ahead, Mr. Walker outlined the next steps, including the formation of a committee to refine focus areas and key financial metrics, continued engagement with local and state policymakers, public outreach through open houses and work meetings, implementation of an outcome-based budgeting process, and consideration of a future General Obligation Bond election.

Board members discussed factors contributing to the District's long-term financial challenges, including revenue limitations, inflation, and rising labor costs. Members noted the importance of remaining competitive with Wasatch Front labor markets while managing personnel expenses, the District's largest cost.

Members also discussed the use of the term *insolvency*. Member Thompson emphasized that the Board would not allow the District to become insolvent and encouraged careful communication regarding future financial projections. Member Bryan noted that if current trends continue unchanged, significant operational reductions may be necessary, and expressed appreciation for the District's proactive approach to addressing these challenges.

The Board discussed the importance of educating the community about the District's funding challenges, evaluating spending through benchmarking and per-pupil expenditures, and clearly defining the purpose and timing of any future General Obligation Bond proposal.

Members emphasized the need to balance fiscal responsibility with the protection of core services and employee stability. Mr. Walker noted that while the District can directly manage expenditures, long-term sustainability will require addressing both revenue and spending challenges through continued planning, community outreach, and legislative engagement.

[Revenue Stabilization Plan Overview Board Workmeeting.pdf](#) 

1.3 School and Student Safety Report

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Bob Curfew, Safety and Security Director, presented an update on districtwide safety and security initiatives and reviewed the District's progress toward meeting state-mandated school safety requirements.

Mr. Curfew reported that the District has successfully implemented its Armed Guardian Program, with Armed Guardians currently serving school throughout the District. Additional candidates have been identified and are scheduled to participate in upcoming training opportunities.

Mr. Curfew reported on the District's progress in meeting state school safety requirements, including plans for security film installation on ground-level windows, expanded camera coverage at school entrances, and the implementation of wearable panic alert devices. He noted that the District has selected Centegix as the provider for the CrisisAlert system, which will allow staff to initiate emergency alerts and request assistance when needed. The system will be deployed districtwide over the next three to six months and will provide real-time location information to administrators, emergency dispatch, and first responders during emergencies. All employees will receive a wearable alert device, with additional devices available for substitute staff. Mr. Curfew emphasized the District's continued commitment to enhancing school safety and maintaining compliance with state requirements. The Board received the report and discussed implementation timelines and future safety initiatives.

2. Adjourn

2.1 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Adjourn

Moved by: Scott Bryan; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Not Present at Vote: Emily Syphus

Motion Carries 6-0