

THOMAS EDISON CHARTER SCHOOLS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Date: September 30, 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 Ester Israelsen

Board Members Attending Electronically: none

Board Members Absent and Excused: Jeff Mason and Ryan Reeves

Pledge of Allegiance: Lindsey Fowers

1. **Approval of Agenda**

2. **Public Comment**

None

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 Ester Israelsen

Resolved: unanimous

4. **Board Training - Brian Carpenter Podcast #6 That'll be \$1.4 million please: liability & ethics, conflicts of interest**

This month's training focused on how the board should spend its time on oversight, accountability, risk management, finances, compliance, and policy—not day-to-day school minutiae. The passage recommends conducting a board self-assessment and considering a legal risk assessment of the board's oversight.

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

No discussion.

6. **TECS Philosophy: Jim Peterson**

This item is combined with item #7 – Teacher Salary Scale

7. **Teacher Salary Scale Update: Jim Peterson (discussion to officially update teacher salary scale)**

The board discussed updating Thomas Edison Charter School's teacher salary scale, which uses five salary levels with overlapping ranges and considers experience, education, and especially teacher performance rather than relying solely on years of service. The scale has not been formally approved

or updated for about 2½ years, so administration will review the proposed FY27 ranges alongside current teacher salaries and make recommendations for adjustments. Because the salary scale is part of the school's policy and procedures manual, the board will ultimately need to approve the updated scale. No action was taken at this meeting; the proposal will return for consideration at a future board meeting.

8. Financial Report: Jim Peterson

As of September 30, the school's financial numbers were largely actual figures, with a few estimates for items such as interest payments and state revenue that will be updated next month. The South Campus continues to operate well within budget and remains in the black, while North Campus showed a temporary expense spike in August due to roof repairs and artificial turf payments. The board discussed using the school's accumulated cash surplus to cover approximately 60% of those major North Campus expenses rather than charging them entirely to the current year's budget, consistent with how the school has funded past expansions. This approach would better reflect the school's financial position and help preserve the current-year budget.

9. Student Data Report: Angela Williams

The Utah State Board of Education reported that 71% of Utah third graders are currently reading on grade level, with a statewide goal of reaching 80% by July 2030. Under the new reporting method, students scoring in the green or blue performance levels are considered proficient. Thomas Edison Charter School, with North and South combined as one LEA, achieved an impressive 88.8% of third graders reading on grade level, ranking fourth among Utah LEAs. The three LEAs ranking above Thomas Edison are all single-school charter LEAs. The administration was pleased with the results and shared the achievement with elementary teachers.

Thomas Edison has completed beginning-of-year Acadience benchmark testing in reading and math, with strong overall results compared with state averages. In reading, proficiency rates are 61% for kindergarten, 73% for first grade, 89% for second grade, and 85% for third grade. In math, the rates are 68% for kindergarten, 80% for first grade, 74% for second grade, and 84% for third grade. While kindergarten scores declined somewhat from last year in both subjects, first grade reading and math improved, and second- and third-grade reading also showed growth. Second-grade math was slightly lower than last year but remains above the school's typical performance over the past five years. Overall, the data shows that all grade levels are performing above state averages, with particularly strong results in the upper elementary grades, continuing a trend of improvement in recent years.

10. Grievance Policy #1307: Jamie Lewis

The school's grievance policy is functioning well, but the state recently clarified that the policy must specifically address how USBE (Utah State Board of Education) hotline complaints are handled. The school has therefore added a statement to the policy specifying that any USBE hotline complaints will be handled according to the procedures outlined in the grievance policy.

Motion to approve the change to Policy 1307 as presented: Lindsey Fowers

Second: Courtney Carpenter

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, and Ester Israelsen

Resolved: unanimous

11. Principal Reports: Melani Kirk & Brad Larsen

North:

- Classroom Observations: Strategic Outcome #4 focuses on positive-to-negative feedback ratios. Classroom observations show an overwhelmingly positive ratio, well above 8:1.
- Student Teachers: The school currently has two student teachers and several practicum students, providing valuable experience in a charter school setting and potential opportunities to identify future staff.
- Library Literacy Night: Librarian Noel Harild hosted a Literacy Night to increase parent engagement and introduce families to resources such as Vox audiobooks and Yoto players.
- Health Screenings: Vision and hearing screenings have been completed.
- Fall Family Activity: A free fall family event was held on September 25 with bounce houses and other activities. The event was funded by the parent organization and focused on building community rather than fundraising.

South:

- Enrollment: October 1 enrollment is projected at 668 students, down from the school's historical high of 723. South will closely monitor its budget due to lower enrollment.
- Enrollment Changes: The school gained 61 new students, indicating that marketing efforts are working, but enrollment has been affected by new schools, homeschooling, and families moving out of the valley.
- Economically Disadvantaged Students: About one-quarter of the student population is economically disadvantaged, demonstrating that the school serves a diverse population and supports students with varying needs.
- Constitution Day: This year's Constitution Day assembly focused on heroes and was well received, with strong support from the parent organization.
- USU Student Teachers/Practicum Students: The school continues to host USU student teachers and practicum students. These experiences benefit the students and give the school opportunities to connect with potential future teachers.
- Student Support Program: A program that was previously offered after school is now provided during the school day. Teachers schedule the program to better reach students whose families may not otherwise bring them in.
- School Safety: Fire drills have been completed successfully. The school is also working through implementation of a new CrisisGo safety system.
- Kindergarten Staffing: Enrollment includes two full-day kindergarten classes and one half-day class. The full-day classes have 27 students each, while the half-day class has about 15 students. Additional support of 12 hours per week was added to help manage the larger and more challenging full-day kindergarten classes.

12. Vendor Requests: Melani Kirk & Brad Larsen

Informational Vendor Information:

- **School Safety Devices:** Cache County schools are coordinating on a common wearable panic device system so emergency dispatch can respond efficiently without having to manage multiple systems. TECS plans to use the Motorola WPA (Wearable Panic Alarm) system, which also integrates with the school's existing systems and was the least expensive of the options considered.
- **Bosk Media Renewal:** The school renewed its contract with Bosk Media for social media and advertising after seeing positive results from its hands-on, local approach. Bosk Media's presence at local events has helped connect with families, particularly at North Campus, and has contributed to increased community awareness of Thomas Edison. There has been noticeably more discussion about Thomas Edison on local social media groups, with many positive comments from families and community members about their experiences with the school.

Vendor Approval:

The school needs to replace two rooftop HVAC units in the original part of the building because they are beyond their expected lifespan and the air-conditioning systems are no longer performing well. Two companies provided comparable options: Advanced Heating and Air Conditioning quoted \$30,160 for York units, while BCS Mechanical quoted \$23,412 for Carrier units, with economizers already included. Because the quotes expire next month, the request is for the board to approve up to \$30,160 for the replacement of the two units, allowing administration to proceed while finalizing the contractor and specific equipment. The final company and actual cost will be reported back to the board.

Motion to approve funding for up to \$30,160 for HVAC units: Mikelshan Bartschi

Second: Lindsey Fowers

Affirmative Vote: Lindsey Fowers, Courtney Carpenter, Mikelshan Bartschi, and Ester Israelsen

Resolved: unanimous

13. Adjourn at 6:27 pm