



Board of Education Meeting - Oct 13 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 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, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields(arrived at 5:21 pm)

Administration Present: Dr. Mark Ernst, Jeremy Walker, Dr. Cody Reutzel, Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Ian Silva, Sue Medina

At 5:15 pm, a motion was made to enter executive session

- 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, Elizabeth Smith, Scott Bryan, Todd Thompson, ValaRee Shields

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

- 2.1 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Melissa Rich called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, welcomed patrons in attendance, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. 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.)

- 3.1 Patron Comments

- Mitzi Belverstone - SPOTSD
- Travis Prawitt addressed the Board regarding transportation and bus safety.

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- Alaina Prawitt addressed the Board regarding transportation and bus safety.
- Chelsie Miles - TEA
- Amanda Davis addressed bus safety [Submission ID 3761 Received for Board of Education Public Comment.pdf](#) 

4. Academics

4.1 Beginning-of-the-Year Acadience Data (K-3 math and reading)

Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendent, presented the Fall 2026 Achievement Data Update, reviewing early literacy and mathematics achievement data, progress toward district achievement goals, and implementation of the district's Early Learning Plan. Highlights included beginning-of-year literacy and mathematics proficiency data, growth targets for the 2026-27 school year, and progress-monitoring measures to support student achievement.

The literacy report highlighted efforts to increase the percentage of first-grade students performing at or above benchmark and improve second-grade benchmark proficiency, with a continued focus on ensuring students attain reading proficiency by the end of third grade. Data showed positive growth in kindergarten literacy, improved district growth and proficiency rankings, and strong academic progress across grade levels, reflecting the effectiveness of current curriculum, instructional practices, and staff efforts.

Dr. Reutzel also reviewed mathematics achievement goals, including targeted increases in benchmark proficiency across elementary grade levels. Board members discussed the importance of recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of educators whose work contributes to student success. The Board received the report, acknowledged the positive student achievement trends, and recognized the established achievement targets that will guide ongoing improvement efforts in literacy and mathematics.

[Fall Achievement Update 2026.pdf](#) 

5. Consent Items

5.1 Minutes

- [Board of Education Meeting - Sep 08 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 
- [Board of Education Work Session - Sep 22 2026 - Minutes - Html](#) 

5.2 Expenditure Report

- [September 2026 Board Expenditure Report.pdf](#) 

5.3 Revenue Report

- [September 2026 Board Revenue Report.pdf](#) 

5.4 Disbursement Report

- [SEPTEMBER 2026 DISBURSEMENT REPORT.pdf](#) 

5.5	Financial Reports	#
	• AUG26 Combined Financial Statements.pdf  • AUG27 Combined Financial Statements.pdf 	
5.6	Personnel Decisions	#
	• September Personnel Decisions 2026.pdf 	
5.7	LEA Specific License	#
	• October 2026 LEA Specifics - Sheet1.pdf 	
5.8	Amended Trustland Plans	#
	• CNJJHS Amendment.pdf 	
5.9	Surplus Items	#
	• Memo surplus to board 26-10-7.pdf 	
5.10	Request for Proposal/Invitation for Bid	#
	Jill Whiting, Budget Director, and Michael Garcia, Construction Coordinator, presented the bid award recommendation for fencing improvements at Copper Canyon Elementary School and Sterling Elementary School. An Invitation for Bids was issued, and in accordance with the solicitation requirements, the bid award recommendation was based solely on pricing. The Board reviewed the recommendation and related project information. • Copper Canyon Elementary Fencing Upgrades - PM - ADA - 05222026.pdf  • Sterling Elementary Fencing Upgrades - PM - ADA - 05222026.pdf  •	
5.11	2026-2027 School Year Calendar	
	Dr. Mark Ernst, Superintendent, presented proposed revisions to the 2026-2027 school calendar to support compliance with SB 241 Individualized Reading Plan requirements for K-3 students. The proposed changes include designating an elementary half-day on May 21, 2027, adjusting elementary Parent-Teacher Conference dates, and reinstating weather-related make-up days to ensure the required instructional time is met. The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed calendar revisions and their impact on student learning and teacher responsibilities.	
5.12	Exemptions for Community Council	#
	• Ibapah Elementary • IBAPAH Community Council Board Letter SY26 (002).docx 	
5.13	2026-2027 SRO Agreement	#
	• 2026-2027 SRO Contract-Grantsville.pdf  Approve consent items as presented Moved by: ValaRee Shields; seconded by: Robert Gowans	#

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6. Action Items

6 Sex Education Curriculum Materials, 2nd Read

- Chantel Cowan, Math Curriculum and Policy Director, reported that the Sex Education Curriculum Committee met to review curriculum materials. The committee included representation from parents, nursing staff, education staff, and administration. Two parents, one nurse, one teacher, and one administrator were in attendance during the review process. The Board received the report as information.

Sex Education Curriculum

Child Development

- [Request Form](#)
- [Child Development Birth Influences worksheet](#)
- [Birth Influences 22-23](#)
- [Childhood Health and Wellness](#)
- [Orton- Domains and Theorists](#)
- [Positive Guidance Techniques](#)

Health 10 Grade

- [Request Form](#)
- [Dating and Marriage with Success Sequence](#)

DEC Online Health-Dating and Marriage Modules in Edgenuity

- [Request Form](#)
- Transcript of the Modules:
 - **8th grade health:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Qw-g6NEpXniKvJUkkfVgeHliODFBCRfMSV7xu6yFwGU/edit?usp=sharing>
 - **10th grade health:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GirfCdVv1GUzbHJnDMiVMlIgmNcvSnySGf4l8WFC5OM/edit?usp=sharing>

HEAL 1008 Concurrent Enrollment

- [Request Form](#)
- [Chapter 11 PowerPoint: The Reproductive System](#)
- Hartman's Medical Terminology: The Basics by Harman Publishing, 2025, Chapter 11--**If you would like to view this, please contact Chantel Cowan at 435-833-1900**
- *Statement added to the disclosure*
- **Notice to TCSD Students and Parents:** The textbook for HEAL 1008 Medical Terminology, Hartman's Medical Terminology, The Basics, was selected by the Dean at Utah State University. Much of the information for class will come from this textbook. I need to inform you that the terms abortion and gender affirming hormone treatments are mentioned in the text, but they will not be discussed in class, and students will not be tested on them.

Emergency Medical Responder

- [Request Form](#)
- [Emergency Medical Response By the American Red Cross, Chapter 24](#)
- [Chapter 24 PowerPoint: Child Birth](#)
- [Chapter 24 Guided Notes](#)

Presenter: SVS, Pathways

- [Request Form](#)
- [Dating and Consent Presentation](#)

Videos in the Presentation

- [1. Consent Is](#)
- [2. Each Year](#)
- [3. Paige's Story](#)
- [3. Paige's Story](#)
- [4. Office Parody](#)
- [Worksheet](#)

New Materials Added since the First Read:

The Sex Ed Curriculum Committee met on September 8 and recommended the following for Board approval.

Concurrent Medical Anatomy and Physiology

- [Request form](#)
- <https://openstax.org/books/anatomy-and-physiology-2e/pages/preface> Chapter 27 – The Reproductive System, Chapter 28 – Development and Inheritance
- Third Edition, Hole's Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology, Charles J. Welsh, Cynthia Prentice-Craver, 2026 (updated version of the one previously adopted). **If you would like to view this book, please contact Chantel Cowan at 435-833-1900.**

Approve sex education materials as presented.

Moved by: Emily Syphus; seconded by: Todd Thompson

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.2 Revised Policy 1019 Board Members: Code of Ethics, 2nd Read

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Chantel Cowan, Director of Policy and Math Curriculum, presented Revised Policy 1019, Board Member Code of Ethics, for a second reading. The revisions transition the policy to the district's standardized policy format and clarify board governance, conflict-of-interest requirements, meeting conduct, complaint procedures, confidentiality, and compliance with applicable ethics laws. No changes were made following the first reading. The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed policy revisions.

- [1019 Board Members: Code of Ethics](#) 
- [Revised Policy 1019, Board Code of Ethics, Request Form.pdf](#) 

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

Approve Revised Policy 1019, Board Members: Code of Ethics as presented for implementation. #

Moved by: ValaRee Shields; seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.3 Revised Policy 11020, Student Behavior and Support Framework, 2nd Read #

Julie Spindler, Prevention and YIC Supervisor, presented Revised Policy 11020, Student Behavior and Support Framework, for a second reading. The revisions strengthen the district's student behavior support framework by incorporating social-emotional learning, restorative practices, parental engagement, and enhanced support processes. The policy also aligns with current state and federal requirements and provides clearer guidance regarding student conduct, safety, and disciplinary procedures. No changes were made following the first reading. The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed policy revisions.

- [11020 Positive Behavior Interventions and Support](#) 
- [Policy Request Form Revised Policy 11020.pdf](#) 
- [Revised Policy 11020 comparison document.pdf](#) 

Approve Revised Policy 11020, Student Behavior and Support Framework, as presented for implementation. #

Moved by: Todd Thompson; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.4 2026-2027 TSSA Plans #

Area Directors presented the schools' 2026-2027 Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA) Plans for Board consideration. Following the presentation and review, the Board approved the 2026-2027 TSSA Plans as presented.

- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19LadbVvZ-I0RcN_NS_IGMDkZ8izK6lfwYDns8VZ1AkU/edit?usp=sharing
- [NESS Schools TSSA Application 26-27.pdf](#) 
- [SECONDARY TSSA Plans FY27 1.pdf](#) 

Approve the 2026-2027 TSSA Plans as presented. #

Moved by: ValaRee Shields; seconded by: Robert Gowans

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.5 Revised Policy 6032, Student Prohibition on Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, Hazing, and Retaliation, 1st Read #

Ms. Julie Spindler, Prevention and YIC Supervisor, presented proposed revisions to Policy 6032, Student Prohibition of Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, Hazing, and Retaliation. The revisions are intended to align the policy with current Utah law and Board Rule requirements and strengthen district expectations for prevention, training, reporting, and compliance for both students and employees. The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed policy updates.

Julie Spindler stated that the revisions clarify reporting procedures, expectations for investigations, and response protocols for bullying incidents. During the discussion, Member Thompson asked whether policy implementation helps reduce bullying incidents and reviewed how the district tracks and documents reported cases. Administration noted that while reported incidents have increased, the increase is largely attributable to improved awareness, reporting, and documentation practices. It was emphasized that creating a positive school climate, educating students and parents, and implementing prevention strategies are key factors in reducing bullying behaviors. Member Syphus discussed the importance of providing clear guidance to staff to ensure incidents are addressed consistently and appropriately.

- [6032 Student Prohibition of Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Harassment, Hazing, and Retaliation](#) 
- [Policy 6032 Comparison Table.pdf](#) 
- [Policy Request Form - Bullying 6032.pdf](#) 

Move revised policy 6032, Student Prohibition of Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, Hazing, and Retaliation, forward for 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

6.6 Revised Policy 4044, Time and Attendance, 1st Read #

Charles Hansen, Human Resources Director, presented proposed revisions to Board Policy 4044 for a first reading. The proposed changes were designed to strengthen compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The Board received the policy revisions for first review and discussion.

- [4044 Time and Attendance including Flex Time and Overtime](#) 
- [board-policy-request-analysis-policy-4044-v2 \(1\).pdf](#) 
- [4044 Request Form.pdf](#) 

Approve Revised Policy 4044 Time and Attendance, Including Flex Time and Overtime as presented for implementation. #

Moved by: Robert Gowans; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

6.7 Revised Policy 7011, Conduct on School Premises, 1st Read #

Bob Curfew, School and Student Safety Director, presented proposed revisions to Policy 7011, Conduct on School Premises, for a first reading. The proposed revisions align the policy with recent state statutory changes regarding the concealed carry of firearms on school premises by holders of concealed firearm permits. The Board received the policy revisions for first review and discussion.

- [Revised Policy 7011, Conduct on School Premises, 1st Read.pdf](#) 
- [Policy 7011 Comparison Table.pdf](#) 
- [Policy Request Form for policy 7011 Sep 2026.pdf](#) 

Approve revised policy 7011, Conduct on School Premises, for implementation. #

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. Information, Discussion or Calendar Items

7.1 Business Administrator Report #

Jeremy Walker, Business Administrator, provided a business administration update to the Board, highlighting observations and insights from his first six months in the role. The update included portfolio responsibilities, progress on key district initiatives, and the status of major projects within the Business Administration Department. The Board received the report and discussed ongoing priorities and operational planning efforts.

Mr. Walker provided an update on district financial operations, efficiency initiatives, and long-term fiscal planning. He highlighted efforts to reduce costs and improve processes, including implementation of the Equal Pay to Summer Pay Advantage Program, transition toward paperless accounts payable, and other operational efficiencies. The Board discussed the impact of increased administrative requirements, state-mandated changes to purchasing and reporting, and the costs associated with maintaining specialized programs and processes. Updates were also provided on the district salary study, onboarding improvements, and development of a Revenue Stabilization Plan. Board members emphasized the importance of identifying additional efficiencies, communicating the district's financial realities to the community, and advocating for improvements to the state education funding model. A committee consisting of Board members Thompson, Shields, and Bryan was established to explore additional cost-saving strategies and assist in developing solutions-focused communication regarding the district's financial challenges and future needs.

7.2	2026-2027 School Improvement Plans Area Directors presented the 2026-2027 School Improvement Plans for the Board's review. • https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UmCmuGKtZQsg-1yMbv7hMhldFfaKrbC3ZMoDHLEf6IQ/edit?usp=sharing • ELEMENTARY School Improvements plans 26-27.pdf  • NESS School Improvements plans FY27.pdf  • SECONDARY School Improvement Plans FY27.pdf 	#
7.3	Operations Quick Sheet Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Assistant Superintendent, provided the Board with the monthly Operations Quick Sheet as an informational update. The report summarized key operational activities, projects, and district updates to keep Board members informed of ongoing work and initiatives. No formal presentation was provided. october-board-ops-quick-sheet-v14 (1).pdf  october-board-ops-quick-sheet-ADA.docx 	#
7.4	Current Enrollment Update Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Assistant Superintendent, presented the district's October 1 Enrollment Report, providing an overview of current enrollment trends, growth patterns, staffing impacts, and planning considerations. The report included information to support future resource allocation, staffing decisions, and student enrollment projections. The Board reviewed and discussed the enrollment data and its implications for district planning. Dr. Sarah Jarnagin, Assistant Superintendent, presented the district's enrollment update, reporting a decrease of approximately 248 students overall, primarily at the elementary level, while secondary enrollment continues to show growth. The Board reviewed five-year enrollment trends, population patterns across the district, and the impact of enrollment shifts resulting from Desert Peak High School's addition of a senior class. Administration outlined the annual enrollment projection process, including state enrollment counts, boundary-based projections, open enrollment timelines, out-of-boundary requests, and staffing determinations. Discussion also included building capacity, student-to-teacher ratios, late enrollments, and communication surrounding open enrollment and athletic eligibility deadlines. The Board received the report and discussed the challenges of balancing enrollment, staffing, and facility capacity while accommodating student and family choice. Official October 1 enrollment count submitted to the State Enrollment trends and implications.pdf 	#
7.5	Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for Behavior Update	#

Mr. Stephen Duggan, MTSS and Reset Center Coordinator, presented an overview of the district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Elementary Pilot Initiative and Reset Center Program. The presentation included implementation plans, student intervention and support strategies, anticipated outcomes, and alignment with the district's Strategic Plan. The Board reviewed the information and discussed the programs' role in supporting student success, behavior, and academic achievement.

Administration reviewed the three-tiered behavior support model, focusing on proactive universal supports, targeted interventions, and intensive individualized services. Data highlighting the impact of suspensions and student disengagement were shared, reinforcing the importance of keeping students connected to school and learning. The Board discussed the goal of reducing behavioral disruptions, office referrals, and lost instructional time while creating a safer and more supportive learning environment. The administration also outlined a phased implementation plan, including stakeholder involvement, the formation of a steering committee, and the development of a pilot program to ensure successful districtwide implementation.

[Board Presentation October 2026.pdf](#) 

7.6 Board of Education Committee Reports

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October Committee Reports:

- Delegate Assembly
- Audit Committee

Board members provided a report from the Delegate Assembly, highlighting a successful two-year effort to elevate special education funding and support as a statewide legislative priority. The Board noted this as a significant step toward addressing ongoing special education challenges faced by school districts. Members also reported that the Utah School Superintendents Association (USSA) and Utah School Boards Association (USBA) have jointly hired a government relations representative to advocate for education priorities identified through the delegate process and to strengthen legislative efforts on behalf of public schools statewide.

[Board Committee Assignments 2025-2026.pdf](#) 

8. Adjourn (10:00 pm Curfew)

8.1 Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:03 pm

Adjourn

Moved by: Robert Gowans; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Motion Carries 7-0

