Board of Education Work Session - Oct 27, 2026, Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 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.

1. Work Session 6 pm (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 a 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, ValaRee Shields, Todd Thompson, Elizabeth Smith

Excused: Emily Syphus, Scott Bryan

District Administration Present: Dr. Mark Ernst, Superintendent; Jeremy Walker, Business Administrator; Dr. Sarah Jarnagin and Dr. Cody Reutzel, Assistant Superintendents; Brad Hranicky, Secondary Director; Andy Peterson, Elementary Director; Shalon Jones-Miller, School Improvement Director; Dr. Dustin Nelson, Technology Director; Brett Valdez, Communications Director; Heather Castagno, Student Services Director; Ian Silva, Operations Director; and Jackie Gallegos, Board Clerk.

President Melissa Rich called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1.2 USBA Training

Representatives from the Utah School Boards Association (USBA), including Richard Stowell, (USBA Executive Director), Curtis Whipple (USBA President and Wayne County Board Member), and Mark Clement (USBA Past President and Alpine School District Board Member), provided governance training for Board members. The presentation emphasized the board's primary responsibilities of establishing policy, providing direction, and hiring the Superintendent and Business Administrator. Presenters stressed the importance of board members remaining within their governance role, addressing concerns through appropriate channels, and acting only as a collective board rather than as individuals. Training included discussion of real-world scenarios demonstrating appropriate board governance, the importance of maintaining board cohesion, establishing board norms, responding appropriately to public input, and fostering strong working relationships with the Superintendent and Business Administrator. The

presenters highlighted effective communication, mutual respect among board members, and the importance of supporting district leadership to promote successful governance.

1.3 Computers in the Classroom #

Dr. Dustin Nelson, Technology Director, and Thane St. Clair, ED Tech Supervisor, provided an overview of the district's instructional technology program, including the role of Chromebooks in supporting teaching and learning, implementation of Utah HB 273 requirements, and future technology initiatives.

They reviewed the district's evolution in technology, current instructional technology practices, and the continued use of Chromebooks, digital learning platforms, and technology coaching to support student achievement. They emphasized that technology should enhance instruction and be used in ways that are valuable, safe, and effective.

They updated the Board on the implementation plans for HB 273, including changes to student device access, screen-time expectations, classroom Chromebook use, and parent involvement requirements.

Dr. Nelson and Mr. St. Clair also discussed the ongoing development of an artificial intelligence (AI) policy and future plans for student device use, instructional technology systems, and professional learning focused on effective technology integration.

Oct 2026 Work Session_TCSD_Ed Tech Future_Board_Presentation.pdf

ADA_Future of Ed Tech in TCSD_Oct 2026 Presentation.docx

1.4 Future Planning #

Jeremy Walker, Business Administrator, presented an overview of the proposed Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), including facility needs, project priorities, funding considerations, and long-term strategies to support the district's future growth.

Mr. Walker explained that the CIP is intended to serve as a comprehensive 10-year planning document that identifies, prioritizes, and funds major capital projects. He reviewed current facility needs, including school replacement and renovation projects, deferred maintenance, safety and security upgrades, and future growth considerations. Mr. Walker also provided an overview of the district's capital funding sources, including Board-authorized revenues, voter-approved funding mechanisms, and state-designated funding.

Board members discussed project prioritization, funding options, and the importance of establishing a formal methodology to guide long-term capital investment decisions. Board Member Thompson inquired whether the administration would recommend pursuing a General Obligation (G.O.) Bond as a future funding strategy. Mr. Walker indicated that a G.O. Bond would likely be recommended to address significant facility needs identified in the plan.

President Rich noted that an existing G.O. Bond obligation is scheduled to roll off in the coming year, which could lessen the impact of a future bond on taxpayers. She emphasized the importance of considering the timing of any future bond proposal.

Board Member Shields stressed the importance of sharing the findings of the VCBO facilities assessment with the public, noting that the report provides an independent evaluation of district facility conditions and capital needs.

Capital Improvements Plan - Overview.pdf

2. Adjourn

2.1 Adjournment

At 7:43 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjourn

Moved by: Robert Gowans; seconded by: ValaRee Shields

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

Not Present at Vote: Emily Syphus and Scott Bryan

Motion Carries 5-0

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