













# Breakout Session Overview

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

## Target Audience/Focus

- ◆ Board Members
- ◆ Administrators
- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Pre-Operational Schools
- ◆ Secondary Teachers
- ◆ Elementary Teachers
- ◆ Special Education
- ◆ Counselors
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ School Culture
- ◆ AI

Charter School University Session 1		Charter School University Session 1	
Room	12:50 – 1:50 p.m.	Room	12:50 – 1:50 p.m.
Meridian A	<p><b>From Board Chair to the LEA, What I Wish I'd Known Then</b></p> <p><i>Jon Eborn</i> Summit Academy</p> <p>◆◆◆</p>	Meridian G	<p><b>Nature: The Best Co-Teacher</b></p> <p><i>Karen Bell</i> Utah's Every Kid Outdoors, Division of Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>◆◆◆◆◆◆◆</p>
Meridian B	<p><b>No More Whack-a-Mole: Preventing Misbehavior Before It Starts</b></p> <p><i>Nathan Cureton</i> Innovations Ed</p> <p>◆◆◆◆◆◆◆</p>	Meridian H	<p><b>PCBL in the Primary Grades (K-1)</b></p> <p><i>Rachel Smith</i> Odyssey Charter School</p> <p>◆</p>
Meridian C	<p><b>Take A Little Field Trip</b></p> <p><i>Trent Van Leuven</i> Mackay High School</p> <p>◆◆◆</p>	Twilight 1	<p><b>Avoiding Schoolslop: Rethinking How We Assess and Teach in the AI World</b></p> <p><i>Maria Andersen</i> Beehive Science and Technology Academy</p> <p>◆◆◆</p>
Meridian D	<p><b>Beyond Translation: Designing Classrooms Where English Learners Can Thrive</b></p> <p><i>Nancy Y. Somarriba</i> Sandstone Psychology</p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>	Twilight 2	<p><b>Selective Factors Impacting Charter School Enrollment</b></p> <p><i>Nathan Marshall</i> Providence Hall Charter School</p> <p>◆◆◆</p>
Meridian E	<p><b>Scaffolding Grade Level Text for All Readers</b></p> <p><i>Jennifer Thronsen</i> Impactful Learning Designs</p> <p>◆◆◆</p>	Twilight 3	<p><b>Media Resources Available at No Cost for Teachers and Students in Utah</b></p> <p><i>Mariah Gerlach</i> Providence Hall Charter School</p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>
Meridian F	<p><b>Strategic Planning and Long-Term Sustainability</b></p> <p><i>Heather Wendling</i> National Charter Schools Institute</p> <p>◆</p>	Zephyr	<p><b>Math for All: Using Number Talks to Support Students with Disabilities, Multilingual Learners, and Students with Diverse Math Needs</b></p> <p><i>Jasmine Franco</i> Elevated Charter School</p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>

	<i>Charter School University Session 2</i>			<i>Charter School University Session 2</i>	
<b>Room</b>	<b>2:00 – 3:00 p.m.</b>		<b>Room</b>	<b>2:00 – 3:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Meridian A</b>	<b>Board Clerk Training - How to Comply with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA)</b> <i>Joy Palmer</i> <i>Vanguard Charter School</i> 		<b>Meridian G</b>	<b>Leading Through Conflict: Practical Skills for Boards and School Leaders When the School Is Under Stress</b> <i>Jamee Adams</i> <i>Mountain View Montessori</i> 	
<b>Meridian B</b>	<b>Heroes and Horses</b> <i>Tyler Bastian and Nicole Tomlin</i> <i>Roots Charter High School</i> 		<b>Meridian H</b>	<b>Executive Function in Action: Simple Interventions with Life-Changing Results for Students and Teachers</b> <i>Lindsay Baird</i> <i>WSU Charter Academy</i> 	
<b>Meridian C</b>	<b>Canva Reimagined: Unlock the Magic</b> <i>Kayla Towner</i> <i>Utah Education Network</i> 		<b>Twilight 1</b>	<b>Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP) Unlocked: Tips, Tricks, and Financial Strategies</b> <i>Meagan Johnston and Cynthia White</i> <i>Statewide Online Education Program</i> 	
<b>Meridian D</b>	<b>Student Engagement Strategies in a Virtual Learning Environment</b> <i>Stephanie Davis</i> <i>WestEd</i> 		<b>Twilight 2</b>	<b>A PCBL Journey</b> <i>Amy Edwards</i> <i>Elevated Charter School</i> 	
<b>Meridian E</b>	<b>Tips and Tricks to Boost Student Enrollment</b> <i>Brandon Francis</i> <i>Target River</i> 		<b>Twilight 3</b>	<b>The Underdiscovered World of Metacognition-Reading Comprehension Power!</b> <i>Alicia Griffin</i> <i>Paradigm Schools</i> 	
<b>Meridian F</b>	<b>From Innovation to Impact: Using Go See Coach to Implement Evidence-Based Practices</b> <i>John Jeon and David Forbush</i> <i>USU Center for the School of the Future</i> 		<b>Zephyr</b>	<b>Motivating Math Moments</b> <i>Becca McKendrick</i> <i>Monticello Academy</i> 	

	<i>Charter School University Session 3</i>		<i>Charter School University Session 3</i>
<b>Room</b>	<b>3:30 – 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>3:30 – 4:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Meridian A</b>	<b>Policy That Works: Governance for Real Outcomes</b> <i>Joylin Lincoln</i> <i>Utah Association of Public Charter Schools</i> 	<b>Meridian G</b>	<b>Pulling Rhinoceros Teeth: Telling Your Stakeholders Your Story</b> <i>Lincoln Fillmore</i> <i>State Charter School Board</i> 
<b>Meridian B</b>	<b>Giving It Your All Without Giving It ALL</b> <i>Blake Clark</i> <i>Clark Educational Consulting</i> 	<b>Meridian H</b>	<b>More Than Bilingual: Building Identity and Cultural Competence</b> <i>Eulogio Alejandre</i> <i>Esperanza Elementary School (retired)</i> 
<b>Meridian C</b>	<b>High-Impact Instruction: Using ALDO to Scale Evidence-Based Practices</b> <i>Jeremiah Sandberg</i> <i>Ascent Academies of Utah</i> 	<b>Twilight 1</b>	<b>Teaching Argument Writing Skills Through Class Debates</b> <i>Heather Burton</i> <i>Lakeview Academy</i> 
<b>Meridian D</b>	<b>Helping Students Engage When They Don't Understand What's Going On</b> <i>Mark Gardner</i> <i>Roots Charter High School</i> 	<b>Twilight 2</b>	<b>Leveraging Media Creation in the Classroom and School</b> <i>Joshua Hall</i> <i>Dreamstock Media</i> 
<b>Meridian E</b>	<b>Every Day Counts: Attendance Strategies for Success</b> <i>Megan Menlove and Garrett Russell</i> <i>Utah State Board of Education</i> 	<b>Twilight 3</b>	<b>Less Screen. More Human. How AI Builds Adult Capacity to Deliver Measurable Literacy Outcomes</b> <i>Marci Houseman rinnalla</i> 
<b>Meridian F</b>	<b>A Director's Guide to Educator Licensing and Hiring</b> <i>Malia Hite</i> <i>Utah State Board of Education</i> 	<b>Zephyr</b>	<b>Driving Math Achievement: Defining High-Quality Math Instruction - Part 1</b> <i>Dr. Destiny Woodbury and Dr. Natasha Ward</i> <i>EdConnective</i> 

	<i>Charter School University Session 4</i>		<i>Charter School University Session 4</i>
<b>Room</b>	<b>4:40 – 5:40 p.m.</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>4:40 – 5:40 p.m.</b>
<b>Meridian A</b>	<p><b>Board Ethics 101</b>  <i>Chris Yorgason</i>  <i>Yorgason Law Offices, PLLC</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>	<b>Meridian G</b>	<p><b>Intro to PCBL: Guiding Principles and Strategies for Improving Learning</b>  <i>Kayla Towner</i>  <i>Utah Education Network</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>
<b>Meridian B</b>	<p><b>Coaching That Moves the Needle: Turning Classroom Observations into Measurable Growth</b>  <i>Haylee Chesney and Erick Diaz</i>  <i>Wallace Stegner Academy</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆◆◆</p>	<b>Meridian H</b>	<p><b>Common Missteps in Classroom Management</b>  <i>Allison Parker Riddle</i>  <i>Davis School District</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>
<b>Meridian C</b>	<p><b>Academic Innovation, It Cannot Just be a Catch Phrase</b>  <i>Matty Bryant</i>  <i>Spark Academy at Heritage Schools</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆</p>	<b>Twilight 2</b>	<p><b>Ready, Set, Differentiate! Same Summit, Different Paths</b>  <i>Katrina Handsaker</i>  <i>Innovations Ed.</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>
<b>Meridian D</b>	<p><b>Strategic Staffing: Attracting, Placing, and Retaining High-Quality Educators for Maximum Impact</b>  <i>DeLaina Tonks, Steve Davis, Ann Meeks, Lisa Boucher</i>  <i>Mountain Heights Academy</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>	<b>Twilight 3</b>	<p><b>Adults Working with Youth: Mandated Reporter Training</b>  <i>Emily Sparks</i>  <i>Prevent Child Abuse Utah</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆</p>
<b>Meridian E</b>	<p><b>Navigating the Noise: Empowering News-Literate Students with Checkology</b>  <i>Chris Haught</i>  <i>Southwest Educational Service Center</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>	<b>Zephyr</b>	<p><b>Driving Math Achievement: Defining High-Quality Math Instruction - Part 2</b>  <i>Dr. Destiny Woodbury and Dr. Natasha Ward</i>  <i>EdConnective</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆</p>
<b>Meridian F</b>	<p><b>UAPCS Incubator Fellowship Program</b>  <i>Tom Rupp and Rachel Knighton</i>  <i>Custom Class Charter School and Vanguard Academy</i></p> <p>◆◆◆◆</p>		

# Breakout Session Overview

Thursday June 11, 2026

## Target Audience













- ◆ Board Members
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- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Pre-Operational Schools
- ◆ Secondary Teachers
- ◆ Elementary Teachers
- ◆ Special Education
- ◆ Counselors
- ◆ Marketing
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- ◆ AI

Charter School University Session 5		Charter School University Session 5	
Room	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Room	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Meridian A	<p><b>Staying Out of Hot Water: A Practical Guide to Resolving Public Education Hotline Complaints</b></p> <p><i>Platte Nielson and Cynthia Phillips AW Services</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆</p>	Meridian H	<p><b>From Chaos to Consistency: Classroom Management That Works (Yes, for Teachers AND Students)</b></p> <p><i>Kenneth Applegate Education Advocate</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆</p>
Meridian B	<p><b>Radical Collaboration: Growing an Ecosystem of Innovative Educators Across Utah</b></p> <p><i>Nate Justis, Cami Player and Laura Reina USU Collaboratory for Innovation in Teaching and Leadership/Edith Bowen Laboratory School</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆</p>	Twilight 1	<p><b>Do Less, Get More: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Charter Schools</b></p> <p><i>Julie Laub Lean Think</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆</p>
Meridian C	<p><b>From Paper to Insight: Using AI to Analyze Handwritten Student Work Without Putting Kids on Screens</b></p> <p><i>Dane Roberts and Christopher Roberts Monticello Academy/Intevate Labs</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆</p>	Twilight 2	<p><b>A Place Called Charter School: A 60-Minute Design Lab</b></p> <p><i>David Forbush, Parker Fawson and John Jeon USU Center for the School of the Future</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆</p>
Meridian D	<p><b>Brain Training: The Missing Piece in Solving the Literacy Crisis</b></p> <p><i>Amy Hart Canyon Grove Academy</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆</p>	Twilight 3	<p><b>Put PEP in your Students' Step!</b></p> <p><i>Valerie Hoopes, Anjeanette Armstrong and Andrea Johnson Guadalupe School/Teaching it Right</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆</p>
Meridian E	<p><b>How Do We Grow Schools Together</b></p> <p><i>Jasmin Zures and Taylor Smith ThrivePoint Academy of Utah</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆</p>	Twilight 4	<p><b>Leading School Turnarounds: Step-by-step Frameworks for Reversing Declining Enrollment, Improving Test Scores, or Rebuilding Culture in Underperforming Charters</b></p> <p><i>Jamee Adams Mountain View Montessori</i></p> <p>◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆</p>

<b>Meridian F</b>	<b>From Leadership Load to Leadership Lift: Launching The Multiplier Effect Book Study</b> <i>Marci Houseman and Melissa Hamilton</i> <i>Chasing Impact</i>	<b>Zephyr</b>	<b>Canva Time Savers</b> <i>Chris Haught</i> <i>Southwest Educational Service Center</i>
<b>Meridian G</b>	<b>Sheets Just Got Real: Personalizing Instruction Using Google Sheets</b> <i>Sven Livingston</i> <i>Quest Academy Charter School</i>		

	<i>Charter School University Session 6</i>		<i>Charter School University Session 6</i>
<b>Room</b>	<b>12:50 – 1:50 p.m.</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>12:50 – 1:50 p.m.</b>
<b>Meridian A</b>	<b>Stay in Your Lane: How Charter School Boards Can Avoid Micromanaging and Actually Help Their Schools Thrive</b> <i>Lori Drake and Richard Bigler</i> <i>Highmark Charter School</i>	<b>Meridian H</b>	<b>AI Tools for Digital Storytelling: Google Vids and Adobe Podcast</b> <i>Rob Bentley</i> <i>Utah Education Network</i>
<b>Meridian B</b>	<b>AI Without Losing the Human: Using Artificial Intelligence to Deepen Real Connection in Schools</b> <i>Tyler Bastian</i> <i>Roots Charter High School/243 Collective</i>	<b>Twilight 1</b>	<b>Crisis Communications: How to Stay in the Game when Crisis Hits Your School</b> <i>Tamra Watson</i> <i>Utah Association of Public Charter Schools</i>
<b>Meridian C</b>	<b>Partnering with the State Charter School Board</b> <i>Stacey Hutchings, SCSB Board Members and Staff</i> <i>State Charter School Board</i>	<b>Twilight 2</b>	<b>Won't You Be Our Neighbor? PBS KIDS and Education Tools for Educators</b> <i>Melanie Pehrson-Noyce and Annie Frazier</i> <i>PBS Utah</i>
<b>Meridian D</b>	<b>Building Systems for K-3 Literacy Success</b> <i>Kalie Chamberlain and Jed Grunig</i> <i>USU Center for the School of the Future/Logan School District</i>	<b>Twilight 3</b>	<b>Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive, and Dodge: Teaching in 2026 and Beyond</b> <i>Darren Beck</i> <i>Merit Academy</i>
<b>Meridian E</b>	<b>Market Update and Facility Financing Discussion</b> <i>David Robertson</i> <i>LRB Public Finance Advisors</i>	<b>Twilight 4</b>	<b>Using the TOWS Model to Build a Balanced Scorecard to Navigate the Next Five Years at Syracuse Arts Academy.</b> <i>Matthew Mouritsen, AW Services</i> <i>Syracuse Arts Academy Leadership</i>
<b>Meridian G</b>	<b>Student Engagement: High-Impact Strategies That Actually Work</b> <i>Nathan Cureton</i> <i>InnovationsEd</i>	<b>Zephyr</b>	<b>Driving Math Achievement: Building a Focused Improvement Plan - Part 1</b> <i>Dr. Destiny Woodbury and Dr. Natasha Ward</i> <i>EdConnective</i>



	<i>Charter School University Session 7</i>		<i>Charter School University Session 7</i>
<b>Room</b>	<b>2:25 – 3:25 p.m.</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>2:25 – 3:25 p.m.</b>
<b>Meridian A</b>	<b>Are Your Charter Councils Set Up for Success? School LAND Trust Trends and Resources for Council Formation and Structure</b> <i>Marcus Chen</i> <i>School LAND Trust- USBE</i> 	<b>Meridian H</b>	<b>Play it Forward: Games that Reinforce Foundational Reading Skills</b> <i>Shannon Bowles</i> <i>Reading Horizons</i> 
<b>Meridian B</b>	<b>Connection Is the Intervention: What Schools Get Wrong About Behavior, Burnout, and Belonging</b> <i>Tyler Bastian</i> <i>Roots Charter High School/243 Collective</i> 	<b>Twilight 1</b>	<b>The Importance of Words in a Digital Age</b> <i>Kathy Becker</i> <i>Memoria Press</i> 
<b>Meridian C</b>	<b>AI and the Classroom: Protecting the Student Thinking Process</b> <i>Melanie Valentine</i> <i>EdTech Blueprint</i> 	<b>Twilight 2</b>	<b>Learning á la Carte: The Art of Personalization and Choice</b> <i>Melanie Hueffle and Sven Livingston</i> <i>Quest Academy Charter School</i> 
<b>Meridian D</b>	<b>Clarity, Coherence, and Culture: Leadership That Moves Schools Forward</b> <i>Jennifer Blake</i> <i>Lumen Scholar Institute</i> 	<b>Twilight 3</b>	<b>Parents Behaving Badly: Now What? (2026 Edition)</b> <i>Erin Preston</i> <i>Utah Education Law</i> 
<b>Meridian E</b>	<b>Utah School Finance 101</b> <i>Dale Frost</i> <i>Utah State Board of Education</i> 	<b>Twilight 4</b>	<b>Social Emotional Awareness and Learning in the Every Day of School</b> <i>Nicoletta Householder</i> <i>Maria Montessori Academy</i> 
<b>Meridian F</b>	<b>Enrollment As an Operational Discipline</b> <i>Gage Ecke and Claire Chayet</i> <i>Schola</i> 	<b>Zephyr</b>	<b>Driving Math Achievement: Building a Focused Improvement Plan - Part 2</b> <i>Dr. Destiny Woodbury and Dr. Natasha Ward</i> <i>EdConnective</i> 
<b>Meridian G</b>	<b>Too Legit to Sit: Active Classrooms, Engaged Learners</b> <i>Mandy Johns</i> <i>Ascent Academies of Utah</i> 