

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BOARD
FOR THE UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

February 4, 2016

A meeting of the Utah State Board of Education acting as the governing board of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB Board) was held February 4, 2016 at the Utah State Office of Education, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Board Members Present:

Chair David L. Crandall
1st Vice Chair David L. Thomas
Member Dixie L. Allen
Member Laura Belnap
Member Leslie B. Castle
Member Barbara W. Corry

Member Brittney Cummins
Member Linda B. Hansen
Member Mark Huntsman
Member Stan Lockhart
Member Jefferson Moss
Member Terryl Warner

Board Members Excused:

2nd Vice Chair Jennifer A. Johnson
Member Spencer Stokes
Member Joel Wright

USDB Executive Staff and Board Staff Present:

Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent
Carolyn Lasater, USDB Associate Supt.
Michelle Tanner, USDB Associate Supt.
Letty Debenham, USDB Finance Director

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Nicole Call, Assistant Attorney General
Debbie Davis, Internal Audit Director

Others Present:

Mark Wallin, Melissa Shunn-Mitchell, Karen Steele—The Center for Creativity, Innovation and Discovery; Jan Ferré, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities; Scott Rogers, Darlene Pitt, Mat Jackson—Tooele School District.

Call to Order

Chair David Crandall called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION was made by Member Lockhart and seconded by Member Allen that the

Board approve the minutes of the USDB Board meeting held January 6, 2016.

Motion carried; Members Belnap, Castle, Corry, and Thomas absent.

Jean Massieu Division Report

USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman gave background on the Jean Massieu School (JMS) for the Deaf, which started as a charter school. It was deemed more beneficial for JMS to move into USDB and become part of its system. The school is the largest deaf campus USDB has.

Superintendent Coleman introduced Amy Breinhold, principal/director of the school. Ms. Breinhold gave a presentation about the school. GET THIS. She informed that JMS has a partnership with Evergreen Jr. High where students mainstream into some of the classes there. The high school students they are housed at Skyline High and have classrooms at the building there. Students take classes from teachers of the deaf and also mainstream into appropriate classes. Students learn ASL and English individualized speech and listening.

Member Hansen reported that she has toured the school and it was a great experience.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Coleman reported on the following items.

- Yesterday he was contacted by the president of Gallaudet University, who will be visiting the USDB next Wednesday. Gallaudet is the only university with programs and services specifically designed to accommodate deaf and heard of hearing students. He plans to show the president the Skyline program and JMS.
- In the last Board meeting a question was asked about comparing student progress of Utah deaf-blind students with other states. Superintendent Coleman reported that although programs can't be compared, there is data available on student progress. Also, USDB works with the USOE Special Education Department on its Annual Report to the legislature. Much of the data can't be reported publicly because doing so would identify specific students.
- USDB has had good reception with the legislature regarding its funding requests. An early intervention bill is being run that would require reporting to the USDB concurrently with

reporting to the Department of Health when children are identified as deaf. Upon notification, the USDB will immediately contact families of those children regarding providing services. This is significant, because a matter of months can make a difference in language development. Utah will be the only state in the country that does this.

Financial Report

USDB Finance Director Letty Debenham gave a brief summary of USDB's budget to date. She also reviewed the USDB Revenue Collection Status Report. Collections are still needed for IDEA and some Medicaid money. Some revenue won't be realized until close to year end.

Ms. Debenham gave an update on the successes in the finance area at USDB. All of the finance staff are new, including herself. The Finance staff is working with the FINET accounting system to implement time-saving processes and to monitor the enrichment fund and carry forward money. USDB Finance has also tightened the way USDB monitors its budget and expenditures.

Member Lockhart asked how FINET will factor into the new finance system for which the Board is requesting funding. Ms. Debenham reported that FINET is very thorough and what is entered can be reviewed and edited; reports are easy and it is very timely in processing payments. The only drawback in the system is payroll, which is two weeks delayed. Currently USDB's FINET information does not reconcile with BASE—the USOE system.

Member Castle asked Superintendent Coleman what he anticipates will be of most interest to the president of Gallaudet University. Superintendent Coleman replied that Associate Superintendent Michelle Tanner's leadership and vision is impressive. Also impressive is the USDB structure with support from the state, the way things are organized with both the deaf and blind schools together, the breadth of the program, and equity in delivering a high level of education.

Associate Superintendent Tanner noted that it is very powerful that in Utah the deaf and blind students are spread throughout the state. In other states students must go to one location. Also, other states don't have the same connection with the Health Department as we do here.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved March 18, 2016