

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2016

A special meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held on February 18, 2016 at the Utah State Office of Education, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair David Crandall conducted.

Board Members Present:

Chair David L. Crandall	Member Linda B. Hansen
1 st Vice Chair David L. Thomas	Member Mark Huntsman
2 nd Vice Chair Jennifer A. Johnson	Member Stan Lockhart
Member Dixie L. Allen (by phone)	Member Jefferson Moss
Member Laura Belnap	Member Spencer F. Stokes
Member Leslie B. Castle	Member Terryl Warner
Member Barbara W. Corry	Member Joel Wright
Member Brittney Cummins	

Executive and Board Staff Present:

Sydnee Dickson, Acting Supt.	Emilie Wheeler, Board Communications Specialist
Rich Nye, Acting Deputy Supt.	Debbie Davis, Internal Audit Director
Scott Jones, Associate Supt.	David Jones, Assistant Attorney General
Angie Stallings, Associate Supt.	Nicole Call, Assistant Attorney General
Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary	

Others Present:

Tami Pyfer, Karen Peterson, Aaron Christenson—Governor's Office; Brad Asay, AFT Utah; Ric Cantrell, Utah Senate; Aaron Brough, Ann White—USOE; Morgan Jacobsen, *Deseret News*; Duke Mossman, Northeast Utah Educational Services; Erin Preston, Lear Law; Whittney Evans, KUER; Jan Ferré, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities; Chris Godfrey, Utah School Employees Association; Sara Jones, Utah Education Association; Dawn Davis, Utah PTA; Marlies Burns, State Charter School Board; Ben Dalton, Garfield School District; Bob Johnson, Kane School District; David Styler, Millard School District; Kent Larsen, South Sanpete School District; Mike Nelson

Call to Order

Chair David Crandall called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Legislative Items

Associate Superintendent Angie Stallings reviewed and the Board discussed the following legislation: S.B. 163 *Kindergarten Age Exception Amendments*; S.B. 176 *Office of the State Board of Education Employment Amendments*; S.B. 143 1st Sub *Competency-based Learning Amendments*; H.B. 329 1st Sub *Federal Funds Procedures Act Amendments*; H.B. 200 *Student Assessment Modifications*; H.B. 358 *Student Privacy Amendments*; H.B. 289 1st Sub *Charter School Closure Amendments*.

The Board requested that Senator Howard Stephenson be invited to the Board's next legislative meeting to discuss S.B. 176.

The school district superintendents in the audience were invited to comment on H.B. 200 regarding the use of the ACT instead of SAGE test in the 11th grade. Superintendent Jerry Holmes, North Summit District, informed that the Utah core is more in depth than the ACT, especially on 11th grade science.

Superintendent David Styler, Millard District, voiced concern over legislative overreach into a Board decision on who tests and in what subject areas. He indicated his district appreciates data and SAGE was intended to help guide them with data. He acknowledged that at times there may be too much testing.

Superintendent Bob Johnson, Kane District, expressed similar concerns. It is disconcerting from an accountability aspect that some 11th graders will take SAGE and some will take ACT, and the comparison of scores will be more difficult.

Ben Dalton, Garfield District, voiced concern that this year the legislation covers the 11th grade, and in future years that might erode into other areas of high school. It also creates a problem for teachers on whether they spend more time on ACT standards or SAGE standards.

Superintendent Kent Larsen, South Sanpete District, appreciates the option. He believes students are over-tested. With the current system, students can't be held accountable for state testing, and that has made a huge difference in testing results in their district. He also indicated teachers are now foregoing some of the SAGE standards to get students ready for the ACT.

Liaoning Provincial Department of Education/Utah State Board of Education Agreement

Ric Cantrell, Utah Senate Chief of Staff, was welcomed to the meeting. He discussed a proposed agreement between the Liaoning Department of Education and the Board. He informed that years ago the Utah Legislature embarked on a unique relationship with the Chinese Province of Liaoning in a legislature-to-legislature relationship. The relationship will include business partnerships, educational exchanges, tourism, and science and technology. The hope is to start with an education exchange, thus the agreement proposed today. It was noted that China requires a formal invitation and this agreement would be that formal invitation to partner. It is meant to constitute a door that is open and a welcome.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Johnson and seconded by Vice Chair Thomas that the portion of the document with respect to higher education and higher education institutions be struck, and that the Acting Superintendent work with the System of Higher Education to develop a similar agreement.

Without objection, the motion was withdrawn.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Thomas and seconded by Member Moss that the Board approve the document as written with a signature line for the Board of Regents or Commissioner of Higher Education added.

Motion carried; Member Allen and Stokes absent.

Legislation

The Board discussed H.B. 358 *Student Privacy Amendments* and H.B. 289 1st Sub *Charter School Closure Amendments*. Associate Superintendent Stallings reported that H.B. 289 incorporates most of the recommendations made by the Board.

USBE Performance Imperatives

Superintendent Dickson distributed a document, Performance Imperatives of the State Board of Education. She gave some historical perspective about the financial situation in which the Board finds itself. She acknowledged the importance of all coordinators and directors at the office knowing operations and the inter-connectivity of how everything works, and

suggested that a better job of induction and training on the management side is needed. She indicated she is committed to organizing a steering committee to look at the components of management needed for induction into the system.

Associate Superintendent Scott Jones reviewed the proposed performance imperatives. He clarified that the list is not in priority order, and that it is just a draft. The goal is to ensure the superintendency is focused and synergetic on the imperatives, with the support of the Board. It was noted the list was created by Board leadership, Sydnee Dickson, Scott Jones, and Joel Coleman. Chair Crandall indicated this is an attempt to communicate many of the things discussed in the Finance and Audit Committees that all Board members may not hear. Some of the items are also in response to H.B. 360 from the 2015 legislative session.

Superintendent Jones explained that the imperatives are basically lines of effort which, if followed, create the synergy to make sure there is communication. The imperatives are high pay off lines of effort that encompass other smaller areas that need attention, to ensure staff is working in accordance with direction from the Board.

Board members expressed appreciation for the focus.

Member Huntsman commented that in moving forward there may be areas from other committees that need to be recognized. He asked for the list to be broken out by the Board committee so responsibility for moving the items forward is apparent.

Member Belnap asked for clarity on how and why the list was developed. Chair Crandall indicated it was developed partly in response to the resignation of Associate Superintendent Jones to ensure the focus on specific areas would continue. Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) Superintendent Coleman was included as he has faced similar issues at USDB. Vice Chair Johnson also reported that she created an initial list to provide information to the legislature on the need for movement from BASE to an enterprise accounting system. The list has grown since then.

Utah State Office of Education Organization

Superintendent Dickson reviewed a conceptual flow chart of the Utah State Office of Education organization at the superintendency level. She suggested there is a need for more

oversight in the operations area, and that the structure of the organization of the office may need to be looked at differently to support the work of the Board.

Member Hansen asked for input from all the superintendency that would be affected by the change. Associate Superintendent Jones outlined the connectivity of all the positions to the superintendent, and indicated there is no presumption that organization be done as outlined. It is reflective of the model put together at the USDB.

Member Castle asked as there would now be two deputies, which one would speak if the superintendent is unavailable. Superintendent Jones responded that typically in this model it is the academics deputy because that is tied into the core mission of deliverables. He also clarified that the Associate Superintendent of Policies and Plans is listed on the operations side, because policies and plans support the mission or objectives of the resources provided.

Superintendent Dickson noted that the key pieces in making this work are formal communications structures as well. The roles of all the superintendents will need to be clearly defined.

Member Lockhart asked if the structure will cost more money. Superintendent Dickson responded that to add another deputy may require an additional cost.

Executive Session

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Johnson and seconded by Member Warner that the Board move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of individuals.

Upon voice vote of the Board members present, the Board went into Executive Session at 2:25 p.m. Member Stokes and Wright were absent for the vote.

Those present in Executive Session included Chair Crandall, Vice Chairs Thomas and Johnson, and Members Allen (by phone), Belnap, Castle, Corry, Cummins, Hansen, Huntsman, Lockhart, Moss, Stokes, Warner and Wright; and Nicole Call, Emilie Wheeler and Lorraine Austin.

MOTION was made by Member Moss and seconded by Vice Chair Johnson that the Board come out of Executive Session.

Motion carried. The Board reconvened in open session at 4:30 p.m.

Appointment of Interim Superintendent

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Johnson and seconded by Member Huntsman that the Board appoint Sydnee Dickson as Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction effective immediately.

Motion carried; Member Allen absent.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Member Moss and seconded by Member Huntsman that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved February 25, 2016