

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

**May 12, 2016**

A meeting of the Utah State Board of Education Acting as the Governing Board for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was held May 12, 2016 at the Utah State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair David Crandall conducted.

**Board Members Present:**

Chair David L. Crandall	Member Brittney Cummins
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair David L. Thomas	Member Linda B. Hansen
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Jennifer A. Johnson	Member Mark Huntsman
Member Dixie L. Allen	Member Stan Lockhart
Member Laura Belnap	Member Jefferson Moss
Member Leslie B. Castle	Member Terryl Warner
Member Barbara W. Corry	

**Board Members Excused:**

Member Spencer Stokes  
Member Joel Wright

**USDB Executive Staff and Board Staff Present:**

Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent	Letty Debenham, USDB Finance Director
Carolyn Lasater, USDB Associate Supt.	Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Michelle Tanner, USDB Associate Supt.	Nicole Call, Assistant Attorney General
Sydnee Dickson, Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction	Bryan Quesenberry, Assistant Attorney General

**Others Present:**

Bruce Northcott, Daggett School District; Leslie Bingham, Utah School for the Blind; Marian Howe-Taylor, Advisory Committee on Equity of Educational Opportunities for Students.

**Call to order**

Chair David Crandall called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Thomas and seconded by Vice Chair Johnson that the Board approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Blind Campus Programs Report**

USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman introduced Gloria Hearn, Director of Blind Campus Programs. Ms. Hearn gave a presentation on those programs, which provide education and intensive vision services for blind and visually impaired students ages 3-21.

Member Hansen asked about transition services for the students. Ms. Hearn responded that the goal is making the students as independent as possible, and the focus is on preparation for careers. A big part of the transition process is the community accepting the students and teaching the community what their students can do.

Associate Superintendent Michelle Tanner added that USDB is taking some of the funds allocated to make improvements to the dorms and other areas; the workshop is being upgraded to assist with vocational skills.

Associate Superintendent Carolyn Lasater reported that transition has been a focus this year. A task force was formed that looked at curriculum, standards, and collaboration between dorm staff and classroom teachers, transfer of skills, and expanding job horizons with community partners.

Member Lockhart informed that in the private sector in the last two years there has been a huge push to recognize diversity. He suggested that USDB has a great opportunity to engage the private sector in a bigger way around the concept of diversity.

Superintendent Coleman noted that USDB overlaps with the State Office of Rehabilitation in the transition responsibility for students 14-22.

Associate Superintendent Lasater announced that Ms. Hearn will be retiring in September, after 15 years, and expressed what a loss it will be.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Coleman reported on the following items.

#### USDB Contract Approvals Policy

Recommendations for a contract approval process for the USDB were reviewed. It was

noted that the process mimics other policies for the State Superintendent and Board office.

**MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Johnson and seconded by Member Moss that the Board adopt the policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

### USDB Graduation

Superintendent Coleman invited Board members to USDB's graduation on May 19.

### Salt Lake Center

Superintendent Coleman reported that he and his associate superintendents recently toured the Salt Lake Center, which is on track for classrooms to be completed before school starts in the fall.

### Gallaudet Visit

Superintendent Coleman reported that he and Associate Superintendent Tanner recently visited Gallaudet University and had a tremendous experience there. Through these experiences with colleagues from around the nation, they aren't aware of any other state that is doing the exciting reforms in which USDB is engaged.

### **USDB Financial Report**

USDB Financial Director, Letty Debenham, discussed planning for Fiscal Year 2017. Part of the planning is prioritizing carryforward for different projects, as well as the enrichment funds.

Ms. Debenham reviewed the monthly financial report. She gave an update on improvements to the school's internal controls, specifically, the handling of cash.

Vice Chair Johnson asked when collections are done for USIMAC, as not much has been collected to date. Ms. Debenham responded that this year invoices were sent out late, but indicated staff knows the amount of the receipts and has invoiced districts.

Vice Chair Johnson suggested that a public comment item be added to the USDB agenda in the future.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved June 10, 2016