

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

January 6, 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 January 6, 2016. Vice Chair David Thomas conducted. The meeting commenced at 3:07 p.m.

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Excused:

Member Jefferson Moss
Member Spencer F. Stokes

USDB Executive Staff and Board Staff Present:

Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent	Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Carolyn Lasater, USDB Associate Supt.	Emilie Wheeler, Board Communications Specialist
Michelle Tanner, USDB Associate Supt.	
Letty Debenham, USDB Finance Director	

Others Present:

Scott Jones, Crystal Thomas—Utah State Office of Education; Holly Murdock

Call to Order

Vice Chair David Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION was made by Member Allen and seconded by Member Huntsman that the Board approve the minutes of the December 3, 2015 USDB Board meeting.

Motion carried unanimously; Members Crandall, Johnson and Wright absent.

Deaf-Blind Services Report

Susan Patton, Deaf-Blind Services Director, was introduced. She gave a presentation on the work of the Deaf-Blind Services section, which serves children who have both vision and hearing loss, birth to age 22. She reported that Utah is the premier state as far as deaf-blind services are concerned.

Member Lockhart asked whether there are any outcome measurements comparing Utah with other states. Ms. Patton indicated that Utah is the only state where every student who is identified as deaf-blind receives services. Since this is not the case in any other state, comparison is difficult. There is data showing that all of Utah's deaf-blind students are progressing. Associate Superintendent Carolyn Lasater added that when it comes to individual students, Utah has longitudinal data for the children it serves, where other states do not.

Board Policy 4001 *Board Governance of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind*

USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman referenced the policy which includes the principles that were discussed several months ago.

MOTION was made by Member Allen and seconded by Member Corry that the Board approve Board Policy 4001 *Board Governance of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind*.

Motion carried; Member Johnson absent.

USIMAC Report

Superintendent Coleman introduced Hollie Murdock, Director of the Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center (USIMAC). He reported that USIMAC provides all of the large-print and Braille services for students throughout the state. USDB is requesting legislative funding for a sustainability plan for USIMAC. A task force consisting of Superintendent Coleman, Hollie Murdock, USOE Special Education Director Glenna Gallo, USDB Superintendent Carolyn Lasater, two legislators, and two State Board of Education members, has been in place to look at USIMAC. The task force has made a recommendation that the legislature fund the Center as a statewide program, with all funding coming into one area. The task force also recommended additional space. USDB is requesting a \$605,000 increase this

legislative session for USIMAC.

Ms. Murdock gave an overview of the work of USIMAC, indicating that 75 percent of what the Center does is Braille. The program provides materials in the format students need. When the program was started in 2009 the rule was that the local education agency would pay 75 percent of the cost and USIMAC would pay 25 percent of the cost. The program was started with \$490,000 ongoing. Last year USDB received an increase of \$240,000 which allowed them to bring in an additional four staff members. In 2012 the system moved from the schools paying the 75 percent to an opt-in program, which allows the schools to pay a small portion of the actual cost. It is somewhat laborious to send out the invoices and collect the money from the LEAs each year.

Vice Chair Thomas asked if USIMAC has the capability of developing Braille questions for the SAGE assessment. Ms. Murdock responded that with the increased staff they should be able to do so in the future.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Coleman reported that the State Building Board has indicated its preference that USDB build a facility in Utah County rather than purchasing the building at which USDB has been looking. A request for building a facility will come to the State Board of Education during its discussion of legislative priorities tomorrow.

Finance Report

Letty Debenham, USDB Finance Director, reviewed the financial report. She reported that Medicaid claims haven't been entered as they should have been, and the process is being changed. Beginning in January, every 5th of the month all teachers are required to submit students who are eligible for Medicaid claims.

Vice Chair Johnson questioned why there are contracts with Canyons School District, but not Granite and Salt Lake Districts. Associate Superintendent Michelle Tanner responded that those districts pay for their own interpreters and provide their own hearing specialists. Districts must request that assistance before December 1 so personnel and funding can be

allocated.

Superintendent Coleman reported that the RFP for transportation services opened this afternoon. A cost-benefit analysis has been done to see what it would cost to bring transportation in-house, and the hope is they won't have to do so. He also reported that USDB has been working on its internal transportation policies and implementing controls, and training was held yesterday on the policies.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved February 5, 2016