

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

**November 5, 2015**

A meeting of the Utah State Board of Education acting as the governing board for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB Board) was held November 5, 2015 at the Utah State Office of Education, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Vice Chair David Thomas conducted.

**Board Members Present:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair David L. Thomas	Member Brittney Cummins
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Jennifer A. Johnson	Member Linda B. Hansen
Member Dixie L. Allen	Member Mark Huntsman
Member Laura Belnap	Member Spencer F. Stokes
Member Leslie B. Castle	Member Terryl Warner

**Board Members Excused:**

Chair David L. Crandall	Member Jefferson Moss
Member Barbara W. Corry	Member Joel Wright
Member Stan Lockhart	

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

Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent	Emilie Wheeler, Board Communication Specialist
Brad Smith, State Superintendent	
Carolyn Lasater, USDB Associate Supt.	Debbie Davis, Internal Auditor
Letty Debenham, USDB Finance Director	Nicole Call, Assistant A.G.
Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary	

**Others Present:**

Sydnee Dickson, Scott Jones, and Angie Stallings—USOE; Jay Blain, Lisa Nentl-Bloom—Utah Education Association; Jo-Ann Wong, Coalition of Minorities Advisory Council; Leah Lobato, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation; Kris Fawson, Utah Statewide Independent Living Centers; Fawn B. Morgan, PALS library; Craig Frank, UCN/ECA; Carrie Jensen, Prevent Child Abuse Utah

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair David Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Johnson and seconded by Member Huntsman that the Board approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 meeting.

Motion carried; Members Belnap and Stokes absent.

**Parent Infant Program Report**

USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman introduced Karen Borg, Director of the Parent Infant Program for the Blind and Visually Impaired (PIP BVI). She reported that the PIP motto is celebrating abilities and creating opportunities. The program serves birth to age three, and is primarily focused on home-based services. A pamphlet about the program with distributed. Ms. Borg gave an overview of the work of this program.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Coleman updated the Board on the opportunity to acquire a building in the Nebo School District that he discussed last month. He reported that he met with the school district and city this past Monday and they wholeheartedly supported USDB's purchase of the building. The appraisals came in at \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million, and USDB will probably be able to acquire the building for \$1.2 million. Superintendent Coleman requested that the Board put a \$1.2 million placeholder on its priority list for USDB and he will come back next month with more information.

Superintendent Coleman reported that there has been some turnover in USDB's business office, and two new people have been hired that will start in two weeks.

Superintendent Coleman informed the Board that USDB will be holding a Veterans Day program at which Board Member Stan Lockhart will be speaking this year.

**USDB Financial Report**

Letty Debenham, USDB Finance Director, gave the monthly financial report. She noted that the monthly expenditures report has been changed per request of the Board. As of this

point in time the USDB is doing very well with its budget balance.

Ms. Debenham reported that USDB has encumbered or prioritized \$1.6 million out of the \$1.7 million in its enrichment fund for prioritized projects. For those projects, thus far only \$54,000 has been spent. The projects are moving slowly, but according to statute, the enrichment funds do not lapse if the projects aren't completed this year.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION** was made by Member Belnap and seconded by Member Johnson that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved December 4, 2015