

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

April 14, 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 (USDB) was held April 14, 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 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair David L. Thomas	Member Mark Huntsman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Jennifer A. Johnson	Member Stan Lockhart
Member Dixie L. Allen	Member Spencer Stokes
Member Laura Belnap	Member Terryl Warner
Member Leslie B. Castle	Member Joel Wright
Member Brittney Cummins	

**Board Members Excused:**

Member Barbara W. Corry  
Member Jefferson Moss

**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	Debbie Davis, Internal Audit Director

**Others Present:**

Angie Stallings, Scott Jones—Utah State Office of Education

**Call to Order**

Chair David Crandall called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Huntsman that the Board approve the minutes of the USDB Board meeting held March 17, 2016.

Motion carried.

**Deaf South Division Report**

USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman introduced Adam Billings, Director of the Deaf South Division. Mr. Billings gave a presentation on the division.

He reviewed the mission statement that Deaf South utilizes technology in collaboration with districts and families to provide deaf and hard of hearing students with quality education and communication skills. The Division's area covers over half of the state, and they try to meet the individualized needs of the 329 students in that area.

Mr. Billings reported that right now they don't have a physical building, so meet in modulars, school classrooms, and businesses. The teachers have to be very flexible.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Coleman reported on the following.

BASE to Finet Transition

USDB has been working in both the BASE and Finet financial management systems. He reported that after year-end close, USDB will no longer use BASE, other than the C-8 system for purchase authorizations.

Update on Building Needs

Superintendent Coleman reported that the legislature appropriated \$700,000 for USDB to build a building in Utah County. He is adding that money to USDB's \$300,000 carryforward. USDB is moving ahead with the project and looking for land. The preliminary design work will be done before the next legislative session.

Superintendent Coleman noted that USDB was asked to vacate another portable in

Alpine District, resulting in a 50 percent reduction for the year in the space they had in Utah County.

#### HVAC for Jean Massieu School for the Deaf (JMS)

Superintendent Coleman reported that an emergency repair on the boiler for the JMS Salt Lake campus was required. He requested from the State Building Board \$500,000 to replace the HVAC system, and the Building Board found the money and approved the expenditure. He expressed appreciation for how well the Division of Facilities, Construction and Management works with USDB.

#### USDB Educator Licensing Overview

Superintendent Coleman reported he is in the process of looking at how licenses are applied to USDB teachers. He will send some information to the Board and report further in a future meeting.

#### **Deaf School Plan**

Associate Superintendent Michelle Tanner gave a presentation on the Utah School for the Deaf Improvement Plan. Superintendent Coleman reported that they have been visiting the most innovative schools in the state to rethink how deaf students are educated using new ways students learn and new tools. There is not another deaf school in the country that is looking at using best practices in regular schools and special education expertise.

Associate Superintendent Tanner echoed Utah's unique situation, and reiterated that Utah is way ahead of every other state in deaf education.

#### **USDB Financial Report**

USDB Financial Director Letty Debenham gave the financial report.

#### **USDB Graduation**

Superintendent Coleman announced that USDB's graduation date has changed to

May 19. All Board members were invited.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved May 13, 2016