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

December 8, 2017

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 on December 8, 2017 at the State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

Board Members Present:

Chair Mark Huntsman	Member Janet A. Cannon
1st Vice Chair Terryl Warner	Member Lisa Cummins
2nd Vice Chair Brittney Cummins	Member Jennifer Graviet
3rd Vice Chair Alisa Ellis	Member Linda B. Hansen
Member Laura Belnap	Member Carol Barlow Lear
Member Michelle Boulter	Member Kathleen Riebe

Board Members Excused:

Member Scott B. Neilson	Member Joel Wright
Member Spencer F. Stokes	

Executive Staff Present:

Joel Wright, USDB Superintendent	Michelle Tanner, Associate Supt.
Carolyn Lasater, Associate Supt.	Carl Empey, Finance Director

Others Present:
    Chris Bischke—USDB Advisory Council; Scott Jones, Lorraine Austin—USBE staff

Call to Order

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

USDB Consent Calendar

MOTION was made by Member Hansen and seconded that the Board approve the USDB Consent Calendar.

Motion carried.

<u>USDB Consent Calendar</u>

2.1 <u>Approval of Minutes</u> - The Board approved the minutes of the November 3, 2017 USDB Board meeting.

Public Comment

Dr. Chris Bischke, USDB Advisory Council Chair – came to introduce herself to the Board and offer her support. The Advisory Council includes individuals from the community who are deaf and hard of hearing, individuals who are visually impaired, and parents of individuals who are deaf-blind, as well as USDB teachers. The council's responsibility is to support and provide advice to the Board and the USDB.

Monthly Budget Report

Carl Empey, USDB's new Finance Director, was introduced. He reviewed the monthly budget report. He reported that to date $1 million more has been expended than the revenue, and explained that there was a timing issue in providing information to Utah State Board of Education (USBE) staff in order to receive funding for transportation, educator salary adjustments, and teacher supplies. USBE staff received that information last week and as of last Friday funds in excess of $2 million were transferred to USDB. Next month the percentages will be more in alignment with revenues and expenses.

Kenneth Burdett School for the Deaf

Mike Hillstrom, Director of the School for the Deaf, made a presentation about the history of the school and current programs and students served.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Joel Coleman reported on the following.

- Last year USDB interacted with the federal Office of Civil Rights (OCR) regarding the accessibility of USDB's website. The website was developed in consultation with deaf and blind individuals and using software that searched for accessibility errors. OCR

helped staff identify a few other changes needed and an agreement with OCR has been reached that the USDB website is ADA compliant.

- Superintendent Coleman brought a model of the Springville Building. He also noted that Board members were provided the schematic design site plan for the building. The building will be used mainly for pre-school and elementary school programs. USDB has agreements with the local junior high and high schools for classrooms in their buildings.

- Superintendent Coleman referenced the document provided, "Key Initiatives at USDB." He noted that Chair Huntsman suggested this document form the basis of the Superintendent's Report in the future. The document will also be on USDB's website with links to more information.

- Superintendent Coleman responded to a question on whether USDB students are in the least restrictive environment possible. He indicated that for blind students and learning and spoken language students, they generally stay with USDB through kindergarten, then go back with their non-disabled peers. The least restrictive environment for students using American Sign Language (ASL English) is not with their peers because they become isolated and it is a very restricted learning environment for them because there is a language barrier. When they can attend a school where everyone communicates directly with them through a shared language that removes those restrictions they have the most success socially, academically and emotionally. Associate Superintendent Michelle Tanner reported that USDB collaborates with junior high and high schools to provide elective courses for UDSB students in those schools and core classes are taught within those schools by USDB teachers. Superintendent Lasater also reported that the goal for blind students is to have them go back to their neighborhood schools once they learn Braille and the necessary technology. For older students, USDB offers the Expanded Core Curriculum which prepares them for post-high school experiences and skills.

- Superintendent Tanner updated the Board on the LEAD-K program where all programs for the deaf are considered. There is a LEAD-K committee and the meetings of the committee are working very well. The committee is looking at assessments and

milestones that are appropriate for deaf children to make. The committee has gone through an extensive list of assessments for deaf children over the past year and will be moving forward identifying milestones.

- The Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired recently reached out to USBE staff with a recommendation that USDB take over vision screening in schools. If the change is made USDB will be very accommodating to oversee this service.

Vice Chair Ellis invited Superintendent Coleman to come into the Board's Eliminating Barriers to Educational Excellence Task Force to identify ways to alleviate regulatory or other barriers for USDB.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Member Lear and seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved January 4, 2018