

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

**February 2, 2018**

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 February 2, 2018 at the Utah State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

**Board Members Present:**

Chair Mark Huntsman

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Brittney Cummins

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Alisa Ellis

Member Laura Belnap

Member Michelle Boulter

Member Janet A. Cannon

Member Lisa Cummins

Member Jennifer Graviet

Member Linda B. Hansen

Member Carol Barlow Lear

Member Scott B. Neilson

Member Kathleen Riebe

Member Terryl Warner

Member Joel Wright

**Board Members Absent:**

Member Spencer F. Stokes

**USDB Executive Staff Present:**

Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent

Carolyn Lasater, Associate Supt.

Michelle Tanner, Associate Supt.

Carl Empey, Finance Director

**Others Present:**

Lorraine Austin—Board Secretary; Bryan Quesenberry—Attorney General’s Office; Chris Bischke—USDB Advisory Council; Tom Faddies, Kim Christy—School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration; Laurie Thorpe

**Call to Order**

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Member Belnap and seconded by Member Cannon that the Board approve the minutes of the January 4, 2018 USDB Board meeting. [For additional details, see General Exhibit No. USDB18-5.]

Motion carried.

### **Executive Session**

**MOTION** was made by Member Riebe and seconded by Member L. Cummins that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, lease or exchange of real property.

Upon voice vote of Members Belnap, Boulter, B. Cummins, L. Cummins, Ellis, Graviet, Hansen, Huntsman, Lear, Neilson, Riebe, Warner and Wright, the Board went into closed executive session at 1:41 p.m.

Those present included all Board members above and Joel Coleman, Bryan Quesenberry, Paula Plant, Kim Christy, Tom Faddies and Lorraine Austin.

**MOTION** was made by Member Boulter and seconded by Member Cannon that the Board come out of Executive Session.

Motion carried. The Board reconvened in open session at 1:21 p.m.

### **School for the Deaf Land Trust Parcel**

**MOTION** was made by Member Neilson and seconded by Member Belnap that the Board recommend the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) sell the property in question.

Motion failed, with Members Belnap, Cannon, Hansen and Neilson in favor and all others opposed.

### **Monthly Budget Report**

Carl Empey, USDB Finance Director, gave the monthly budget report and reviewed the enrichment funds. [For additional details, see General Exhibit No. USDB18-6.]

### **Expanded Core Curriculum Presentation**

Associate Superintendent Carolyn Lasater introduced Robbin Clark, Coordinator for the Expanded Core Curriculum Program for the blind. Ms. Clark passed out occluders—glasses that

allow people to get the feel of not being able to see. She made the point that most people assume vision impairment is all or nothing, but there are all different types of vision impairment.

Ms. Clark gave a presentation about the Expanded Core Curriculum, and made it clear it is not a replacement for academic instruction, but an enhancement. She indicated that the USDB is leading the way with this instruction. [For additional details, see General Exhibit No. USDB18-7.]

### **USDB Advisory Council Report**

Chris Bischke, Chair of the USDB Advisory Council, was welcomed to the meeting. She discussed the concerns of the Advisory Council regarding the use of the enrichment funds, particularly for international travel. She reported that the committee received the requests much later last year than normal and felt they didn't have adequate time to voice their concerns before the Board approved the use of the funds. The Council had questions about the amount allotted for the travel; whether the travel should take place every year; if progress other than a GPA requirement should be considered; and whether there should be a priority for students that haven't traveled in the past. The Council also wanted to make sure the opportunities were shared with all blind students and teachers throughout the state. There was also a concern that since deaf trips are more ASL (American Sign Language) focused, LSL (Listening and Spoken Language) students might not be accommodated.

Ms. Bischke reported that the Council is working on a process to ask questions prior to the next joint Board of Education/USDB Advisory Council meeting, and will request that enrichment fund requests come to the Council in April or May. In addition, the Council will communicate with both the USDB administration and the Board.

Board member expressed appreciation for the time put in by Council members and for the work the Council does that benefits students.

### **Superintendent's Report**

USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman introduced Susan Thomas, the new USDB Communications Director.

Superintendent Coleman reported on updates he gave to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee on USDB funding requests and the Springville building. [For additional details, see General Exhibit No. USDB18-8.]

### **Adjournment**

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

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved March 16, 2018