

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

September 6, 2019

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 September 6, 2019 at the Utah State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

Members Present:

Chair Mark Huntsman
Vice Chair Brittney Cummins
Member Laura Belnap
Member Michelle Boulter
Member Janet A. Cannon
Member Cindy Davis
Member Jennie Earl
Member Jennifer Graviet

Member Linda B. Hansen
Member Scott L. Hansen
Member Mike Haynes
Member Carol Barlow Lear
Member Mark R. Marsh
Member Scott B. Neilson
Member Shawn E. Newell

USDB Executive Staff Present:

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

Minutes taken by:

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary

Others Present:

Bryan Quesenberry, Michelle Beus—Attorney General’s Office; Suzy Blackham, Jennifer Salazar—USDB staff; Jared Felt, Scott Jones—USBE staff

Opening Business

Chair Huntsman called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

Public Comment

Suzy Blackham, founder of Unified Utah for the Blind and Visually Impaired – reported the organization has shifted its focus from education to community based. Over the last several

months the organization has found that there are several splintered groups. The goal of Unified Utah is to provide an umbrella to increase the voice of the smaller groups. Unified Utah has been collaborating with the National Federation for the Blind and the Utah Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities to raise awareness. A Blind Utah Legislative Day is being planned as well as a community art build.

USDB Consent Calendar

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar

3.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the August 2, 2019 USDB Board meeting.

3.2 Contracts/Agreements

The Board approved agreements with Canyons and Weber Schools District, as presented.

Monthly Budget Report

Finance Director Carl Empey presented the budget report.

Members asked for more information about the list of donated funds, including the donors and details of fund expenditures.

SFY 21 Budget Requests

Superintendent Coleman reviewed the USDB budget requests for FY2021: 1) Millcreek Elementary Modular; 2) USIMAC; and 3) additional staff.

MOTION was made by Member Cummins and seconded that the Board approve the USDB legislative budget priorities for FY 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

Listening and Spoken Language Division Report

Superintendent Joel Coleman introduced Jennifer Salazar, Director of the Listening and Spoken Language Division. Ms. Salazar made a presentation about the work of the division. The LSL program supports families by teaching them what they need to do next in language development.

Chair Huntsman thanked her for the good work, especially on the rural side.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Coleman reported on the following.

- Thanked Member Davis for attending the USDB Opening Institute. The Institute received much positive feedback this year.
- This afternoon at 3:00 USDB is hosting its quarterly "Ask Us Anything" event for teachers. A similar event will be held with parents.
- Public Information Officer Susan Thomas will be contacting board members regarding a short video she is creating for new board members.
- The USDB Annual Report will be presented to the Board in October.
- It has been suggested that the ASL/Deaf program in Springville be named after Libby Delong. More information will be presented to the Board in October.
- Research on Listening and Spoken Language has been added to the USDB website and some old research has been removed.
- Superintendent Coleman reported that there is currently a service crisis concerning implant mapping and restorative procedures for cochlear implants. USDB audiologists are very limited in what they do in this area and there aren't enough private sector audiologists to meet the need. Superintendent Coleman indicated he would like to authorize USDB audiologists to be able to restore the programming to the device if it has been lost for some reason. Currently it is a four month wait to restore this programming if there are problems with the implants. Associate Superintendent

Michelle Tanner clarified that the audiologists would be able to restore the maps, but would not do the initial mapping. She indicated the companies will give USDB the equipment and software and USDB will send the audiologists to be trained.

Chair Huntsman requested the Board's attorneys research liability issues, compatibility with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requirements, and medical insurance requirements.

- The Superintendent has been meeting with the Utah TECH colleges concerning adapting their programs for the visually impaired.
- USDB staff will visit the national technical institute for the deaf to look for opportunities for Utah students after they graduate.
- At the request of Juab District, USDB will be partnering with the district to use one of their middle schools in a grant application to study social/emotional learning, focusing on resilience for students.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved October 4, 2019