

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2020

A legislative meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held February 13, 2020 at the Utah State Capitol Complex, House Building, Room 30, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

Members Present:

Chair Mark Huntsman	Member Jennie Earl
Vice Chair Brittney Cummins	Member Jennifer Graviet
Member Laura Belnap	Member Scott L. Hansen
Member Michelle Boulter	Member Mike Haynes (by phone)
Member Janet A. Cannon	Member Carol Barlow Lear
Member Cindy Davis	Member Mark R. Marsh

Members Absent:

Member Scott B. Neilson
Member Shawn E. Newell

Executive Staff Present:

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent
Patty Norman, Deputy Superintendent
Angie Stallings, Deputy Superintendent

Minutes taken by:

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary

Others Present:

Jay Blain, Sara Jones—Utah Education Association; Michelle Beus, Bryan Quesenberry—Assistant Attorneys General; Tami Pyfer, Karen Peterson—Governor’s Office; Todd Hauber—Utah Association of School Business Officials; Terry Shoemaker—Utah School Boards Association/School Superintendents Association; Shannon Dulaney—Utah School Superintendents Association; Kim Frank—Utah Charter Network; Duane Nixon—CSD; Representatives Keven Stratton and Brian King—Utah House of Representatives; Carli O’Neil—Utah Rural Schools Association; Laurieann Thorpe; Mark Peterson, Keith Lawrence, Jeff Van Hulten, Sara Wiebke, Darin Nielsen, Cybil Child, Thalea Longhurst, Megan Russell, Jennifer Throndsen, Patrick Lee, Deborah Jacobsen, Kathy Helgesen—USB staff

Opening Business

Vice Chair Brittney Cummins called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

USBE FY2021 Budget Priorities

Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones reviewed the process that has been followed to prioritize the Board's budget request. He informed that the Education Appropriations Subcommittee chairs have asked that the Board's budget request be finalized today. A proposed update to the Board's budget priorities list was distributed, titled "USBE Priorities."

MOTION was made by Member Huntsman and seconded that the budget priorities highlighted in red and yellow on the USBE Priorities list become the Board's final fiscal priorities for the 2020 Legislative Session, and that in addition to the items listed in red and yellow on the USBE Priorities list, the Board request \$65,000,000 one-time money to be distributed to local education agencies (LEAs) through the flexible allocation for school safety.

Chair Huntsman spoke to his motion, sharing that the Education Appropriations Subcommittee has given the Board the opportunity to present its budget priorities within \$300,000,000 in revenues that the subcommittee has designated. As a result, the proposed USBE Priorities list includes a decrease from the 6.0% WPU increase to a 4.5% WPU increase. The reduction of the WPU would allow the Board's other priorities to be funded within the revenue designation.

MOTION to divide the question was made by Member Davis and seconded to consider the priorities list separately from the \$65,000,000 addition.

Motion to divide carried, with Member Huntsman opposed.

Motion to adopt the Budget Priorities list was considered.

Some members expressed the importance of sticking to the 6% WPU increase to stand with other education stakeholders. Others supported the Board sending a strong message that more funding is needed for public education and that the Board trusts the LEAs to spend the money appropriately.

It was noted that there are no tax bills filed this year to increase revenue for the state and the concept that there is more money is not realistic. The Budget Priorities list provides a realistic look at the revenue available.

Terry Shoemaker, Executive Director of the Utah School Superintendents Association/ Utah School Boards Association, was invited to respond. He urged the Board to continue advocating for the 6% WPU increase that is supported by local boards and superintendents.

Motion to amend was made by Member Earl and seconded that the Teacher Salary Supplement Program and the USDB Weighted Average Salary Adjustments be moved up on the list just below the top ten.

Motion to amend failed, with Members Boulter, Earl and Hansen in favor, and all others opposed.

Motion to amend was made by Member Earl and seconded that Utah Futures, Qualtrics, and Quality Instruction in Pre-K through 3 be removed from the list.

Motion to amend failed, with Members Boulter and Earl in favor, and all others opposed.

Legislator Review of Legislation

Representative Keven Stratton and Representative Brian King spoke to the Board concerning an initiative on which they are working to increase the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) federal funding coming to states with public lands under federal ownership. The handout, "A Promise is a Promise – The PILT Promise of Stabilized Tax Equivalency," was distributed. Representative Stratton requested a meeting with the Board following the legislative session to look at working together on the initiative.

Representative Stratton distributed and reviewed information from a Digital Citizenship Round Table held December 16, 2019. He reported that a bill to create a Digital Citizenship and Wellness Commission is currently under review and expressed hope for the Board's support.

Budget Priorities - continued

Motion that the budget priorities highlighted in red and yellow on the USBE Priorities list become the Board's final fiscal priorities for the 2020 Legislative Session failed, with Members Belnap, Boulter, Cummins, Haynes and Huntsman in favor, and Members Cannon, Davis, Earl, Graviet, Hansen, Lear and Marsh opposed.

Motion that the Board add a request to its budget priorities of \$65,000,000 one-time money to be distributed to local education agencies (LEAs) through the flexible allocation for school safety was considered.

It was noted that the one-time ask would become #11 on the Board's priorities list already in place.

Motion carried, with Members Belnap, Cannon, Cummins, Davis, Gravier, Hansen, Haynes, Huntsman and Lear in favor, and Members Boulter, Earl and Marsh opposed.

MOTION was made by Member Cannon and seconded that the Board's FY2021 Budget Priorities (as of January 30, 2020) be revised to reflect the enrollment growth adjustment and include all items in the red and yellow sections [excluding the WPU change] as prioritized in the Finalized Request column on the Budget Priorities list presented today.

MOTION to amend was made by Member Davis and seconded that the USB E Market Adjustments and Performance Pay and the USB E Staff Fiscal Monitors items be moved up on the list to items #11 and #12 and that the \$65 million one-time request be designated as an additional request.

Motion to amend carried, with Members Belnap, Cannon, Cummins, Davis, Gravier, Huntsman, Lear and Marsh in favor, and Members Boulter, Earl, Hansen and Haynes opposed.

Motion, as amended, carried, with Member Belnap opposed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

[For additional information on items from the meeting, see General Exhibit No. 20-04.]

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved February 20, 2020