

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

February 20, 2020

A legislative meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held February 20, 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 Jennifer Graviet
Vice Chair Brittney Cummins	Member Scott L. Hansen
Member Laura Belnap (by phone)	Member Mike Haynes (by phone)
Member Michelle Boulter (by phone)	Member Carol Barlow Lear
Member Janet A. Cannon	Member Mark R. Marsh
Member Cindy Davis	Member Shawn E. Newell
Member Jennie Earl	Member Laurieann Thorpe

**Members Absent:**

Member Scott B. Neilson

**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:**

Terry Shoemaker—Utah School Boards Association/School Superintendents Association; Todd Hauber—Utah Association of School Business Officials; Joey Thorpe, David Thorpe, Allison Thorpe, and T. Larry Thorpe; Donell Pons, Curtis Pons—Decoding Dyslexia; Tami Pyfer, Karen Peterson—Governor’s Office; Alycia Spencer—PTSA Olympus Jr. High; Becky Dunn—Washington County School Board; Sara Jones—Utah Education Association; Thalea Longhurst, Mark Peterson, Keith Lawrence, Dale Frost, Barbara Fuentes, Patrick Lee, Leah Voorhies, Megan Russell, Jennifer Thronsen, Cybil Child—USBE staff

**Opening Business**

Vice Chair Brittney Cummins called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

### **Swearing in of New Board Member**

Chair Mark Huntsman administered the Oath of Office to Laurieann Thorpe. Ms. Thorpe was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy in District 3. Ms. Thorpe introduced her family members present and expressed excitement to serve on the Board.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Member Huntsman and seconded that the Board approve the minutes of its February 13, 2020 meeting.

Motion carried, with Members Cannon, Cummins, Davis, Earl, Graviet, Huntsman, Lear, Marsh, Newell and Thorpe in favor; Members Belnap, Boulter, Hansen and Haynes absent.

### **FY21 USBE Budget Priorities**

Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones referenced a comparison of the budget recommendations from the State Board of Education, Governor, and Public Education Appropriations (PEA) Subcommittee. He reported that PEA met last week and finalized its recommendation for the Executive Appropriations Committee. The Board's budget requests were largely honored.

### **Discussion with Representative Shurtliff**

Representative Lawanna Shurtliff spoke to her bill, H.B. 241 Kindergarten Attendance Amendments, which would amend the age at which school enrollment is required to include kindergarten-age children.

### **Budget Priorities - continued**

Dale Frost, USBE Fiscal Policy Analyst, reviewed PEA's recommendations in relation to the Board's request.

Deputy Superintendent Jones informed the Board about a request being made by State Finance to upgrade the FINET accounting system, of which the USBE is the biggest user. The request is for one-time money to come from the Education Fund. More detailed information will be reported in the Board's next meeting.

Chair Huntsman expressed appreciation from Senator Lyle Hillyard, Chair of the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, for Board Member attendance at Subcommittee meetings and for the work of USBE staff in preparing strong presentations.

### **2020 General Session Legislation**

Deputy Superintendent Angie Stallings and Policy Advisor Jeff Van Hulten reviewed the following legislation with the Board: 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute H.B. 242 Charter School Operations Amendments (some changes were made since the Board took a motion of support for the bill); H.B. 80 School Fees Modifications; H.B. 251 School Construction Projects Amendments; H.B. 236 Safe School Route Evaluations; S.B. 137 Partnerships for Student Success Program; H.B. 332 Special Needs Scholarship Amendments; H.B. 353 Internal Investigation Amendments; H.B. 77 Education Funding Amendments; S.B. 119 School Accountability Amendments; S.B. 99 School Leadership Development Amendments; S.B. 93 Math and Science Opportunities for Students and Teachers; H.B. 141 Educator Salary Incentive Program Amendments; S.B. 113 Arts Program Funding Amendments; and 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute S.B. 90 Procurement Code Amendments.

### **Action on Legislation**

**MOTION** was made by Member Davis and seconded that the Board support the 2020 numbered bills that match the USBE policy requests, as presented.

Without objection, 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute H.B. 242 Charter School Operations Amendments and H.B. 334 Civics Education Amendments, were pulled from the list.

Motion, as amended, carried, with Members Boulter and Earl opposed.

The bills supported include: 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute H.B. 99 Enhanced Kindergarten Amendments; S.B. 99 School Leadership Development Amendments; S.B. 119 School Accountability Amendments; H.B. 114 Early Learning Training and Assessment Amendments; H.B. 14 School Absenteeism and Truancy Amendments; S.B. 21 Education Amendments; S.B. 93 Math and Science Opportunities for Students; H.B. 141 Educator Salary Incentive Program Amendments; H.B. 258 Intergenerational Poverty Interventions Grant Program Amendments; H.B. 222 School Breakfast Participation Requirements; S.B. 73 Reading Assessment Expansion Amendments; 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute S.B. 90 Procurement Code Amendments; S.B. 113 Arts Program Funding

Amendments; S.B. 137 Partnerships for Student Success Program; H.B. 151 Accelerated Student Program Amendments; and H.B. 336 Concurrent Enrollment Certificate Pilot.

**MOTION** was made by Member Lear and seconded that the Board support 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute H.B. 242 Charter School Operations Amendments and direct staff and the Board's attorneys to work with the sponsor to consider concerns on line 491 regarding disposition of assets after closure and on line 78 regarding charter specific academic standards.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** was made by Member Earl and seconded that the Board support H.B. 77 Education Funding Amendments.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** was made by Member Gravier and seconded that the Board support H.B. 241 Kindergarten Attendance Amendments.

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

**MOTION** was made by Member Davis and seconded that the Board support H.B. 334 Civics Education Amendments.

**MOTION** to amend was made by Member Davis and seconded that the Board support the concept of the bill and explore having the standards set by the USBE.

Alicia Spencer, Olympus Jr. High PTSA, reported that the Utah PTA met last week and did not take a position on H.B. 334. PTA did discuss H.B. 152 Civics and History Education Study Groups and expressed concern that the test is a high stakes test required for graduation and is difficult for English learners to read, making it more difficult for them to pass the test.

**MOTION** was made by Member Lear and seconded that action on the rule be postponed until next week.

Motion to postpone carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

[For additional information on items from the meeting, see General Exhibit No. 20-05.]

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved February 27, 2020