

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION/USDB GOVERNING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**July 23, 2020**

A special meeting of the Utah State Board of Education/Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Governing Board was held on July 23, 2020. Due the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via videoconference. The meeting was streamed live to the public. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

**Members Present:**

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

Member Scott L. Hansen  
Member Mike Haynes  
Member Carol Barlow Lear  
Member Mark R. Marsh  
Member Shawn E. Newell  
Member Laurieann Thorpe

**Members Absent:**

Member Michelle Boulter  
Member Scott B. Neilson

**Executive Staff Present:**

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent  
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent  
Angie Stallings, Deputy Superintendent  
Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent

**Minutes taken by:**

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary

**Others Present:**

Carl Empey, Michelle Tanner, Susan Patten, Joel Coleman—Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; Michelle Beus, Bryan Quesenberry—Assistant Attorneys General; Darin Neilsen, Debbie Davis, Deborah Jacobson, Leah Voorhies, Patrick Lee, Jeff Van Hulten, Ashley Lower, Alex Farah, Jerry Record—USBE staff

**Opening Business**

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

## **Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) School Reopening Plan**

USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman presented the USDB School Reopening Plan to the Board and acknowledged Associate Superintendents Michelle Tanner and Susan Patten for their work on the plan. He reported that surveys concerning school reopening were sent to stakeholders that included parents and staff members. His team also consulted with the USDB Advisory Council and state and local departments of health. He reviewed the guiding principles, plan development and communication plan with the Board.

Board members provided input on plan elements as follows:

### Guiding Principles

- Principle 3—add wording to focus on the health and safety of students and staff.

### Daily Screenings

- 2b - clarify who will be responsible for screenings and what form the screenings will take.

### Sanitation Protocols

- 5d - reword to make clear that teacher cleaning is in addition to professional cleaning.

### Training

- 10a - change characterization of extracurricular activities as “optional for students” to include access for all.

### Symptomatic Individuals

- 13e - add statement that additional protocols released by the state will be automatically incorporated.

**MOTION** was made by Member Cummins and seconded that the Board approve the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind School Reopening Plan with the addition of the changes requested by Board Members.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **R277-419 Pupil Accounting**

Finance Committee Chair Laura Belnap reported that in its July 10 meeting, the Finance Committee passed amendments to R277-419 on first reading.

**MOTION** from Committee that the Board approve R277-419 *Pupil Accounting*, Draft 3, on second and final reading.

**MOTION** was made by Member Earl and seconded to amend lines 214-215 to read: “. . . and based on the K-12 School Reopening Requirements and Recommendations approved by the Board.”

**Motion** to amend carried, with Members Belnap and Cannon opposed.

**MOTION** to amend was made by Member Cannon and seconded to reinstate the language that had been deleted in lines 215-219, delete “use to” from line 215, delete “in-person learning” from line 216, and remove the language that had been added in lines 218-219.

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

**MOTION** was made by Member Hansen and seconded to add item (c) (lines 369-371) under section 7(4) to read: “For a student enrolled in a learner validated program, the LEA may not count a student as an eligible student if the LEA has not personally engaged with the student during the prior ten consecutive school days.”

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

**MOTION** was made by Member Cannon and seconded to amend line 219 to add “safely” before “reopening schools” and delete “for in-person learning.”

Amendment carried unanimously.

**MOTION** to amend was made by Member Davis and seconded to add that the rule will only be effective for the 2020-21 school year [lines 653-654].

Amendment carried, with Members Cannon, Davis, Earl, Graviet, Hansen, Haynes, Lear and Newell in favor, and Members Belnap, Cummins, Huntsman, Marsh and Thorpe opposed.

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

### **Requests for Board Rule Waivers**

Deputy Superintendent Angie Stallings reviewed requests for waivers of two Board rules.

**MOTION** was made by Member Marsh and seconded that due to recent legislative budget adjustments to the fiscal year 2021 budget, the State Board of Education: 1) Extend the deadline in R277-625-3 *Approval of Mental Health Screening programs* for an LEA to submit the LEA’s application for Mental Health Screening Program funds for the 2020-21 school year from August 15, 2020 to October 1, 2020; and 2) extend the deadline in R277-623-3 *School-based Mental Health Plan* for an LEA to submit the LEA’s School-based Mental Health Qualified Grant Plan for program funding for the 2020-21 school year from May 31 to October 1, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Executive Session**

**MOTION** was made by Member Belnap and seconded that the Board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy on pending or reasonably imminent litigation.

Upon voice vote of Members Belnap, Cannon, Cummins, Davis, Earl, Graviet, Hansen, Haynes, Huntsman, Lear, Marsh, Newell and Thorpe, the Board went into closed executive session at 4:50 p.m.

Those present included the Members above and Sydnee Dickson, Scott Jones, Angie Stallings, Patrick Lee, Deborah Jacobson, Bryan Quesenberry, Michelle Beus, Leah Voorhies, and Lorraine Austin.

**MOTION** was made by Member Marsh and seconded that the Board come out of executive session.

Motion carried. The Board reconvened in open meeting at 6:42 p.m.

### **R277-752 Special Education Intensive Services Fund**

The Board approved R277-752, Draft 4, in its June 4, 2020 meeting. The rule is currently open for public comment through August 15, 2020. Since the passage of the rule, staff and Board members received feedback on additional amendments to the rule. R277-752, Draft 5, which includes amendments based on that feedback, was provided for Board consideration.

**MOTION** was made by Member Cummins and seconded that the Board approve R277-752 *Special Education Intensive Services Fund*, Draft 5, on final reading.

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

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved August 6, 2020