UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDY SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

May 25, 2021

A study session of the Utah State Board of Education was held May 25, 2021. The meeting was held electronically and streamed live to the public. Chair Mark Huntsman presided. At the direction of the Chair, Vice Chair Cindy Davis conducted.

Members Present

Chair Mark Huntsman	Member Molly Hart
First Vice Chair Laura Belnap	Member Stacey Hutchings
Second Vice Chair Cindy Davis	Member Matt Hymas
Member Randy Boothe	Member Carol Barlow Lear
Member Janet A. Cannon	Member James Moss Jr.
Member Natalie Cline	Member Kristan Norton
Member Jennie Earl	Member Brent J. Strate
Member Scott L. Hansen	

Minutes taken by:
Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary

Others Present
Bryan Quesenberry, Michelle Beus—Assistant Attorneys General; Ben Leishman— Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office; Alexander Jacobson, Jason Willis—WestEd; Justin Silverstein—APA; Sydnee Dickson, Patty Norman, Angie Stallings, Darin Nielsen, Leah Voorhies, Ben Rasmussen, Malia Hite, Cybil Child, Jeff Van Hulten, Patrick Lee, Tiffany Stanley, Jerry Record, Sarah Young, Jennifer Throndsen, Jake Houtrouw—USBE staff

Opening Business

Vice Chair Cindy Davis called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She read the following statement: *As authorized by Utah Code 52-4, this meeting is being held electronically without an anchor location as the location where the public body would normally meet is closed to the public for safety reasons.*

Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission

The Board convened a taskforce in 2019 to discuss the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC) and make recommendations for improvements to UPPAC's process. One of the taskforce's recommendations was that the Board receive training on UPPAC operations and the Board's role in reviewing UPPAC's recommendations.

Ben Rasmussen, the UPPAC Executive Secretary, reviewed how UPPAC works.

Michelle Beus, Assistant Attorney General, educated the Board on the process for Board review of UPPAC recommendations.

Utah Education Funding Study

In early 2019, the Board engaged with researchers to conduct a comprehensive study of Utah's education funding system. The primary research objective was to determine the extent to which current funding formulas meet their intended purposes and provide equal educational opportunities. The study identified opportunities for improvement and in 2021, the Utah State Legislature expressed interest in addressing those areas by tasking the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee to study those areas and make recommendations to the Legislature.

Chair Huntsman provided an overview of the Funding Study.

Patrick Lee, USBE School Finance Director, provided a refresher on education finance. Ben Leishman, Finance Manager, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, answered Board member questions.

Alexander Berg-Jacobson, WestEd, reviewed key findings and recommendations from the study.

Tiffany Stanley, USBE Chief of Staff, Ben Leishman, and Alexander Berg-Jacobson reviewed drivers, insights, and considerations for the way forward on the following: At-risk add-on, equalization, economies of scale, coherence of related to basic programs, and effective use of funds.

Board members discussed areas of further analysis or support needed to inform decisions or implementation.

Utah ARP ESSER State Application Draft

Board staff is in the process of creating an application for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) as administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The total award value available to Utah K-12 is $615,526,070.

Sarah Young, Director of Strategic Initiatives, reviewed the timeline for the State Plan and work being done on the draft application that will be before the Board for action in the Board's June 3 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

[For additional information on items from the meeting, see General Exhibit No. 21-13.]

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved June 3, 2021