

Trust Advisory Committee
Minutes April 20, 2020
WebEx

Members participating: Nancy Kennedy, Steve Davis, Tyler Slack, Mary Wohlforth, Jay Blain, Sarah Thomas, Carolyn White, Lark Reynolds, Liz Mumford, Linda Hansen, Susan Edwards, Cade Douglas, Shawn McLeod.

Others: Paula Plant, Natalie Gordon, Karen Rupp, USBE School Children's Trust staff; Justin Atwater, Jessie Stewart, Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office.

At 12:05, TAC Chair Nancy Kennedy welcomed the group. Natalie Gordon introduced new TAC member Linda Hansen, who will bring her expertise serving students who are at-risk for underachievement. Linda is completing an unfinished term, and her term will expire in March of 2023.

There was one correction in the minutes. Susan Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

The next TAC meetings are scheduled for May 18th and June 15th.

Justin Atwater from the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office gave a beneficiary update. A 1600-acre parcel of trust lands in Kane County was to be leased for frac sand mining, but instead was purchased by the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. The sale included surface rights and sand rights. Carolyn White mentioned that there continues to be a lack of trust between the members of the Five County Association of Governments (including Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington) and the trustees.

Justin is grateful for the influence of the USBE through the Nominating Committees. The SITLA nominating committee is meeting now. Follow up interviews will be scheduled in May. The committee will be recommending a replacement for SITLA Chair Lonnie Bullard, whose term will expire June 30th. The committee is desirous to find a replacement that specializes in renewable resources. Because of the inability to meet in person due to the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, the appointment may take longer than usual. Chair Bullard would continue to serve until replaced.

The SITFO Nominating Committee has chosen to recommend reappointment of Kent Misener, an original member of the SITFO Board. Because Kent has not completed a full term, he can be reappointed for a full six-year term.

Karen Rupp asked Justin about the need for renewables expertise. The SITLA Board has just created a Renewables Sub-Committee, with Tim Donaldson staffing the committee and board members Warren Peterson, David Donnegan and Roger Barrus as members of the committee. Lonnie Bullard's expertise is in real estate, but because Rick

Woodbury also has an expertise in real estate, the nominating committee felt that Lonnie Bullard could be replaced with a renewable resource specialist.

Information Updates:

Paula Plant reported on the new programming for the SchoolLANDTrust website. She mentioned that it may take longer than originally planned. The new programming is being designed to pull expenditure data from the Utah Public Education Financial System (UPEFS) so DBAs will no longer need to enter expenditures on the School LAND Trust website. Principals will no longer select object codes, but instead will choose descriptive categories. The due dates will change. UPEFS data isn't published until January 15th, so final reports will be due February 5th, with upcoming year plans available after the final report is completed. This will require legislative changes to make rule and law consistent with programming. Membership will continue to be entered into SchoolLANDTrust in the fall by October 20th. Upcoming year plan due dates will not change, with districts setting the first due date (April 1st for charters) and approved plans submitted to USBE SCT on or before May 15th. Tyler Slack suggested that the committee consider proposing an update to code that allows all dates to be set in rule. The committee was supportive and will add that to the future priorities list. Steve Davis asked who was representing the charter schools in the website focus group. Katie Fuller from APA and Esther Blackwell from Entheos Academy participated, as well as Richard Eccles.

Paula also informed the group that the Utah State Board of Education adopted the proposed resolution on School Trust Lands. The resolution has been forwarded to the directors of SITLA, SITFO, the Advocacy Director and members of the Advocacy Committee.

Paula discussed the soft closure of schools because of COVID-19. The Utah State Board of Education has waived the April 1st charter school deadline and the May 15th district deadline, understanding that funding may be delayed. SCT staff also notified principals and districts that electronic council meetings were allowed unless prohibited by the district. Staff has informed districts that we are aware that some schools may have more carryover than usual, and that because end of level testing is not occurring, it may be difficult to report on the measurements of some goals. Karen Rupp has extended the April 1st deadline for schools to receive funding in July to April 15th, and Steve Davis will reach out to the 4 charter schools that are waiting until fall.

Paula reported on R277-477 implementation and messaging. Any goal that is not in the described categories or a board priority must be justified. The local boards will be trained to review goals with the new requirements. The committee discussed the best time to give the information to the users. It was decided that information should be available to the LEAs as they set up fall training; not later than August. Information can be sent to principals in the fall.

The committee discussed how to gain consensus among stakeholders before making recommendations to the Utah State Board of Education. Some ideas were:

- Make sure groups understand the purpose of TAC, and who represents TAC from their group
- Changes in recommended documents should be returned to TAC
- Suggest groups vote and put their position in writing
- When a TAC member hears from an individual in a group, let them know who represents their group and ask them to check with the representative
- SCT staff will represent and advocate for TAC's position in committee meetings and with board members, clearly defining what was recommended by committee and what is other feedback. If other feedback should be considered, suggest returning the item with feedback to TAC.
- Remember that many stakeholder groups have turnover, while the term of a TAC member is four years. Continue to remind/educate groups about how TAC works.
- A representative member of TAC could attend committee meetings when recommended items are discussed
- New Utah State Board of Education members could receive a letter from TAC letting the board member know that TAC was created by the board to advise the board.

Natalie Gordon asked the committee for recommendations on how to proceed with the carryover compliance letters. It was decided to continue with the message for consistency, adjust the tone of the notice, and look for outliers.

Jay Blain updated the group about the legislative special session. Because of the decline in revenue, state agencies are advised to plan for the prior year base budget and be cautious with what they are committing for next year. Districts are currently setting budgets, which are required to be complete by August 15th. The legislature will have additional special sessions this summer as revenue reports are received. Susan Edwards reported that the legislature removed \$30m in school safety money.

The committee decided priorities for the upcoming year.

- Review TAC Mission and Purpose
- Work to remove specific School LAND Trust program dates from state code
- Create a document for new board members to inform them about TAC

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05.