

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

December 7-8, 2017

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – December 7, 2018

A meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held December 7, 2017 at the Utah State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Board Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

Members Present:

Chair Mark Huntsman	Member Jennifer Graviet
1 st Vice Chair Terryl Warner	Member Linda B. Hansen
2 nd Vice Chair Brittney Cummins	Member Carol Barlow Lear
3 rd Vice Chair Alisa Ellis	Member Scott B. Neilson
Member Laura Belnap	Member Kathleen Riebe
Member Michelle Boulter	Member Spencer F. Stokes
Member Janet A. Cannon	Member Joel Wright
Member Lisa Cummins	

Executive Staff Present:

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent	Emilie Wheeler, Public Information Officer
Scott Jones, Deputy Supt.	
Angie Stallings, Deputy Supt.	Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Patty Norman, Deputy Supt.	

Others Present:

Lisa Nentl-Bloom—Utah Education Association; Sarah Maulden—parent; Tina Smith—Utah Association of Public Charter Schools; Rita Heagren—American Federation of Teachers Utah; Danell Mieure—Advisory Committee on Equity of Educational Services for Students; LeAnn Wood—Utah PTA; Suzanne Zraggen, Christine Schultz—Utah’s Hogle Zoo; Nikki Wayment—HawkWatch International; Amie Cox—Red Butte Garden; Tracey Collins—Natural History Museum of Utah; Allison Nicholson—Utah Education Policy Center

Call to Order

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Executive Session

MOTION was made by Member Belnap and seconded by Member L. Cummins that the Board move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems.

Upon voice vote of members Belnap, Cannon, B. Cummins, L. Cummins, Ellis, Gravier, Hansen, Huntsman, Lear and Neilson, the Board moved into Executive Session at 8:09 a.m.

Those present in Executive Session included the Board members listed above and Members Boulter, Riebe, Stokes, Warner and Wright; and Sydnee Dickson, Scott Jones, Angie Stallings, Patty Norman, Jared Felt, Jared Hill, Whitney Phillips, Lorraine Austin, David Thomas and Bryan Quesenberry.

MOTION was made by Member Belnap and seconded by Member Boulter that the Board come out of Executive Session.

Motion carried. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:05 a.m.

Opening Business

Chair Huntsman called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. Member Scott Neilson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Member Message

Member Lisa Cummins welcomed the Board and reminded them of the beach by showing samples of what the beach produces, including several types of coral and a jar of sea urchins. She read that nature provides for us many opportunities to learn about patterns that help make sense of our lives, and suggested that patterns are particularly germane to the Board of Education. Parents are the experts of their own children and the patterns surrounding them, teachers are the experts of the patterns in Utah schools, and administrators are the experts of the patterns of our teachers. Ultimately, the Board serves them all.

Education Highlight – History Day Program

Robert Austin, USBE Social Studies Specialist, introduced Wendy Rex-Atzet, the Utah History Day State Coordinator. Dr. Rex-Atzet expressed her enthusiasm for the National History Day program and what it does for students. Students choose a topic that is interesting to them and learn how to do real research using primary sources. They build critical skills that prepare them for college and careers as they engage in in-depth learning about history. She introduced three students from Ogden High School that were part of the delegation that represented Utah in the National History Day contest in Washington D.C. Edgar Corrales created an exhibit project on the freedom rights of the civil rights movement, and Keila Arredondo and Araceli Palacios built a website on César Chávez. The students informed the Board about their projects and answered questions.

Superintendent Sydnee Dickson encouraged them to think about running for public office, and suggested Board members get involved in judging the contest. She also pointed out the History Day displays in the building.

Introduction of New Employees

The following new employees introduced themselves: Breckon Heywood, Camille Clarke, Pat Gardner, Jim Gorac, Fay Tan, Cole Shakespear and Zac Christensen.

Regents' Scholarship Presentation

David Buhler, Commissioner of Higher Education, was welcomed to the meeting. He introduced Melanie Heath and Carrie Beckman from the Office of Higher Education. Commissioner Buhler distributed and reviewed a handout on the Regents' Scholarship which was established by the Legislature in 2008 to encourage high school students to take a rigorous course of study. He reported that legislation was passed in the 2017 legislative session to make some changes to the scholarship program to simplify and streamline it and make sure it continues to be sustainable. He clarified that the new program begins in 2019 and every student who qualifies for the scholarship will receive an award.

Commissioner Buhler also noted that the Regents' Scholarship does not require applicants to qualify for federal loans or grants. Under the new rule a student will have to fill

out the FAFSA, but does not need to qualify for FAFSA to receive the scholarship. Another fundamental change will be to let the institutions package the scholarship with their own scholarships and financial aid, which will better serve a broad number of students. The changes aren't eliminating anything, but are intended to allow for more students to benefit from the scholarship.

Lt. Governor Spencer Cox – Utah Education Roadmap

Lt. Governor Spencer Cox was welcomed to the meeting. He distributed and reviewed the Utah Education Roadmap 2018-2027, which is an attempt to bring all the governance roles together with a vision for education in Utah. The Roadmap will have a formal launch next month and a new website is nearly finished. The Roadmap is built on increased community and family support with a heavy emphasis on innovation and collaboration. The Lt. Governor reviewed the four focus areas: ensuring early learning; strengthening and supporting educators; access and equity throughout systems; and an emphasis on completing certificates and degrees.

He thanked the Board and their staff for their input and work on the plan.

Acknowledgment of Student Art Work

USBE Educational Specialist Cathy Jensen called attention to ornaments created by students in Iron County that are hanging on a Christmas tree in the White House. She also informed about the art work hanging in the Board Room by students from Bennion Elementary School and Bella Vista Elementary School.

Public Comment

Sarah Maulden, neurologist and advocate for special education students – voiced a concern regarding the hiring of teachers under the Alternative Routes to Licensure program that are not qualified to teach special education students in self-contained classrooms. She indicated the district is doing its best to support the teachers and is looking at ways to better recruit special education teachers, but asked that the Board examine this hiring practice.

Cliff Eccles – voiced a concern on behalf of his granddaughter in a school where there is not a qualified teacher of special education. He expressed hope that the Board could rectify the situation to make sure teachers hired to teach special education students have a license that reflects those qualifications.

Sarah Jones, Utah Education Association (UEA) – discussed an upcoming decision the Board will make on educator licensing that will impact policy decisions for years to come. UEA believes that the Board should set clear, consistent and high standards for educator licensure that should not change because someone chooses or is unable to attend a university preparation program. The Associate license and LEA-specific license the Board has adopted should provide an alternate, but equivalent, pathway to teaching and not become a shortcut to entering a classroom without sufficient preparation and training. The Association feels the proposed changes to Board rule R277-502 do not meet that consistent and high standard and has submitted detailed concerns to the Law and Licensing Committee.

General Consent Calendar

Upon requests of Board members, Item 6.10—Data Request for Dissertation, and Item 6.9—SHARP Survey, were removed from the Consent Calendar.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair B. Cummins and seconded by Member Belnap that the Board approve the General Consent Calendar, as amended.

Motion carried.

General Consent Calendar

6.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of its November 2-3, 2017 meetings.

6.2 Contracts/Agreements for Approval

The Board approved contracts/agreements over \$100,000 with the following entities: Learn; Education Direction; Utah Department of Technology Services; Canyons School District; Jordan School District; Cache School District; Tooele School District.

6.3 Contracts/Agreement for Review

The Board received contracts and agreements under \$100,000 with the following entities for review: Utah Afterschool Network; Utah Department of Transportation; Utah Interactive; Microscribe; MultiDimensional Software; Murray School District; Ogden School District; Davis School District; Washington School District; Salt Lake City School District.

6.4 Temporary Authorizations for Licenses

The Board approved temporary authorizations for educator licenses as requested by local education agencies.

6.5 List of Educator Licenses Processed

A list of educator licenses processed in November 2017 was provided for Board information.

6.6 Legislative Reports

The Board received reports prepared for the Legislature on the K-3 Reading Program, Concurrent Enrollment, and Section 504 Accommodations.

6.7 Designation of the Head of the USB E Procurement Unit

The Board designated USB E Procurement Manager Zac Christensen as head of the USB E procurement unit.

6.8 New Private Grant Notice

The Board approved application for an \$80,000 Sorenson Legacy Awards for Excellence in Arts Education grant awarded by the Sorenson Legacy Foundation.

6.9 SHARP Survey

This item was removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

6.10 Data Request for Dissertation

This item was removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

External Research Data-Sharing Agreement for Dissertation

Member L. Cummins explained that she requested this item be removed from the Consent Calendar to clarify whether personally identifiable information is being requested.

Jennifer Thronsen, the requestor of the data for her dissertation research project, responded that the request for data does not include personally identifiable information and no individual student data will be shared. She will be looking at individual student-level data, but there won't be anything that can tie that data back to an individual student.

MOTION was made by Member Hansen and seconded by Member Belnap that the Board approve the research agreement.

Motion carried, with Members L. Cummins and Ellis opposed.

SHARP Survey

Vice Chair Ellis voiced her opposition to the way the questions in the SHARP Survey have been produced in the past, and expressed concern that while it is an opt-in survey, it is incentivized.

Lillian Tsosie-Jensen, Educational Coordinator, and Lynnette Schiess, Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, indicated that the questions for the survey haven't been determined at this time. The SHARP Survey is established by RFP bid. The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health is currently working on the RFP and the language establishes the Board as a collaborating partner. The request today is for the Board to approve that collaboration. As it moves forward staff will share the survey with the Board.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Lear that the Board approve collaboration on the SHARPS survey.

Motion carried, with Members Belnap, L. Cummins and Ellis opposed.

Monthly Budget Report

Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones gave the budget report with Assistant Superintendent Natalie Grange and Finance Director Deborah Jacobsen. He reminded the Board that they now receive the report by email and have the capability to drill down on specific budget items.

Superintendent Jones reviewed proposed uses for the discretionary fund carryforward monies.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair B. Cummins and seconded by Member Cannon that the Board approve \$110,480.17 to hire paralegals for codification.

Motion carried.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair B. Cummins and seconded by Member Belnap that the Board approve \$150,000 for the school accountability report card build.

Motion carried.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair B. Cummins and seconded by Member Lear that the Board approve \$200,000 for contingency and \$100,000 for legal contingency.

Motion carried.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair B. Cummins and seconded by Member Lear that the Board approve \$172,000 for the Memorandum of Agreement with the Utah Department of Technology Services (DTS).

Motion carried.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Belnap that the Board approve \$200,000 for mobile audio/video for off-site meetings.

Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report/Action

Committee Vice Chair Joel Wright reported that no motions were being forwarded from the November 3 Finance Committee meeting. He briefly summarized the following.

USBE Building

Staff were directed to work on getting the Board on the list for consideration of a new building.

SITLA Nominating Committee Update

There were 55 applicants for the School Children's Trust Section Director position and a name will soon come forward for Board consideration. Deputy Superintendent Jones reported that interviews will occur next week.

October 1, 2017 Headcounts and Student Projections for FY 2019

Final data from the October 1 head counts were reported and staff were given kudos for being only .3 of one percent off on their projections.

Class Size Funding Report

The Committee heard information from the report showing that it is not clear to what extent this money has gone to reduce class size.

Law and Licensing Committee Report/Action

Committee Chair Linda Hansen reported on the following items from the November 3 Committee meeting.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of its October 13, 2017 meeting.

Educator Licensing Revisions Update

The Committee reviewed a summary of the stakeholder feedback and recommendations regarding the implementation of the Board's new Educator Licensing Proposal.

R277-613 LEA Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Hazing, and Harassment Policies and Training

The Committee approved amendments to R277-613 on first reading and requested that the rule come back to its December 8 meeting for additional work.

Bullying and Hazing Amendments Update

The Committee heard progress on the work of the Bullying Prevention Subcommittee.

R277-705 Secondary School Completion Diplomas

Recommendations for changes to R277-705 from the Committee's Alternative Diploma for Students with Disabilities Subcommittee were presented to the Committee. The Committee approved and continued the rule on first reading, as amended.

MOTION from Committee that the Board approve and continue R277-705, as amended, on second and final reading.

A clarification was made that a diploma can be designated as an alternative diploma, but a student cannot be identified as a special education student on the diploma.

Motion carried unanimously.

Utah Special Education Advisory Panel (USEAP) Meeting Notes and Recommendations

The Committee heard two recommendations from USEAP to ensure that educators are prepared to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The Committee will consider the recommendations as it continues its work on educator licensing.

R277-211-8 Disciplinary Letters and Dismissal

The committee voted to lay on the table rule R277-211-8 and forwarded no motion for the Board.

MOTION was made by Member Lear and seconded by Member Gravier that the full Board discuss the rule.

Motion carried, with Members Boulter, Cannon, B. Cummins, Ellis, Gravier, Huntsman, Lear, Riebe and Warner in favor, and Members Belnap, L. Cummins, Hansen, Neilson, Stokes and Wright opposed.

Member Lear distributed a proposed amendment to the rule. She indicated the amendment only deals with individuals that receive disciplinary letters and provides privacy and appropriation protection of their information by limiting to where the letter is sent. She voiced opposition to a disciplinary letter going back to a former employer where an individual is no longer employed.

Ben Rasmussen, UPPAC Executive Secretary, explained the process currently used, and it was noted that Assistant Attorney General David Thomas has reviewed the process and advised that it is not illegal.

Board members expressed concerns that with the change the Board would be micromanaging the work of staff; that if an educator tried to come back into employment a full record of the discipline would not be in place; that without the letter the entity that made the complaint would not know the resolution.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Neilson that the Board postpone indefinitely the discussion on the amendment to R277-211-8.

Motion carried, with Member Lear opposed.

Board Bylaws

The Committee reviewed proposed amendments to the Bylaws and directed staff to make further amendments.

Standards and Assessment Committee Report/Action

Committee Chair Laura Belnap reported on the following items from the November 3 meeting of the Committee.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of its October 13, 2017 meeting.

Justin Fawson, Utah House of Representatives

Representative Fawson discussed with the Committee a comprehensive sex education bill he has opened for the 2018 Legislative Session.

Report on Digital Teaching and Learning Qualified Grant (R277-922)

The Committee received the report and directed that these reports be given quarterly rather than monthly.

K-3 Early Intervention Software Program (EISP) Evaluation (R277-496)

The Committee received the evaluation report.

Underage Drinking Prevention Advisory Committee

The Committee received an update on the work of the Committee.

Board Policy 3002, Standards Review Committee

The Committee reviewed proposed amendments to Board Policy 3002 that clarify the minimum number of times a committee should meet, clarify the duties of the committee, and require the superintendent to keep committee members informed of additional opportunities to provide input and feedback on the standards after the committee work is complete.

The Committee approved the amendments to the policy.

MOTION from Committee that the Board approve Board Policy 3002, Standards Review Committee, as amended.

Motion carried.

R277-700 *The Elementary and Secondary School General Core*

The Committee reviewed proposed amendments to R277-700 and made additional amendments. The Committee approved R277-700 Revision 1 on first reading.

MOTION from Committee that the Board approve R277-700 *The Elementary and Secondary School General Core*, Revision 1, on second and final reading.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Belnap and seconded by Member Hansen that the rule be sent back to the Committee for additional work.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

The rule will be sent back to Committee.

Audit Committee Report/Action

Committee Chair Terryl Warner reported on the November Audit Committee meeting. She informed that the Committee approved an internal audit charter and reviewed the emerging risks list.

Executive Session

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Ellis and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of individuals.

Upon voice vote of Members Belnap, Boulter, Cannon, B. Cummins, L. Cummins, Ellis, Graviet, Hansen, Huntsman, Lear, Neilson, Riebe, Warner and Wright, the Board moved into Executive Session at 12:55 p.m.

Those present include the Board members above and Member Stokes, Sydnee Dickson, Scott Jones, Patty Norman, David Thomas, Bryan Quesenberry, Michael Bell, Dana Powers, Lorraine Austin, Emilie Wheeler and Ben Rasmussen.

MOTION was made by Member Belnap and seconded by Member Graviet that the Board come out of Executive Session.

Motion carried. The Board reconvened in open session at 1:47 p.m.

Executive Session Action Items

Action on Educator Licenses

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board accept the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC) recommendation in Case No. 17-1388 and revoke the individual's Level 2 Education license.

Motion carried; Member Riebe absent.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board accept the UPPAC recommendation in Case No. 17-1401 to issue a letter of reprimand consistent with the Consent to Discipline.

Motion carried; Member Riebe absent.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation in Case No. 16-1324 to accept the surrender of the individual's license.

Motion carried; Member Riebe absent.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation in Case No. 17-1397 to accept surrender of the individual's license.

Motion carried.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board accept the UPPAC recommendation in Case No. 16-1316 and revoke the individual's Level 1 Secondary Education license.

Motion carried.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board remove Case Nos. 17-182 and 17-207 from the UPPAC Consent Calendar.

Motion carried, with Member Lear opposed.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board approve the UPPAC Consent Calendar, as amended.

Motion carried.

USBE Assessment and Accountability Policy Advisory Committee (AAPAC) Appointments

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board appoint the following individuals to AAPAC for four-year terms: Brent Strate, representing educators; Rich Nye, representing district superintendents; Eulogio Alejandre, representing charter school administrators; Steven Davis, representing secondary school principals; and Logan Toone, as an at-large member with expertise.

Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Policy/Statutory Priorities

Deputy Superintendent Angie Stallings reviewed a list of items staff and board members have identified as potential amendments to statute. She reported that the Education Interim Committee has adopted a committee bill that includes the Board's recommendations for educator licenses.

Superintendent Stallings reviewed nine new items that were added to the list. The Board directed that a hold be put on the following items as more information is needed: Changing the requirement for an external evaluation of textbook/instructional materials; reconciling the policy tension between state accountability requirements and parent rights; Student Data Privacy Policy Advisory Committee recommendations; adding special educators and math educators to the teacher salary supplement program.

Public Education Performance Audit Report

Daren Underwood, Wayne Kidd, Ryan Thelin and Michael Allred from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General were welcomed to the meeting. They showed a presentation on the Performance Audit of the History of Selected Public Education Programs.

FY 2019 Budget Request

Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones reported that he, Superintendent Dickson and Chair Huntsman met recently with Governor's regarding the Governor's education budget request.

Superintendent Jones reviewed the Board's budget request list and pointed out an update to the enrollment growth amount. He also reviewed additional requests for staffing and Informal Science Education Enhancement (iSEE) Funds and indicated the USDB Steps and Lanes amount may change.

MOTION was made by Member Riebe and seconded by Member L. Cummins that the Board support enrollment growth at 1.18 percent.

Motion carried; Members Huntsman and Stokes absent.

MOTION was made by Member B. Cummins and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board include \$335,000 for SAS-restorative Discipline and \$400,000 for two FTEs for charter school support.

Motion carried; Members Huntsman and Stokes absent.

MOTION was made by Member Cannon and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board support the \$550,000 request for the Information Science Education Enhancement (iSEE) funds.

Motion carried; Members Huntsman and Stokes absent.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sydnee Dickson shared a summary of her recent road trip to Utah schools along with requests from the field. She expressed appreciation to Board members that were able to attend the visits.

Board Officer Elections

The Board elected its officers for 2018 in accordance with statute and Board Policy 2002 *Board Officer Election Procedures*.

Number of Vice Chairs

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Warner and seconded by Member Belnap that the Board elect two vice chairs for 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair

Vice Chair Warner indicated that Mark Huntsman is the only one currently running for Chair. There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Neilson that the Board elect Mark Huntsman as the Board Chair for 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

First Vice Chair

Members Ellis, Cannon, B. Cummins and Riebe were nominated to run for vice chair. No additional nominations were made from the floor. The four candidates made statements.

Preferential voting was done by ballot, and the votes were counted by Vice Chair Warner and Board Secretary Lorraine Austin, assisted by Ben Rasmussen. After three counts, Member B. Cummins was elected First Vice Chair with nine votes. Voting was as follows:

Member Belnap: B. Cummins (1); Ellis (2)
Member Boulter: Ellis (1); Cannon (2)
Member Cannon: Cannon (1); Riebe (2); B. Cummins (3); Ellis (4)
Member B. Cummins: B. Cummins (1); Cannon (2); Riebe (3); Ellis (4)
Member L. Cummins: Ellis (1); B. Cummins (2); Cannon (3); Riebe (4)
Member Ellis: Ellis (1); B. Cummins (2); Riebe (3); Cannon (4)
Member Graviet: Riebe (1); B. Cummins (2); Cannon (3); Ellis (4)
Member Huntsman: B. Cummins (1); Ellis (2)
Member Hansen: Cannon (1); Ellis (2)
Member Lear: Riebe (1); B. Cummins (2)
Member Neilson: Ellis (1); B. Cummins (2); Riebe (3); Cannon (4)
Member Riebe: Riebe (1); Cannon (2); B. Cummins (3); Ellis (4)
Member Stokes: B. Cummins (1); Ellis (2); Riebe (3); Cannon (4)
Member Warner: B. Cummins (1); Riebe (2); Ellis (3); Cannon (4)
Member Wright: Ellis (1); Cannon (2); Riebe (3); B. Cummins (4)

Second Vice Chair

Preferential voting was done by ballot, with Members Cannon, Ellis and Riebe remaining on the ballot. Vice Chair Warner and Board Secretary Lorraine Austin, assisted by Ben Rasmussen, counted the votes.

Member Ellis received eight first place votes and was elected second vice chair. The voting was as follows:

Member Belnap: Ellis (1)
Member Boulter: Ellis (1)
Member Cannon: Cannon (1); Riebe (2); Ellis (3)
Member B. Cummins: Cannon (1); Riebe (2); Ellis (3)
Member L. Cummins: Ellis (1); Cannon (2); Riebe (3)
Member Ellis: Ellis (1)
Member Graviet: Riebe (1)
Member Hansen: Cannon (1); Ellis (2)
Member Huntsman: Ellis (1)
Member Lear: Riebe (1)
Member Neilson: Ellis (1); Riebe (2); Cannon (3)

Member Riebe: Riebe (1); Cannon (2)
Member Stokes: Ellis (1); Riebe (2); Cannon (3)
Member Warner: Riebe (1); Ellis (2); Cannon (3)
Member Wright: Ellis (1); Cannon (2); Riebe (3)

Board Chair's Report

Chair Huntsman reported on the following:

- There have been inquiries from Board members on the best protocol for getting items on the Board agenda. Chair Huntsman indicated that a protocol is in place for two Board members to request an item [outlined in the Bylaws]. He suggested that for most items it would be preferable to have discussion on an item one month with any action the following month, allowing for Board members to make an informed decision. He also asked Board members to be mindful of requesting items to be on the agenda over which the Board has no stewardship.
- Board members need to be very guarded when responding to inquiries from legislators or others on their positions on specific items, and make it clear when they are responding as individuals and not representing a Board position. It can be helpful to state up front if the Board has taken no position on an item.
- Chair Huntsman expressed appreciation to Board members for their support. His intentions are always to represent the Board and not his own personal interests. Member Stokes thanked him for his work, and also expressed appreciation to Member Warner for her work as a Vice Chair.
- Some committee assignments will be changing. The Board Secretary will send an email to Board members asking for their committee preferences.

Board Member Comments

Member L. Cummins wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked Board members for the privilege of working with them over the past year.

Member Riebe reported that she held a town hall meeting that was really fun. She also attended some school plays and encouraged other Board members to do so.

Member Hansen visited a Utah Opera in School program and encouraged other Board members to do the same.

Member Cannon attended a wonderful Veterans Day celebration at Granite Park Elementary where they commemorated individuals who had attended Granite Park Jr. High that had lost their lives in World War II. The families of those individuals were special guests and the students expressed their gratitude to veterans through letters.

Vice Chair Warner thanked Board members for their support of leadership this year. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve with Members Mark Huntsman, Brittney Cummins, and Alisa Ellis as well as staff.

Vice Chair Ellis echoed similar sentiments and thanked Members Riebe and Cannon for running for Board leadership. She expressed appreciation for everyone who is willing to serve.

Member Cannon requested that Board leadership schedule a Board Christmas party for next year immediately.

Chair Huntsman acknowledged that the Board receives a lot of criticism and asked the Board to continue to be patient in the face of it. He, too, attended a Veterans Day program where every student knew about the flag and how to hold it and how it is to fly. He encouraged Board members to come back with success stories. Chair Huntsman also mentioned the great experience he had accompanying Superintendent Dickson on the school tours and complimented her for her professionalism as she listens, acknowledges, asks questions, and looks for constant feedback.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Member Belnap and seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

USBE STUDY SESSION – December 8, 2017

A study session of the Utah State Board of Education was held on December 8, 2017 at the State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

Board Members present included Chair Mark Huntsman, First Vice Chair Terryl Warner, Second Vice Chair Brittney Cummins, Third Vice Chair Alisa Ellis, and Members Laura Belnap, Michelle Boulter, Janet Cannon, Lisa Cummins, Jennifer Graviet, Linda Hansen, Carol Barlow Lear and Kathleen Riebe. Members excused included Members Scott Neilson, Spencer Stokes, and Joel Wright.

Executive staff present included State Superintendent Sydnee Dickson, Deputy Superintendents Scott Jones, Patty Norman and Angie Stallings, and Board Secretary Lorraine Austin.

Others present included Terry Shoemaker—Utah School Boards Association/School Superintendents Association; James Yapias, Salt Lake Education Foundation; Jeff Moore, Brock Bennett—Renaissance Learning; Superintendent Lexi Cunningham—Salt Lake City School District; Elizabeth Garbe—United Way of Salt Lake; Anna Thomas—Voices for Utah Children; Royce Van Tassell—Utah Association of Public Charter Schools; Mike Nelson—Waterford Research Institute; Natalie Grange, Sarah Young, Diana Suddreth, Liz Williams, Christelle Estrada, Debbie Davis, Tiffany Stanley, Jennifer Throndsen, Sara Wiebke, Jaime Barrett—USBE staff.

Call to Order

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. Those in the audience introduced themselves.

USBE Strategic Plan – Early Literacy

Superintendent Dickson introduced the presentation, indicating that the focus will be about literacy for all students—particularly early literacy. She introduced Dr. Jennifer Throndsen, English Language Arts Coordinator, along with Sara Wiebke, K-3 Reading and

Optional Early Kindergarten Specialist, and Jaime Barrett, Minimum School Program Coordinator.

Dr. Thronksen made a presentation on the state of the state in early literacy. She reviewed the benefits of being a proficient reader by the end of the third grade, but also noted that in Utah the data shows that if a student doesn't become a proficient reader by the end of the first grade, it is likely the student will not improve in meeting reading competency standards. It was also pointed out that there is a close correlation between proficiency on the DIBELS test and proficiency on the SAGE assessment.

Ms. Jaime Barrett reviewed the current funding for literacy programs and six scenarios for an early literacy block grant that would combine the funding from those programs to allow more flexibility for local education agencies (LEAs).

Board members voiced concern with the scenarios because of what some districts and charters would lose.

Superintendent Dickson explained that LEAs are asking for flexibility and the current funding streams are disparate and inflexible. By braiding the funds it would give LEAs more flexibility. In looking at current targets versus reality, something different needs to be done. In considering reallocating the money for these programs, the Board will need to determine why it would want to block these programs and how the results of the reallocation of funds would be tracked, evaluated, and reported.

Board members requested more information about why some charter schools would lose 100 percent of their funding and asked for scenarios for extending the funds to K-5 or K-6 rather than just K-3.

Chair Huntsman asked Board members to contact Dr. Thronksen and Ms. Barrett with additional questions or additional scenarios they would like to see.

Adjournment

The study session adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved January 3, 2018