

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

January 25, 2018

A legislative meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held January 25, 2018 in the Capitol Board Room at the State Capitol Building, 350 North State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. First Vice Chair Brittney Cummins presided.

**Members Present:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Brittney Cummins  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Alisa Ellis  
Member Janet A. Cannon  
Member Lisa Cummins  
Member Linda B. Hansen  
Member Jennifer Graviet

Member Carol Barlow Lear  
Member Scott B. Neilson  
Member Kathleen Riebe  
Member Spencer F. Stokes  
Member Terryl Warner

**Members Excused:**

Chair Mark Huntsman  
Member Laura Belnap

Member Michelle Boulter  
Member Joel Wright

**Executive Staff Present:**

Sydnee Dickson, State Supt.  
Scott Jones, Deputy Supt.  
Patty Norman, Deputy Supt.  
Angie Stallings, Deputy Supt.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Emilie Wheeler, Public Information  
Officer

**Others Present:**

Tiffany Stanley, Natalie Grange, Allison Nichols, David Sallay, Sarah Young, Aaron Brough, Whitney Phillips, Darin Nielsen, Diana Suddreth, Thalea Longhurst, Leah Voorhies, Debbie Davis—USBE Staff; Duke Mossman—Northern Utah Educational Services; Larry Davis—Emery School District; Cynthia Phillips—State Charter School Board; Jacob Wright—Governor’s Office of Management and Budget; Drew Camps—USBE intern; Jim Kerr—Empowered Families Coalition; Sara Jones—Utah Education Association; Dr. Rick Robins, Darin Clark—Juab School District; Mary Nielson—Utah School Boards Association; Terry Shoemaker—Utah School Superintendents Association; Todd Hauber—Utah Association of School Business Officials; Simon Raubenheimer—Endeavor Hall

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Brittney Cummins called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

**Staff Overview**

Deputy Superintendent Angie Stallings reviewed resources for tracking the legislative session and demonstrated how to access those resources.

**USBE Strategic Plan Update**

Superintendent Sydnee Dickson reported that she was asked by the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee chairs to give the subcommittee an update last week on the Board's Strategic Plan. She showed the Board slides she used in that presentation.

Dr. Dickson reviewed with the Board five focus areas which capture everything in the Strategic Plan: 1) Invest in early learners; 2) enable supportive learning environments; 3) close gaps in access to educational opportunities; 4) foster efficient, effective, and equitable use of resources; 5) engage families and communities.

[For additional details, see General Exhibit No. 18-43.]

**USBE Systems Update**

Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones gave an update about what is being discussed concerning the Board's request for an end to end accounting system that would allow instant access to data. He reported that staff is providing cost estimates to legislators, but aren't trying to push a specific course of action. He noted that many of the systems in which the office is currently operating are decades old and the languages used to program those systems are somewhat obsolete; it is difficult to find people with the technical skills to work on them.

It was noted that many of the school districts have already undergone what the Board is trying to do now with its systems.

**Computer Science Initiative**

Superintendent Dickson informed the Board that over the course of the last few weeks there has been a great deal of interest in computer science and a specific ask from business partners to create or pass legislation to ensure that each student has access to a computer science course by 2023. Superintendent Dickson expressed concern that there are already a

variety of initiatives regarding computer science in place, and suggested that it may be time for an analysis of the programs prior to legislation going forward.

**MOTION** was made by Member Stokes and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board create a task force for the purpose of increasing access to computer science courses in the state, with the goal of ensuring that all secondary students have access. Additionally, that the Board direct staff to create the format of the task force including scope of work, timeline and resources needed, and include a gap analysis of the current offerings.

Caution was expressed that in creating opportunities, the Board doesn't create additional requirements.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Cannon and seconded by Member Graviet that the word "secondary" be removed.

Member Cannon suggested the Board may want to look more broadly than just secondary students.

Motion to amend carried; Members L. Cummins, Lear and Riebe absent.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Hansen and seconded by Member Neilson that a goal be added for the task force look at access in rural areas.

Motion to amend carried; Members Lear and Riebe absent.

A concern was expressed about teaching coding in elementary schools and possible overexposure to technology at young ages.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Vice Chair Ellis and seconded by Member Warner that a goal be added for the task force to look at both the benefits and risks of teaching computer science to all ages.

Amendment carried; Members Lear and Riebe absent.

Terry Shoemaker, Executive Director of the Utah School Superintendents Association, was invited to comment. He indicated that the call to action at a recent technology summit was very enthusiastically received by the superintendents, and he feels having the Board organize a task force to look at this makes a lot of sense. He added that the net effect that computer initiatives may have on the state's economy also needs to be considered.

The motion as amended was restated—that the Board create a task force for the purpose of increasing access to computer science courses in the state, with the goal of ensuring that all students have access. Additionally, that the Board direct staff to create the format of the task force including scope of work, timeline and resources needed; and that the work include a gap analysis of the current offerings, a look at how rural areas can provide better access, and consideration of the risks and benefits of providing access to all ages of students.

Motion carried; Members Lear and Riebe absent.

### **Review of Legislation/Potential Legislation**

Member Stokes suggested that staff be authorized to work with sponsors on bills that fall within the Board's Strategic Plan, and that only bills that aren't in the Plan and include a fiscal note over \$5 million be brought to the Board for review.

Concerns were expressed that there are things in the Strategic Plan that aren't clearly defined, and it could be a burden on staff to try to make decisions concerning bills. It was suggested that the item come back for further discussion when more Board members are present.

Deputy Superintendent Angie Stallings reported that H.B. 10, H.B. 11, S.B. 11, and S.B. 12 concerning the recodification of the public education code passed and have been signed by the Governor. There should now be a number of education bills coming forward.

Superintendent Stallings reviewed H.B. 46 Educator Licensing Modifications, which was created partly in response to the Board's Licensing Task Force work. She indicated that the Board's CACTUS system does not have the capacity to make the changes outlined in the bill, and a request to fund an upgrade is being sought outside this bill in the Board's ask to update all its systems. It was requested the Board discuss this bill in more detail at its February 1 meeting.

Superintendent Stallings reviewed with the Board H.B. 132 Juvenile Justice Modifications, H.B. 164 Early Childhood Task Force, and H.B. 175 Oversight Committee Creation.

[For additional details, see General Exhibit No. 18-44.]

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** was made by Member Hansen and seconded that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved February 8, 2018