

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BOARD FOR THE
UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

May 3, 2019

A meeting of the Utah State Board of Education Acting as the Governing Board for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was held May 3, 2019 at the Utah State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

Members Present:

Chair Mark Huntsman
Vice Chair Brittney Cummins
Member Michelle Boulter
Member Janet A. Cannon
Member Lisa Cummins
Member Cindy Davis
Member Jennie Earl

Member Alisa Ellis
Member Jennifer Graviet
Member Linda B. Hansen
Member Scott L. Hansen
Member Carol Barlow Lear
Member Shawn E. Newell

Members Absent:

Member Laura Belnap
Member Scott B. Neilson

USDB Executive Staff Present:

Joel Coleman, Superintendent
Carolyn Lasater, Associate Supt.

Michelle Tanner, Associate Supt.
Carl Empey, Finance Director

Others Present:

Tony Bonny—USDB; Natalie Shaw, Jackie Parrish, Jackie Ball—parents of LSL children.

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made by Member Cannon and seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the April 5, 2019 USDB Board meeting.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Jackie Parrish – reported that there are some very real and serious things that going on at USDB. Her granddaughter has cochlear implants and is doing amazing, but the hardest part is dealing with and working with the administration at the school. Administration is ignoring requests to keep certain programs at the school; some programs have been taken away and there is fear that others will be. A group of parents are requesting that the State Board of Education meet with them. Parents are not being misinformed and support is needed for Listening and Spoken Language (LSL)-only programs.

Jackie Ball – acknowledged that in the current toddler group there is now some dedicated time for children whose parents have chosen the LSL-only mode, but indicated that no parent has been informed about the new way things are being done and they aren't aware that their children can be taught in LSL-only. She asked for the progress concerning parent statements and questioned where it says in the paperwork that parents can choose spoken language early or any of the other programs. She stated that though the Board can't un-mandate bias, it can make sure administration is giving parents the right information.

Pam Christensen, USDB Education Association Vice President – asked on behalf of the educators that this meeting be held after hours so educators can come to the meeting.

Susan Thomas, USDB Communications Director – reported that she visits the classroom, sees USDB programs and talks to parents and students. She stated that parents have been informed about LSL-only options and she has heard some positive stories about that option.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Joel Coleman reported the following:

- USDB graduation is on May 16, and all board members are invited.
- The USDB superintendency recently held an “ask us anything” time for staff members and parents which was broadcast throughout the state. It is something they will probably start doing quarterly by campus as there was good feedback and discussions.
- Work is moving forward with the Springville building and it is on schedule to open in December.

Monthly Budget Report

Carl Empey, USDB Finance Director, gave the monthly budget report. A board member request was made for information about per pupil spending for USDB.

Report on Student Trip to Peru

Associate Superintendent Michelle Tanner introduced some of the students that went on the student trip to Peru. The students reported on aspects of the trip including the Peruvian economy, history, local crafts, food, medical facilities, and culture, and their visit to the Cusco School for the Deaf. The students shared that the trip changed their lives and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Executive Session

MOTION was made by Member L. Hansen and seconded 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 Boulter, Cannon, B. Cummins, L. Cummins, Davis, Earl, Ellis, Graviat, L. Hansen, S. Hansen, Huntsman, Lear and Newell, the Board moved into closed Executive Session at 12:18 p.m.

Those present included the Members above and Michelle Beus, Bryan Quesenberry, Michelle Tanner, Brooke Baker and Lorraine Austin.

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

Motion carried. The Board reconvened in open meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved June 7, 2019