

**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 4, 2018

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 4, 2018 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	Member Linda B. Hansen
First Vice Chair Brittney Cummins	Member Carol Barlow Lear
Second Vice Chair Alisa Ellis	Member Kathleen Riebe
Member Janet A. Cannon	Member Terryl Warner
Member Jennifer Graviet	Member Joel Wright (by phone)

Members Absent:

Member Laura Belnap	Member Scott Neilson
Member Michelle Boulter	Member Spencer Stokes
Member Lisa Cummins	

USDB Executive Staff Present:

Joel Coleman, Superintendent
Michelle Tanner, Associate Superintendent
Carolyn Lasater, Associate Superintendent

Others Present:

Pam Christensen, Lori Ruth—USDB Education Association; Carl Empey, Susan Thomas—USDB staff; Emilie Wheeler—USBE staff

Call to Order

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION was made by Member Cannon and seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the April 13, 2018 meeting.

Motion carried.

Monthly Budget Report

Carl Empey, USDB Finance Director, gave the budget report as of April 19, 2018. He reviewed revenues and expenditures, students served, and land grant enrichment fund and donated funds account balances.

Mr. Empey reported that staff just completed this week the USDB budget for FY 2019. They are also preparing for fiscal year end.

Report on Student Trip to Italy

Michelle Tanner, Associate Superintendent for the Deaf, reported that the student trip to Italy occurred March 27 through April 6, with twelve students participating. She introduced two students from the trip, Alexah Sloan and Carlo Martinez.

Alexah showed slides from the trip and talked about the experience. From the art they viewed, she learned about solving problems, changing your perspective, and working hard to accomplish what you want. She thanked the Board for its support of the trip, which has changed her life. She has learned about traveling on her own, about different cultures, using foreign money, budgeting, negotiating, and interacting with hearing or deaf people in Italy.

Carlo related that his favorite city was Venice because of its beauty. The Tower of Pisa was interesting because of the architecture of the tower, as well as the history. He appreciated making new friends and visiting a deaf school in Italy, where they were able to learn more about Italy and learned Italian deaf signs. They met with a deaf man that was the caretaker of a winery who showed them the winemaking process; they also met a deaf man that was the owner of a five-star hotel. Carlo thanked Board members for their support.

The students related that they learned of the richness of Italian history because they were able to see and touch things first-hand and would like that same experience here. They also were able to learn in different ways and gained confidence.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Joel Coleman reported on the following:

- Superintendent Coleman thanked the Board for its help in allowing USDB to use the MAPs test instead of SAGE; however, upon deeper legal review a state law was brought to light of which he was unaware that does require USDB students to participate in state SAGE testing. For any students whose parents have not opted them out of the testing, SAGE will still be administered. Superintendent Coleman noted that most parents have already opted their students out of SAGE, so it is probably not necessary to request a change in the law.
- Key Initiative—USIMAC sustainability plan: Superintendent Carolyn Lasater is now overseeing the implementation of the plan and a new director will be coming on board.
- Key Initiative—creating unique and accessible course materials: for USDB students there aren't crowd-sourced resources like there are elsewhere; therefore, over time USDB will create its own materials. A small group of staff will visit Washington School District next week because they have had students mention how effective Washington's online program is. They will work with the students to gain understanding about what it is about Washington's design that makes it so much more effective for student blended learning than some of the other online options.
- Susan Thomas, USDB Communications Specialist, has hit the ground running. There have been 53 really good media pieces in the last quarter. Superintendent Coleman showed a one-minute clip from a media piece last week.
- The design documents for the Springville campus are completed. Contractors will be interviewed in the next few weeks. The hope is to have the campus ready for school in the fall of 2019.

Member Hansen asked Superintendent Coleman how the change in the Board's rule R277-301 that restricts the LEA-specific license so it can't be used for special educator or pre-school special education teachers would affect USDB. Superintendent Coleman responded that USDB rarely needs to use the LEA-specific license, but when they do need that option it is

critical for a specific child, especially in the rural areas. Currently, when someone is hired on a temporary authorization they can't be kept beyond three years, even if they are very effective with the students. Associate Superintendent Lasater gave the example of one teacher that hasn't been able to pass the required Praxis test because of a language barrier, but is highly rated. The LEA-specific license was a good option for them to retain teachers who are impacting students in a positive way, but don't have a professional license. It is very difficult to find special education teachers that are vision endorsed. Board Member Lear pointed out that there is a provision in the rule for a committee of professionals to review a special circumstance for licensing. Superintendent Coleman indicated that as long as there is a provision to address special circumstances that would meet USDB's needs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved June 8, 2018