

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

January 28, 2021

A legislative meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held January 28, 2021. The meeting was held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was streamed live to the public. First Vice Chair Laura Belnap presided.

Members Present

First Vice Chair Laura Belnap
Second Vice Chair Cindy Davis
Member Randy Boothe
Member Janet A. Cannon
Member Natalie Cline
Member Jennie Earl
Member Scott L. Hansen

Member Molly Hart
Member Matt Hymas
Member Carol Barlow Lear
Member James Moss Jr.
Member Kristan Norton
Member Brent J. Strate

Members Absent

Chair Mark Huntsman

Executive Staff Present

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent
Patty Norman, Deputy Superintendent
Angie Stallings, Deputy Superintendent

Minutes taken by:

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary

Others Present

Bryan Quesenberry, Michelle Beus—Assistant Attorneys General; Lexi Cunningham—Utah School Superintendents/School Boards Associations; Joel Coleman, Carl Empey—Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; Jeffrey Van Hulten, Aaron Brough, Brian Olmstead, Cybil Child, Dale Frost, Darin Nielsen, Debbie Davis, Deborah Jacobson, Jennifer Throndsen, Jill Curry, Kathy Helgesen, Leah Voorhies, Patrick Lee, Rebecca Donaldson, Robert Austin, Sarah Young, Tiffany Stanley, Tracy Vandeventer, Whitney Phillips—USBE staff

Opening Business

Vice Chair Laura Belnap called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. She read the following statement: *As authorized by Utah Code 52-4, this meeting is being held electronically without an*

anchor location to reduce the risk to health and safety from COVID-19 by limiting the frequency of in-person meetings.

Review of Legislation

Legislative Policy Requests

Deputy Superintendent Angie Stallings presented requests from staff for possible changes to statute to amend sections of code concerning the American Civics Initiative.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Davis and seconded that the Board support staff working on legislation to amend the American Civics Education Initiative provisions in Section 53E-4-205 due to the recent update to the Federal USCIS Naturalization Civics Exam.

Motion carried unanimously; Member Lear absent.

Deputy Superintendent Stallings updated the Board on the policy request to refile H.B. 469 from the 2020 Legislative Session.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Davis and seconded that the Board support staff in continuing to work with the bill sponsor on Education Audit and Monitoring Amendments legislation.

It was suggested that the Board look for an analogous situation with traditional schools and make sure the Board is treating all schools consistently.

Motion carried unanimously.

2021 General Session Legislation

Deputy Superintendent Stallings and Jeffrey Van Hulten, Public Affairs Director, reviewed the following bills with the Board:

H.B. 93 Youth Suicide Prevention Program Amendments; 1st Substitute S.B. 1 Base Budget Amendments; HB 181 Personalized Competency-based Learning; HB 18 Driver Education Amendments; HB 222 School Land Trust Program Amendments; H.B. 42 Education Agency Report Process Amendments; H.B. 105 Students with Disabilities Amendments; S.B. 118 State School Board Candidate Amendments; H.B. 258 Firearm Safety in Schools; H.B. 124 Civics Engagement Pilot Program Amendments; S.B. 107 In-person Instruction Prioritization; H.B. 233

Education Immunization Modifications; and S.B. 131 Public Education Buildings Standards and Process.

Members expressed concerns with provisions in S.B. 1 that would limit flexibility for local education agencies (LEAs) in the use of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds (ESSER).

Budget Priorities

LEA Stipend Payments

Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones provided an update on the stipend payments to go to eligible personnel within LEAs based on this current year's FTE counts. USBE staff will identify what the distribution will be by LEA and clarify which positions are eligible to receive the stipend.

2021 Legislative Session Funding Priorities

Deputy Superintendent Jones reviewed the process the Board took to identify its budget priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session.

USBE Fiscal Analyst Dale Frost provided an update on the business cases the Board approved in January and reviewed a comparison of the Governor's budget request with the Board's budget request. He also reviewed four additional budget cases: School Readiness grants, Qualtrics, additional personnel to address requirements under IDEA, and property acquisition for the Salt Lake campus of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

MOTION was made by Member Moss and seconded that the Board prioritize as #9 on its budget priorities list small district base funding in the amount of \$3.7 million ongoing.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded that the Board prioritize as #10 small charter school base funding of \$7 million ongoing.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Moss and seconded to change the amount to \$5 million one-time.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

A member concern was expressed that by the Board continuing to add priorities, the importance of the Board's top priorities may be diluted.

Motion as amended—that the Board prioritize as #10 small charter school base funding of \$5 million one-time—carried, with Members Belnap, Boothe, Cline, Davis, Earl, Hart, Hymas, Moss, and Norton in favor, and Members Cannon, Hansen, Lear, and Strate opposed.

Action on Legislation

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded that the Board support S.B. 91 School Accountability Amendments.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION was made by Vice Chair Davis and seconded that the Board support H.B. 222 School Land Trust Program Amendments and H.B. 105 Students with Disabilities Amendments.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION was by Member Lear and seconded that the Board support S.B. 118 State School Board Candidate Amendments.

Some members voiced their feelings that the requirements for collecting signatures should be consistent across all electorates and expressed concern that reducing the number of signatures required may have the result of certain communities being neglected.

Others noted that it can be cost prohibitive to collect signatures and reducing the number of signatures provides for more individuals to run, given that there are not many donors to school board races.

Motion carried, with Members Belnap, Boothe, Cannon, Davis, Hansen, Hart, Lear, Norton, and Strate in favor, and Members Cline, Earl, Hymas, and Moss opposed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

[For additional information on items from the meeting, see General Exhibit No. 20-03.]

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved February 11, 2021