

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 25, 2020**

A special meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held June 25, 2020. The meeting was held electronically via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was streamed live to the public. Chair Mark Huntsman presided. At the request of the Chair, Vice Chair Brittney Cummins conducted.

**Members Present:**

Chair Mark Huntsman  
Vice Chair Brittney Cummins  
Member Laura Belnap  
Member Michelle Boulter  
Member Janet A. Cannon  
Member Cindy Davis  
Member Jennie Earl  
Member Jennifer Graviet

Member Scott L. Hansen  
Member Mike Haynes  
Member Carol Barlow Lear  
Member Mark R. Marsh  
Member Scott B. Neilson  
Member Shawn E. Newell  
Member Laurieann Thorpe

**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; Darin Nielsen, Leah Voorhies, Deborah Jacobson, Tiffany Stanley, Jerry Record, Cammy Wilcox, Dale Frost, David Sallay, Jeff Van Hulten, Kathy Helgesen, Patrick Lee, Zac Christensen, Jake Houtrouw, Sarah Young

**Opening Business**

Vice Chair Brittney Cummins called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Member Boulter and seconded that the Board approve the minutes of its June 4, June 11, and June 18, 2020 meetings.

## **School Reopening Plans Document**

Superintendent Sydnee Dickson reviewed the process whereby the School Reopening Plans document the Board approved in its last meeting was forwarded to the Governor for consideration. The document is still going through reviews required by the Governor. The document, as amended, was presented for further review by the Board.

**MOTION** was made by Member Hansen and seconded that a recommendation be added to the Environmental Hygiene section to read: “Non-elementary students wear face coverings (e.g. masks or shields) when physical distancing is not feasible.”

Member Hansen stated that given the number of Coronavirus cases and research on the importance of masks, he feels the Board should give direction at the state level to keep both students and adults in the school safe.

Members expressed concerns that a statewide mandate would be difficult to monitor and manage, that masks could hamper hearing and communication, and that it wouldn't be applicable to areas that are at lower risk. In addition, there may be health risks for some students in wearing masks. Others pointed out that masks protect the wearer and those around them but felt the decision should be made at a local level.

Motion failed, with Members Davis, Hansen, and Thorpe in favor, and Members Belnap, Boulter, Cannon, Cummins, Earl, Gravier, Haynes, Huntsman, Lear, Marsh, Neilson, and Newell opposed.

**MOTION** was made by Member Davis and seconded that the Board add a requirement to the Enhanced Environment Safety & Hygiene section to read: “Inform non-elementary students and parents about the enhanced safety that increases when they choose to wear a face covering during a pandemic.”

Member Davis suggested that each district could determine how to implement the requirement. Others voiced that it could be done easily through an email or something sent home.

Concerns were expressed that every additional requirement adds another level of difficulty in reopening schools and that it could become cumbersome in its application and

monitoring. It was also noted that communication and training about the plan protocol is already required in an earlier section of the plan.

Motion failed, with Members Cannon, Davis, Gravier, Hansen, Lear, Newell, and Thorpe in favor, and Members Belnap, Boulter, Cummins, Earl, Haynes, Huntsman, Neilson and Marsh opposed.

**MOTION** was made by Member Davis and seconded that the Board include the following three items as recommendations in the School Reopening Plans document:

1. In the Large Group Gatherings section, include mitigation strategies for safety drills, including fire, lockdown, earthquake.
2. In the Enhanced Environment Hygiene & Safety section, consider temporary closure of computer labs if students are able to access the content outside the lab, i.e. the school has a 1 to 1 device ratio.
3. In the Symptom Monitoring Section, consider leniency of punitive attendance/late work policies due to student illness.

**MOTION** was made by Member Belnap and seconded that the question be divided to vote on item 2 separately.

Motion to divide carried, with Members Lear and Neilson opposed.

Motion on recommendations 1 and 3-- *that the Board include the following items as recommendations in the School Reopening Plans document: In the Large Group Gatherings section, include mitigation strategies for safety drills, including fire, lockdown, earthquake; in the Symptom Monitoring Section, consider leniency of punitive attendance/late work policies due to student illness*—carried, with Member Neilson opposed.

Motion on recommendation 2 of the original motion—*that the Board add a recommendation in the Enhanced Environment Hygiene & Safety section to consider temporary closure of computer labs if students are able to access the content outside the lab, i.e. the school has a 1 to 1 device ratio*—carried, with Members Hansen and Neilson opposed.

Motion was made by Member Lear and seconded that under the Entry/Exit Points section a recommendation be added to: “Consider restricting and/or establishing protocols for public use of school buildings for essential use only.”

Motion to amend was made by Member Earl and seconded to strike, “for essential use only” from the motion.

Members discussed that there are already policies required under Risk Management and in place by LEAs concerning use of their buildings, and these policies could be amended as the LEA needs.

Assistant Attorney General Michelle Beus informed that the law that requires LEAs to allow civic use of school buildings also gives the LEA priority for school use, and any use that would interfere with their ability to have the school prepared and sanitized would be controlled by the LEAs.

Without objection, the motion and amendment were withdrawn.

**MOTION** was made by Member Thorpe and seconded that under the Quarantine/ Isolation Protocol section, recommendations be added to:

- Ensure the office first aid kit includes a digital thermometer.
- Consider identifying three separate quarantine areas for students: 1) a General Waiting Area (for students presenting with unscheduled needs; b) a Well Student Area (for students presenting with scheduled medical needs); and c) a Quarantine Area (for students presenting with COVID-19 symptoms—separate from other students).
- Limit the number of students in the office or health room by managing minor injuries and first aid in classrooms.

Motion carried unanimously; Member Neilson absent.

### **FY21 Education Budget**

Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones gave an overview of the work before the Board to approve the FY21 USBE budget, considering the effect of last week’s special session of the legislature on the budget. He reminded that the filing deadline for income taxes was extended

to July 15, which means that the actual tax revenue will not be known until after that date, and an additional legislative session may be needed.

Dale Frost, Fiscal Policy Analyst, reviewed the document, "Comparing of PEA Reduction Scenarios and HB 5012 Funding Changes."

Deborah Jacobson, Finance Director, highlighted items from agency budgets, indicating the majority of the base budgets were not touched and most of the decreases will be from the reduction of the three percent increase in compensation bill.

Patrick Lee, School Finance Director, gave an overview of budget changes to the Minimum School Program. He also reviewed information showing distribution to LEAs from the federal CARES Act Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.

Sarah Young, Director of Strategic Initiatives, provided an update on the Rethink Grant design and application. She indicated the proposal will be submitted by June 29 and brought to the Board in its July meeting for review and consent.

**MOTION** was made by Chair Huntsman and seconded that the Board approve the USBE FY21 budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** was made by Member Belnap and seconded that the Board request, if there is a special session following the July 15 tax filing deadline and revenue allows, that the legislature provide sufficient funding to reinstate the Math and Science Opportunities for Students and Teachers (MOST) program to its prior ongoing funding level, and that if there is not sufficient revenue to reinstate the program at its prior funding level, the legislature allow the USBE to make specific recommendations on what particular programs to take money from to reinstate the prior funding level, and if neither of these are allowable then USBE will fund the MOST program out of its one-time flexible allocation.

**MOTION** was made by Chair Huntsman and seconded that this item be postponed until the August Board meeting.

Motion to postpone carried, with Members Belnap, Boulter, Cannon, Earl, Graviet, Huntsman, Marsh and Newell in favor, and Members Cummins, Davis, Hansen, Haynes, Lear, Neilson, and Thorpe opposed.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

[For additional information on items from the meeting, see General Exhibit No. 20-18.]

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved July 9, 2020