

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2020

A special meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held May 21, 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.

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 Shawn E. Newell
Member Laurieann Thorpe

Members Absent:

Member Scott B. Neilson

Executive Staff Present:

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent
Patty Norman, Deputy Supt.
Angie Stallings, Deputy Supt.
Deborah Jacobson, Interim Deputy Supt.

Minutes taken by:

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary

Others Present:

Bryan Quesenberry, Michelle Beus—Assistant Attorneys General; Jeff Van Hulten, Ben Rasmussen, Darin Nielsen, Debbie Davis, Leah Voorhies, Jennifer Thronsen, Jerry Record, Thalea Longhurst, Robert Austin, Patrick Lee, Jill Curry, Kathy Helgesen, Dale Frost—USBE staff

Opening Business

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sydnee Dickson reported on looking forward to school in the fall given the COVID-19 pandemic. She informed that staff will be supporting local education agencies

(LEAs) as much as possible, hopefully to be back to the normal risk category in the fall but preparing to be nimble if the risk levels heighten. One focus will be making sure schools have the protective gear they need and setting up safety protocols. Staff is also preparing a guidance document and templates for various scenarios. Superintendent Dickson emphasized that the state's role is not to dictate what model local schools and districts use. She also made clear that schools are not closed or reopened by the Board, but by state and local health departments.

Dr. Dickson reported that guidance and ideas are also being prepared for summer learning and for appropriate use of the Cares Act funding. She noted that the guidance documents will be provided to the Board in its next meeting for discussion and feedback.

Basic Civics Test Waivers

S.B. 3005, passed by the legislature in a special session on April 17, 2020, contains waivers related to the interruption of face-to-face K-12 educational services as a result of COVID-19, including the basic civics test requirement. Local education agencies that have one or more qualifying student(s) for the basic civics test waiver provided the required waiver information. The Board granted waivers for the test in its May 4 and May 14 meetings.

Assistant Superintendent Darin Nielsen reported that additional LEAs have submitted waiver requests, which brings the total amount of requested waivers to 4,476.

MOTION was made by Belnap and seconded that the Board approve the waivers of the Basic Civics Test as requested by LEAs.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY21 Education Budget

Chair Huntsman explained that the legislature's Public Education Appropriations (PEA) Subcommittee has asked the Board to create scenarios for reducing public education's base budget for FY21 by two, five and ten percent levels and provide those recommendations to PEA for its May 27 meeting. He noted that staff prepared a list of recommendations as a starting point for the Board's discussion.

Superintendent Dickson briefed the Board on the framework staff provided for proposed budget cuts. In its preparation, staff considered what is essential, what is helpful but not essential, and what may be duplicative. Staff also considered protecting the Weighted Pupil Unit, which is the most flexible spending for LEAs. Chair Huntsman indicated staff were also mindful of the Board's strategic plan during its preparation of the framework.

MOTION was made by Member Belnap and seconded that the Board approve the USBE Base Budget Reduction Scenarios list showing staff recommendations for a 2%, 5%, and 10% base budget cut and forward the list to the legislature for its consideration.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Haynes and seconded that the following adjustments to the USBE Base Budget Reduction Scenario list be made:

- line 2q - the Professional Staff budget reduction of \$19,981,230 be removed from the 2% reduction list and added to the bottom of the 10% reduction list;
- line 10j - the Teacher and Student Success budget reduction of \$93,684,788 be reduced by \$19,981,230, totaling \$73,703,558; and
- line 2f, the Teacher and Student Success budget reduction of \$5,265,212 be increased by \$19,981,230 totaling \$25,246,442.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Earl and seconded to:

- move a portion of line 2g, Charter School Local Replacement totaling \$ 4 million to the 10% reduction list;
- move a portion of line 2s, Charter School Administration totaling \$6,000,000 to the 10% reduction list;
- reduce a portion of line 10j, Teacher and Student Success by \$10,000,000 to the 2% reduction list totaling \$63,703,558.
- increase line 2f, Teacher and Student Success by \$10 million totaling \$35,246,442.
- move line 2e, Centennial Scholarship totaling \$272,500 to the 10% reduction list.

MOTION was made by Member Belnap and seconded to divide the motion to vote on the Centennial Scholarship item separately.

Motion to divide carried, with Members Lear, Marsh and Newell opposed.

The Board addressed the first part of the divided motion to amend lines 2g, 2s, 10j, and 2f.

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

The Board addressed the second part of the divided motion, as follows:

- move line 2e, Centennial Scholarship totaling \$272,500 to the 10% reduction list;
- move a portion of line 10j, Teacher and Student Success totaling \$272,500 to the 2% reduction making line 10j total \$73,431,058; and
- move the \$272,500 from line 10j to line 2f making line 2f total \$25,518,942.

Motion to amend failed 7-7, with Members Belnap, Boulter, Cannon, Davis, Earl, Hansen, and Haynes in favor, and Members Cummins, Gravier, Huntsman, Lear, Marsh, Newell and Thorpe opposed.

Original motion, as amended, carried, with Member Earl opposed.

MOTION was made by Member Davis and seconded that the Board recommend that one-time money be used by the Legislature for appropriating \$4,000,000 in one-time funds to enhance LEA financial systems as outlined in H.B. 67 from the 2020 General Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION was made by Member Boulter and seconded that the Board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, and physical or mental health of individuals, and strategy on pending or reasonably imminent litigation.

Upon voice vote of Members Belnap, Boulter, Cannon, Cummins, Davis, Earl, Gravier, Hansen, Haynes, Huntsman, Lear, Marsh, Newell and Thorpe, the Board went into closed executive session at 2:44 p.m.

Those present included the members above and Sydnee Dickson, Angie Stallings, Deborah Jacobson, Bryan Quesenberry, Michelle Beus, Jeff Van Hulten, and Lorraine Austin.

MOTION was made by Member Marsh and seconded that the Board come out of executive session.

Motion carried. The Board reconvened in open session at 4:02 p.m.

Appointment

MOTION was made by Member Davis and seconded that the Board recommend to the Governor that James Moss be reappointed to the State Charter School Board.

Motion carried unanimously; Members Earl and Haynes absent.

Board Member Comments

Member Belnap requested that digital teaching and learning and career and technical education staff prepare a list of tools or programs that might have been cut in funding that would have an impact on teachers and students in a distance learning environment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

[For additional information on items from the meeting, see General Exhibit No. 20-13.]

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved May 28, 2020