

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

February 18, 2021

A legislative meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held February 18, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held electronically and streamed live to the public. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

**Members Present**

Chair Mark Huntsman  
First Vice Chair Laura Belnap  
Second Vice Chair Cindy Davis  
Member Randy Boothe  
Member Janet A. Cannon  
Member Natalie Cline  
Member Jennie Earl

Member Molly Hart  
Member Scott L. Hansen  
Member Matt Hymas  
Member Carol Barlow Lear  
Member Kristan Norton  
Member Brent J. Strate

**Members Absent**

Member James Moss Jr.

**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**

Representative Joel Briscoe; Dhati Oomen—USBE Student Advisory Council; Bryan Quesenberry, Michelle Beus—Assistant Attorneys General; Carl Empey—Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; Aaron Brough, Brian Olmstead, Cybil Child, Dale Frost, Darin Nielsen, Debbie Davis, Jennifer Throndsen, Leah Voorhies, Patrick Lee, Malia Hite, Jeffrey Van Hulten, Jerry Record, Deborah Jacobson, Tracy Vandeventer, Whitney Phillips—USBE staff

**Opening Business**

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. He 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.*

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Belnap and seconded that the Board approve the minutes of its February 11, 2021 meeting.

Motion carried; Member Earl absent.

### **Review of Legislation**

#### Legislator Review of Bills

Representative Joel Briscoe and Dhati Oomen, a member of the USBE Student Advisory Council, provided an overview of H.B. 338 School District Voter Eligibility Amendments that would allow 16- and 17-year-old students to vote in local school board elections.

#### 2021 Legislative Session Legislation

Deputy Superintendent Angie Stallings and Jeff Van Hulten, Public Affairs Director, reviewed the following legislation:

H.B. 378 Education Standards Review Committee Amendments; 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute S.B. 184 Protection of Personal and Religious Liberty; 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute H.B. 42 Education Agency Report Process; H.B. 279 Higher Education for Incarcerated Youth; 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute S.B. 175 Risk Management Settlement Authority Amendments; H.B. 382 Online Course Access Amendments; and H.B. 274 Government Records Transparency Act Amendments.

### **2021 Legislative Session Funding Priorities**

Deputy Scott Jones reported that the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee of the legislature made its budget recommendations to the Executive Appropriations Committee on February 9 and the situation has not changed since that time. Executive Appropriations is waiting for revenue numbers before taking action.

### **Actions on Legislation**

**MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Belnap and seconded that the Board support H.B. 279 Higher Education for Incarcerated Youth.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** was made by Member Cannon and seconded that the Board oppose S.B. 175 Special Education Least Restrictive Requirement Amendments, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitutes.

Board members noted that the bill is opposed by disability groups and discussed their concerns with the definition of incidental benefit in that it disregards years of case law, creates two systems for accountability with different standards for federal and state, would complicate dispute resolution, could divert special education money to students that are funded in other ways, and would cause additional work for teachers.

Others felt the legislation is still being worked on and it would be premature for the Board to vote on it.

Motion carried, with Members Earl and Hymas opposed.

**MOTION** was made by Member Lear and seconded that the Board support H.B. 338 School District Voter Eligibility Amendments.

Member Lear spoke to her motion indicating this bill would help young people engage in the practice of participating thoughtfully in the election process and allows local education agencies the choice to participate or not.

Others voiced concerns that this age group could be easily manipulated, that it may cost more than the funding proposed, and that it may put teachers in difficult positions in what can be discussed in the classroom. They also suggested that there are other ways available to get students involved in their civic responsibilities.

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

Deputy Superintendent Stallings provided a brief overview of H.B. 381 Grow Your Own Teacher and School Counselor Pipeline Program. It was agreed that the bill would be discussed in the Board's next meeting with the bill sponsor in attendance, if possible.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

[For additional information on items from the meeting, see General Exhibit No. 21-06.]

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved February 25, 2021