

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Study Session Minutes**

September 3, 2021

A study session meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held on September 3, 2021, electronically with an anchor location at the State Board of Education offices. The meeting was streamed live to the public. Vice Chair Cindy Davis presided.

**Members Present:** Chair Mark Huntsman, Vice Chair Cindy Davis, Vice Chair Laura Belnap, Janet Cannon, Natalie Cline, Jennie Earl, Kristan Norton, Carol Lear, Stacey Hutchings, James Moss, Randy Boothe, Brent Strate, Molly Hart, Matt Hymas, and Scott Hansen

**Others Present:** Sydnee Dickson, Angie Stallings, Patty Norman, Scott Jones, Jeff Van Hulten, Bryan Quesenberry, Cybil Child, Jerry Record, Alex Farah, Deborah Jacobson, Dale Frost, Darin Nielsen, Debbie Davis, Kevin John, Leah Voorhies, Michelle Beus, Patrick Lee, Cory Kanth, David Sallay, Jennifer Throndsen, Katrina Brinkley, LauraLee Gillespie, Malia Hite, Max Lang, Paula Plant, and Zac Christensen.

**Opening Business**

Vice Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2022 Legislative Session Preparation**

Those who presented were the Utah State Board of Education staff Scott Jones - Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Deborah Jacobsen - Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Angie Stallings - Deputy Superintendent of Policy, and Jeff Van Hulten - Director of Public Affairs.

Staff provided a general overview of the processes staff and Board members go through to prepare for Legislative Sessions, including providing a review of:

- 1) Board funding priorities for the last three years and compare what the Board requested, what the Governor prioritized, and what the Legislature appropriated, to provide more background and context before the Board begins to review and prioritize business cases for 2022 General Session funding requests;
- 2) the processes staff follow to have policy requests for legislation reviewed by the Board; and

3) COVID-19 related Legislation from 2020 Special and 2021 General Sessions, including waivers from various sections of Utah Code, from past sessions.

### **Board Resolution on COVID Mitigation**

Board Member Scott Hansen spoke in favor of the Board Resolution he recommended with the intent to establish a Utah State Board of Education position on (1) the efficacy and application of masks in schools as warranted by the current situation of COVID variants, COVID infection increases, hospital capacity, vaccination status, and recommendations from medical organizations and professionals in various localities across the state, and (2) the board's preference for local decision-making on masks for K-12 students and employees by LEA's in conjunction with local health departments.

Member Belnap spoke to the amendments that she recommended be made to the proposed resolution.

**MOTION** was made by Member Belnap and seconded by Member Earl to approve Board Resolution No. 2021-02, Resolution on Preventive Health Measures in Schools – Draft 2.

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

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Hansen and seconded by Member Strate that the Board approves Board Resolution No. 2021-02, Resolution on Preventive Health Measures in Schools – Draft 1.

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

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Cybil Child, Board Secretary  
Approved on October 7, 2021.