



## UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2023, Board Meeting

2:00 TO 5:00 PM.

A regular Utah State Board of Education meeting was held on July 31, 2023. Vice Chair Hart presided. As Utah Code 52-4 authorized, this meeting was held at the state board offices, 250 E. 500 S, Salt Lake City, Utah. The public can view the discussion through live YouTube streaming.

### Members Present

Member Carol Barlow Lear

Member Cindy Davis

First Vice-Chair Molly Hart

Member Matt Hymas

Second Vice-Chair Jennie Earl

Member Christina Boggess

Member Kristan Norton

Member Randy Boothe

Member Brent J. Strate

Member Sarah Reale

Member LeAnn Wood

### Members on Zoom

Member Emily Green

Member Natalie Cline

Member Joseph Kerry

Board Chair James Moss

### Executive Staff Present

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent

Chief of Staff Sarah Young

Patty Norman, Deputy Superintendent

Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent

### Minutes were taken by:

Cybil Child, Executive Assistant

Angie Stallings, Deputy Superintendent

Kelsey James, Board Communications Coordinator

### **Others Present**

Debbie Davis, Bryan Quesenberry, Ashley Biehl.

### **Opening Business**

Vice Chair Hart called the meeting to order and roll call at 2:05.

### **Study Session**

#### USBE Strategic Plan Mission and Vision

Purpose of Today's Session:

Set the stage and create a framework for Board to Move forward on updating USBE Strategic Plan – Mission and Vision.

Purpose of a Strategic Plan:

- Unites Board around proactive efforts by orienting policy toward outcomes
- Prioritizes Resources
- Focuses on the work of the agency

Board members shared their initial feedback, which was their thoughtful and candid insights on the future of education in Utah over the next five years. Their written input from the April, May, and June 2023 meetings was captured in a separate document. The Board will address the issues raised by Board members as they move through the strategic planning process.

In preparation for the June board meeting study session, they will examine the USBE vision and mission. They will discuss the mission's and vision's purpose and how they relate to the Strategic Plan (slides nos. 9-11). They will also review the Office of Legislator General's Audit on USBE Internal Governance (attached), especially pages 13-20, which relate to USBE's

mission and vision, and pages 21-22, which address the alignment of measures of success with the goals and strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Board Member Cline's comments were: "I would love to put my vision forward, or even support some of these other's with their nice sounding verbiage, but even with the best language and ideas put forward, they will do little to no good at fixing the underlying problems of our public education system, namely, the systemic sectarian control that has taken hold of our schools. This has happened despite Utah's constitution explicitly prohibiting sectarian control, not just over our K-12 public education system, but also Utah's higher education system. I have documented this siege on our system. And have the evidence to back up my claims. Until we can address the sectarian capture of our public education system, any language we put forth will simply be crosswalked to mean what the bureaucracy needs it to mean so that they can continue to "implement with fidelity," the very dogmas that are destroying public education."

**MOTION** was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Boggess that the Board approves the recommended mission and vision statement.

**Vision: Academic Excellence**

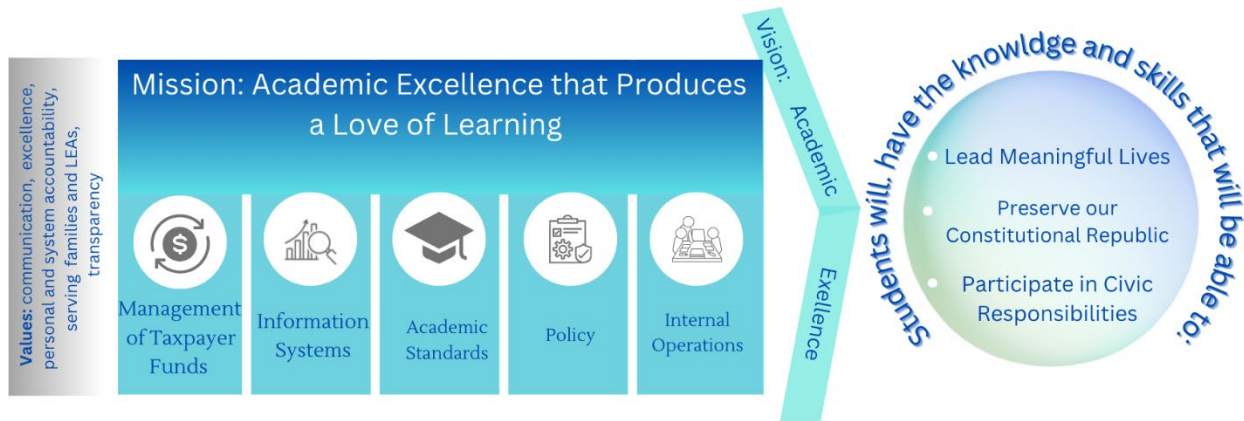
Students will have the knowledge and skills to be able to:

- Continue Learning
- Lead meaningful lives
- Preserve our constitutional republic
- Participate in civic responsibilities

**Mission: Academic Excellence that Produces a love of learning.**

- Management of Taxpayer Funds
- Information Systems
- Academic Standards
- Policy
- Internal Operations

Values: communication, excellence, personal and system accountability, Serving families and Local Education Agencies. transparency,



**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Strate and seconded by Member Lear that the Board amends the vision statement as follows:

**Vision: Academic Excellence**

“Students will have the knowledge and skills to be:

- Continue Learning
- Lead meaningful lives
- Preserve our constitutional republic
- Participate in civic responsibilities
- productive economic members of society; and
- good citizens of our constitutional republic.”

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION** was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Lear that Board adds the third bullet point and removes the word “economic” to the above motion to amend.

**Vision: Academic Excellence**

Students will have the knowledge and skills to:

- Continue Learning
- Lead meaningful lives
- Preserve our constitutional republic
- Participate in civic responsibilities
  
- Be productive economic members of society; and
- Be good citizens of our constitutional republic; and
- Be college and career ready.”

The substitute motion carried with Members Boothe, Davis, Hart, Hymas, Lear, Norton, Reale, Strate, and Wood in favor and Members Boggess, Cline, Earl, Green, Kerry, and Moss opposed.

**MOTION TO DIVIDE** was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Green. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION TO POSTPONE** the Vision statement and approve and approve the Mission was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Hymas.

The motion to postpone carried with Members Boothe, Davis, Earl, Hart, Hymas, Kerry, Lear, Norton, Reale, Strate, Wood, and Moss in favor and Members Boggess, Cline, and Green opposed.

## DIVIDED MOTIONS

### Mission: Academic Excellence that Produces a love of learning.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Norton and seconded by Member Earl that the Board amend the Mission statement to add the underlined words: USBE will promote Academic Excellence that Produces a love of learning by

**MOTION TO AMEND the amendment** was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board adds: for students as individuals., as follows:

USBE will promote Academic Excellence that Produces a love of learning for students as individuals.

The motion to amend failed with Members Boggess, Davis, Green, Hart, Kerry, and Moss in favor and Members Boothe, Cline, Earl, Hymas, Lear, Norton, Reale, Strate, and Wood opposed.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION** was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Strate that the Board adopt the following language as the Mission statement: To protect, promote, and preserve excellence in public education for all Utah students by

**MOTION TO POSTPONE** was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Strate that the Board postpones the Mission and Vision statement to a future meeting.

The motion carried with Members Boothe, Cline, Davis, Earl, Hart, Hymas, Kerry, Lear, Norton, Reale, Strate, Wood, and Moss in favor and Members Boggess and Green opposed.

- Management of Taxpayer Funds
- Information Systems
- Academic Standards
- Policy
- Internal Operations

**Executive Session (closed in accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act)**

The motion was made by Vice Chair Hart and seconded by Member Earl that the Board moves into executive session for the purpose of 1) discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property; 2) discussing the character and professional competence or physical or mental health of individuals; and 3) strategy on pending or reasonably imminent litigation.

Upon voice vote of Members Boothe, Cline, Davis, Earl, Hart, Hymas, Lear, Moss, Norton, Reale, Strate, and Wood in favor and Members Boggess and Green opposed that the Board went into closed session at 4:32 PM.

Upon voice vote of all Members, the Board went into closed session.

Those present included the Members above, Sydnee Dickson, Kelsey James, Cybil Child, and Bryan Quesenberry.

### **Executive Session Action Items**

**MOTION** was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Strate that the Board comes out of executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened in an open meeting at 7:11 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** was made by Member Hymas.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Minutes were taken by Cybil Prideaux, Board Secretary.

The minutes were approved on August 3, 2023.