



Meeting Minutes

Utah State Board of Education

A regular [Utah State Board of Education meeting](#) was held on April 3, 2025. Chair Hymas presided. As authorized by Utah Code 52-4, 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

Board Chair Matt Hymas

First Vice-Chair Molly Hart

Second Vice-Chair LeAnn Wood

Member Christina Boggess

Member Amanda Bollinger

Member Randy Boothe

Member Joann Brinton

Member Jennie Earl

Member Emily Green

Member Rod Hall

Member Cole Kelley

Member Joseph Kerry

Member Carol Lear

Member Sarah Reale

Members Excused

Member Cindy Davis

Executive Staff Present

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent

Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent

Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent

Leah Voorhies, Interim Deputy Superintendent

Minutes were taken by:

Cybil Prideaux, Executive Assistant

Others Present

Mark Kirman, Christian Hernandez, Joel Briscoe, Lexi Cunningham, Linda L. Snarr, Mary Stewart, Kris Kimball, Aaboli Samant, Krista Hotelling, Sara Wiebke, Cory Firn, Brittney Gold, Rebecca Kirkman, Megan Tippetts, Susie Estrada, David Ellison, JoAnna Sorensen, Julie Cluff, and Corey Fairholm.

Opening Business

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Board Member Message

Member Earl shared the March board member message.

Employee Recognition

Superintendent Dickson introduced the Employee of the Month, Gregory Finn.

Education Highlight

Students: Aaboli Samant and Ainge Leah Ford

United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP)

Program Overview

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is a fantastic opportunity for motivated student leaders to have direct contact with the nation's highest-level elected and appointed officials. Sponsored by the Senate and funded and administered by The Hearst Foundations since 1962, the USSYP's mission is to encourage the best and brightest students in America's high schools to pursue careers in public service.

The Hearst Foundation's United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) 63rd Annual Washington Week will be held in Washington, D.C., March 1-8, 2024.

Two student leaders from each state will spend a week in Washington, experiencing their national government in action. The Hearst Foundations will provide all transportation, hotel, and meal expenses. In addition, each delegate will be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science.

High school juniors and seniors may [qualify](#) to apply through leadership positions they currently hold per the USSYP official criteria for the current 2023-2024 academic year. All

student leadership qualifying positions are subject to the judgment of the state selection administrator and will be verified and confirmed.

To apply, students must be nominated by their school. Interested students should contact their school counselor or school administrator directly. Each Utah high school is invited and encouraged to nominate two exceptional high school juniors or seniors serving in an elected or appointed position with a strong interest in government and history. We will accept JROTC students who hold officer-level leadership positions within their cadet corps for the entire academic year as qualified to apply to the USSYP. These leadership positions, often called Cadet Corps Commanders, will be allowed as qualifying leadership positions for USSYP. Serving as a general JROTC cadet alone will NOT be eligible.

Public Comment for USBE

The Board heard from the following individuals.

- Lexi Cunningham, Amelia Landay, Julie Cluff, Linda Snarr, Christian Hernandez, Becca Kirkman, Mark King, Jose Enriquez, Dr. Marlee Coles-Ritchie, and Rachel Farnsworth.
- The public may sign up to share public comments at publiccomment@schools.utah.gov.
- The public may send written public comments to the Board at board@schools.utah.gov
- Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per person.
- A comment can express support or dissent for regulatory action.
- Individuals should not use public comments to complain about personnel issues or attack or defame an individual.
- Speakers making a highly detailed or complex comment should also consider providing a written outline of their words to the Board.
- Please remember that children may hear your comments. Be thoughtful and professional.
- Keep your comments appropriate for a general audience. If you have material with explicit language or content, submit such material in writing to the Board at board@schools.utah.gov

Audit Committee Report

Update Internal Audit Plan

MOTION was made by Member Hart that the Board prioritize an audit of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, including the financial position of the USDB, and add it to the Audit Plan before the USBE Advisory Committees Audit.

The motion carried.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, and Hall.

1 OPPOSED: Member Kerry.

Budget Reallocation Request

MOTION was made by Member Hart that the Board

1. Reallocate \$155,000 of its ongoing budget, starting in SFY2026, to the Internal Audit Department to hire one FTE; and
2. Approve the Internal Audit Department to use prior year carryforward funds to fund the FTE for the remainder of SFY2025.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

Finance Committee Report/Recommendations (Items duplicated from the March 7, 2025, meeting)

R277-632, At-Risk Add-On Funding Report (New)

MOTION was made by Member Kelley and that the Board approve R277-632, At-Risk Add-On Funding Report, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Kelley and seconded by Member Brinton that the Board take no action on R277-632, At-Risk Add-On Funding Report and send the rule back to the April 4 Finance Committee for further amendments relating to 2025 HB 42.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

R277-317, Incentive for National Board Certification (Amendment)

MOTION was made by Member Kelley and that the Board approve R277-317, Incentive for National Board Certification, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

Update to the LEA Annual Assurances Document

MOTION was made by Member Kelley and that the Board approve the LEA Annual Assurances document, Draft 2.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

Law and Licensing Committee Report/Recommendations (Items duplicated from the March 7, 2025, meeting.)

R277-121, Board Waiver of Administrative Rules (Amendment)

MOTION was made by Member Kerry that the Board approve R277-121, Board Waiver of Administrative Rules, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board amend the rule by striking Lines 20-25 from Draft 2 and inserting at Line 28:

“(3) An LEA’s written waiver request shall include how the waiver will support the learning environment and lead to educational excellence.”

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Lear and seconded by Member Hart that the Board add “and; (4) Any other additional information that the LEA believes the Board would find helpful for the Board to make an informed decision regarding the waiver.”

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

MOTION was made by Member Kerry that the Board approve R277-121, Board Waiver of Administrative Rules, Draft 2, as amended, on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

MOTION was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Earl that the Board amend Draft 2 as follows:

Line 32-33 - (a) verification that the LEA board voted to request the waiver in an open meeting, with the results of the waiver request.

Line 34 - (b) data, if applicable, that support the requested waiver which ~~may~~ shall include:

Line 36 - (ii) community, staff, ~~or~~ and student survey data

Line 37 - (iii) student enrollment data; ~~or~~

Lines 116-119 - (3)(a) An LEA may request the Superintendent to waive the school day and hour requirement ~~pursuant to a directive from the Utah State Health Department or a local health department, that results in the closure of a school~~ in the event of a ~~pandemic or other~~ public health emergency.

Insert at Line 134 - (3)(g) Any waiver request granted pursuant to subsection (3) shall be subject to Board approval no later than 45 days after it is granted.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

FINAL MOTION, AS AMENDED.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, Kerry, and Hall.

Interagency Data Sharing Agreement

Interagency Data Sharing Agreement with Utah State University's Center for School of the Future (USBE250018IAA)

MOTION was made by Member Hymas and seconded by Member Boothe that the Board approve the interagency data sharing agreement with Utah State University's Center for School of the Future (USBE250018IAA).

The motion carried.

8 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Hart, Hymas, Kelley, Boothe, and Earl.

5 OPPOSED: Members Boggess, Lear, Wood, Brinton, and Green.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Hall.

Resolution Directing Removal of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Utah Schools

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Green that the Board approve the Resolution Directing Removal of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Utah Schools, Draft 2.

CALL THE QUESTION was made by Member Lear.

The motion failed.

8 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Hart, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, and Hall.

6 OPPOSED: Members Hymas, Boggess, Earl, Kerry, Brinton, and Green.

MOTION TO POSTPONE was made by Member Hall and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board postpone the Resolution Directing Removal of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Utah Schools, Draft 2, until May 1, 2025, full board meeting.

The motion failed.

5 IN FAVOR: Members Kelley, Boggess, Hall, Green, and Brinton.

9 OPPOSED: Members Hymas, Hart, Wood, Boothe, Earl, Lear, Reale, Bollinger, and Kerry.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Wood that the Board postpone the Resolution Directing Removal of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Utah Schools, Draft 2, indefinitely.

The motion failed.

4 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Wood, Hymas, and Earl.

10 OPPOSED: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, and Hall.

Chair Hymas passed the gavel to Vice Chair Wood.

Vice Chair Wood passed the gavel to Chair Hymas.

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board move to the following agenda item.

The motion failed.

5 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Hall, Kerry, Earl, and Hart.

9 OPPOSED: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Green, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, and Boothe.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Green that the Board approve the Resolution Directing Removal of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Utah Schools, Draft 2.

The motion failed.

4 IN FAVOR: Members Boggess, Hall, Green, and Brinton.

10 OPPOSED: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, and Earl.

Letter of Intent

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board approve distributing the Letter of Intent, Draft April 3, 2025.

The motion failed.

4 IN FAVOR: Members Hall, Kelley, Earl, and Kerry.

10 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Lear, Bollinger, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Boggess, and Boothe.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Green that the Board approve the Letter of Intent, Draft April 2, 2025 (Letter of Intent Sub Letter Re Sovereignty April 2, 2025).

The motion failed.

2 IN FAVOR: Members Green and Boggess.

12 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Lear, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, and Hall.

Chair Hymas passed the gavel to Vice Chair Hart.

Vice Chair Hart passed the gavel to Chair Hymas.

Monthly Budget Report

Monthly Budget Report

In accordance with the Money Management Act and the Budgetary Procedures Act, the Utah State Board of Education is provided a report on the status of funds for their internal budgets.

Discretionary Funds Report

The Utah State Board of Education maintains a Discretionary Funds account. In accordance with the Money Management Act and the Budgetary Procedures Act, the Utah State Board of Education is provided with the status of the funds. This is a perpetual action item to facilitate motions by board members to utilize available funds in a consistent and allowable manner.

R277-801, Services for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind (Amendment)

MOTION was made by Member Wood and seconded by Member Boothe that the Board approve R277-801, Services for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind, Draft 1, as amended, on first and final reading

Including the following amendments: that the Board strike “2017-2018” from line 250 and replace it with “2024-2025”

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, and Hall.

1 **ABSENT:** Member Green.

Consent Calendar

MOTION was made by Member Hart and seconded by Member Boothe that the Board approve the consent calendar minus the items pulled.

Contracts/Agreements for Approval

MOTION was made that the Board approve the contracts.

Driver Education Core Standards Revision Process

MOTION was made that the Board approve the driver education standards review process.

STEM Designated Schools Approval

MOTION was made that the Board approve the recommended eight schools for STEM School Designation at the level recommended by the stakeholder review team for the 2025 school year.

The motion carried.

12 **IN FAVOR:** Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, and Hall.

1 **OPPOSED:** Member Boggess.

1 **ABSENT:** Member Wood.

Member Boggess pulled the minutes and meeting schedule from the consent calendar.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve the minutes, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, and Hall.

2026 Board Meeting Schedule

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve the 2026 meeting schedule, as presented.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Wood and was seconded that the Board amend the 2026 schedule to change the January dates from January 8-9 to January 7-8, 2026.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, and Hall.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Reale and was seconded that the Board amend the 2026 schedule to change the March dates from March 5-6 to March 12-13, 2026.

The motion carried.

10 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, and Hall.

4 OPPOSED: Members Earl, Hymas, Wood, and Hart.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve the 2026 meeting schedule, as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boggess, Boothe, Earl, and Hall.

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

The motion was made by Member Hart and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of

- a person's character, competence, or health;
- pending or imminent litigation;
- certain matters regarding the acquisition or sale of real property, including water rights or shares;
- the deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems;
- an investigation of alleged criminal conduct;

- the receipt or review of an ethics complaint if the public body is the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission;
- certain matters under the jurisdiction of a legislative ethics committee; and
- certain deliberations and decision-making involved in the procurement process.

Upon the voice vote of Members Reale, Lear, Boggess, Boothe, Green, Wood, Lear, Brinton, Hall, Earl, Hart, Hymas, Kelley, and Bollinger, the Board entered a closed session at 3:12 PM.

The above members, minus Member Davis, and the following individuals were present: Sydnee Dickson, Cybil Prideaux, Kelsey James, Michelle Beus, Ashley Biehl, and Ben Rasmussen.

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

Upon voice vote of Members Reale, Boggess, Boothe, Davis, Green, Wood, Lear, Brinton, Hall, Earl, Hart, Hymas, Kelley, and Bollinger, the Board came out of the executive session at 3:50 PM.

Executive Session Action Items

Educator Licenses

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board approve the UPPAC consent calendar.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Hymas, Wood, Boggess, Earl, and Hall.

2 ABSENT: Members Hart and Kelley.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Ear that the Board accepts the UPPAC recommendation for:

- Case No. 24-2094

The motion carried.

11 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Wood, Boggess, Earl, and Hall.

1 OPPOSED: Member Hymas.

2 ABSENT: Members Hart and Kelley.

- Case No. 24-2100

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Wood, Hymas, Boggess, Earl, and Hall.

2 ABSENT: Members Hart and Kelley.

- Case No. 24-2110

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Wood, Hymas, Boggess, Earl, and Hall.

2 ABSENT: Members Hart and Kelley.

- Case No. 24-2119

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kelley, Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Wood, Hymas, Boggess, Earl, and Hall.

1 ABSENT: Member Hart

- Case No. 24-2181

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kelley, Lear, Reale, Bollinger, Kerry, Brinton, Green, Hart, Wood, Hymas, Boggess, Earl, and Hall.

1 ABSENT: Member Hart

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Hall.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.

The executive assistant took the meeting minutes.

The minutes were approved on May 1, 2025.