

Trust Advisory Committee
Minutes – March 16, 2020
WebEx

Members Participating: Nancy Kennedy, Carolyn White, Liz Mumford, Lark Reynolds, Shawn McLeod, Jay Blain, Susan Edwards, Tyler Slack.

Excused: Cade Douglas, Mary Wohlforth, Sarah Thomas.

Others Participating: Board Member Laura Belnap; Justin Atwater and Jessie Stewart, LTPAO;

USBE Staff: Ben Rasmussen, Paula Plant, Natalie Gordon, Karen Rupp.

At 12:05, Chair Nancy Kennedy welcomed the committee.

Carolyn White made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2020. Shawn McLeod seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Justin Atwater asked if he could move the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy report to the end of the meeting to coincide with the legislative report.

Ben Rasmussen explained that rule R277-477 draft three was amended in USBE Finance Committee to reflect the concerns of some of the school superintendents. It was referred by the Finance Committee to the full Utah State Board of Education as amended, with a stipulation that TAC meet and discuss the amendment. Ben presented the current draft, draft four. TAC discussed the process, with Susan Edwards suggesting that the group clarify procedures for recommending rules, with stakeholder objections being identified earlier and revisions coming back to TAC. Carolyn White asked if superintendents were looking for greater flexibility in expending the funds. Lark Reynolds said that the business officials would like greater flexibility. Karen Rupp asked if the business officials only wanted more flexibility through negative carryover, or if they were also advocating to loosen the expenditure restrictions. Nancy Kennedy mentioned that a legislator and a superintendent were advocating that the permanent State School Fund be used to fund buildings in rural districts. Nancy was concerned that if we open this up, the dam may burst. Tyler Slack was concerned that draft four had no definition of greatest academic need. Lark Reynolds stated that current restrictions would not allow the funds to be used for capital or equipment, including treadmills. Liz Mumford suggested that the process be examined and suggested that one way to provide greater flexibility while protecting the funds for the greatest academic needs was to return to draft three and remove the \$7,000 cap on additional goals. This could be accomplished by restoring lines that were stricken from draft three in draft four.

Carolyn White made a motion to keep draft four while restoring lines 176-183 and 197-209. Tyler Slack seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 in favor (Nancy, Liz, Carolyn, Shawn, Jay, Susan and Tyler) and one opposed (Lark).

In discussion items, Paula Plant noted that the resolution on school trust lands and funds that was recommended to the State Board of Education had been approved in committee and has been recommended to the full board. Paula also discussed some improvements that were being considered to the SchoolLANDTrust.org website. Natalie Gordon mentioned that compliance reviews that are currently scheduled to be held in person between now and April 30 would either be converted to a WebEx or rescheduled in the fall. Natalie also suggested that councils that had not yet begun the election process be encouraged to hold elections in the fall, and that LEAs be given an option to delay the upcoming plan approval process and receive the distribution in the fall. Shawn McLeod also suggested that councils be allowed to use electronic meetings to approve the upcoming year plan if the notice requirement is met and the meeting is open to the public.

Karen Rupp mentioned that the Utah State Board of Education was scheduled this week to appoint a member to fill Jennifer Meyer-Glenn's unfilled term.

Paula Plant gave a legislative update, discussing passed bills that may involve the school trust or school community councils. These are:

HB16, School Meals Program Amendments, that could allow a council to recommend that an elementary school not participate in the school breakfast program;

HB58, Electronic Cigarettes in Schools Amendments, which would require a school community council to provide input to the school principal on a positive behaviors plan; and

HCR3, Concurrent Resolution Encouraging Consideration of a Later Start Time for High School, which would encourage a council to consider the possible benefits and consequences of a later start to the school day for high schools and share recommendations with their school district or governing board.

Justin Atwater also discussed legislation that effected the trustee of the school trust.

Future priorities were identified as:

- Finding a more effective and efficient way to include the voice of the committee in the USBE rule making process
- Continuing to monitor carryover
- Discuss school website compliance

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45