

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

February 8, 2018

A legislative meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held February 8, 2018 at the Utah State Capitol Complex, Senate Building, Room E210, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

Board Members Present:

Chair Mark Huntsman
1st Vice Chair Brittney Cummins
2nd Vice Chair Alisa Ellis
Member Laura Belnap
Member Michelle Boulter
Member Janet A. Cannon
Member Lisa Cummins
Member Jennifer Gravier

Member Linda Hansen
Member Carol Barlow Lear
Member Scott B. Neilson
Member Kathleen Riebe
Member Spencer F. Stokes
Member Terryl Warner
Member Joel Wright (by phone)

Executive Staff Present:

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent
Scott Jones, Deputy Supt.
Patty Norman, Deputy Supt.
Angie Stallings, Deputy Supt.

Minutes taken by:

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary

Others Present:

Bryan Quesenberry, David Thomas—Attorney General’s Office; Dale Lamborn—Rich School District; Kent Larsen—South Sanpete School District; Matthew Brady—I-O Corporation; Bruce Cutler, Steve Eliason—Utah House of Representatives; Steven Torgesen—Utah Legislature; Carol Johnson; Van Johnson; Carl Empey—Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; Jennifer Lambert, Delaina Tonks, Kristin Elinkowski—State Charter School Board; Tracy Miller—Jordan Board of Education; Ray Terry—Beaver School District; Shannon Delaney, Chari Hensler—Iron School District; Dave Van Langeveld—retired educator; Ben Wood—Salt Lake Tribune; Emilie Wheeler, Tiffany Stanley, Allison Nicholson, Debbie Davis, Paula Plant, Holly Todd, Lillian Tsosie Jensen, Leah Voorhies, Thalea Longhurst, Diana Suddreth, Sarah Young, Drew Camps—USBE staff

Call to Order

Vice Chair Brittney Cummins called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made by Member Ellis and seconded by Member L. Cummins that the Board approve the minutes of its January 25, 2018 legislative meeting. [For additional details, see General Exhibit No. 18-82.]

Motion carried; Members Huntsman, Neilson, Riebe and Stokes absent.

Questar Assessment, Inc. Contract

Assistant Superintendent Darin Nielsen provided background on the Request for Proposal (RFP) and subsequent award to Questar Assessment, Inc. to provide the next statewide online platform for grades 3-8 assessments. He indicated the contract is being brought to the Board outside of its regular meeting so the required timelines for the fall 2018 assessment can be met. The contract has been reviewed by numerous individuals including legal and data privacy staff. Superintendent Nielsen and Fay Tan, Purchasing and Contracts Coordinator, answered questions about the contract.

MOTION was made by Member Riebe and seconded by Member Lear that the Board approve the contract with Questar Assessment, Inc.

Some Board members expressed concern with the rebranding of SAGE and over the procurement process.

Motion carried, with Members Belnap, Cannon, B. Cummins, Graviet, Hansen, Huntsman, Lear, Neilson, Riebe, Stokes and Warner in favor, and Members Boulter, L. Cummins, Ellis and Wright opposed.

Review of LegislationDiscussion with Legislators

Representative Bruce Cutler reviewed with the Board H.B. 235 Family School Partnership and H.B. 164 Early Childhood Task Force. Board members expressed concerns in H.B. 235 over home visits being mandated and increasing teacher responsibilities. It was also

suggested that all voices need to be included in the task force in H.B. 164. Representative Cutler was thanked for visiting the turnaround schools.

[For additional details, see General Exhibit No. 18-83.]

Representative Steve Eliason discussed the Safe UT program with the Board. He showed a video that gave an overview of the app, and he gave statistics that students are calling the app most about bullying and suicide. He has submitted a request for \$175,000 for ongoing funding to help promote SafeUT.

Representative Eliason informed that H.B. 264 Elementary School Counselor Program passed out of House committee, and thanked the Board for its support.

Representative Eliason also provided a DVD of a program called Strengthening the Families that is court-ordered through the juvenile justice system and is produced by a Utah non-profit group with a focus on prevention. He suggested the Board consider incorporating the skills in the DVD into curriculum. He also distributed information concerning suicidal ideation in relation to parental bonding.

It was questioned whether students with disabilities are using the Safe UT app, as they are more likely to be bullied than other students. Representative Eliason indicated he will bring the issue to the Safe UT Commission.

Board members thanked Representative Eliason for his continued work on mental health and suicide issues.

[For additional details, see General Exhibit No. 18-84.]

Review of Legislation

Superintendent Sydnee Dickson distributed a budget sheet comparing the Board's budget request to the Governor's budget request. [For additional details, see General Exhibit No. 18-85.]

Deputy Superintendent Angie Stallings reviewed H.B. 313 Public School Revisions and potential amendments that Representative McCay has agreed to incorporate into the 1st substitute of the bill. The bill deletes the language that requires the State Board of Education to approve or deny charter school applications. The bill also requires the Board to enact rules and

set standards for the charter application process for all authorizers as well as a process to review financial viability of a school, among other things. [For additional details, see General Exhibit No. 18-86.]

Board members voiced concerns that the change may be unconstitutional and that an additional level of scrutiny will be eliminated.

Others members were positive that the bill still allows the Board to set the parameters and hold the authorizers accountable.

Kristin Elinkowski, State Charter School Board (SCSB) Chair, and Delaina Tonks, SCSB Vice Chair, were invited to comment. Chair Elinkowski reported that the SCSB voted today in favor of the bill as it is written. She stated the SCSB is very proud of the rigorous process in place for vetting charter schools and works closely with schools from the time they're approved. The SCSB supports the idea of the State Board of Education creating the process, policy and oversight over the authorizer.

Action on Legislation/Budget Priorities

MOTION was made by Member Cannon and seconded by Member Gravier that the Board support the concept of 1st Substitute H.B. 235 Family School Partnership.

Motion carried, with Members Cannon, B. Cummins, Gravier, Hansen, Huntsman, Lear, Riebe and Warner in favor, and Members Belnap, Boulter, L. Cummins and Neilson opposed; Members Ellis, Stokes and Wright absent.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Member Riebe and seconded by Member Belnap that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved March 15, 2018