

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BOARD
FOR THE UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

August 3, 2017

A meeting of the Utah State Board of Education Acting as the Governing Board for the Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind was held August 3, 2017 at the Utah State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Mark Huntsman presided.

Members Present:

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| Chair Mark Huntsman | Member Lisa Cummins |
| 1 st Vice Chair Terry Warner | Member Jennifer Gravier |
| 2 nd Vice Chair Brittney Cummins | Member Linda B. Hansen |
| 3 rd Vice Chair Alisa Ellis | Member Carol Barlow Lear |
| Member Laura Belnap | Member Scott B. Neilson |
| Member Michelle Boulter | Member Kathleen Riebe |
| Member Janet A. Cannon | |

Members Absent:

Member Spencer F. Stokes
Member Joel Wright

USDB Executive Staff Present:

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| Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent | Michelle Tanner, Associate Supt. |
| Carolyn Lasater, Associate Supt. | Letty Debenham, Finance Director |

Others Present:

Sydnee Dickson, Lorraine Austin, Tim Donaldson, Paula Plant, Ben Rasmussen—USBE Staff; Karen Borg—USDB Staff; Lisa Schneider—School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration; Tracey Watson—Utah Education Association; Royce Van Tassell—Utah Association of Public Charter Schools; Bryan Quesenberry, David Thomas—Attorney General's Office

Call to Order

Chair Mark Huntsman called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

USDB Consent Calendar

MOTION was made by Member Warner and seconded by Member Boulter that the Board approve the USDB Consent Calendar.

Motion carried.

USDB Consent Calendar1.1 Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the July 13, 2017 USDB Board meeting minutes.

1.2 USDB Negotiated Agreement

The Board ratified the Negotiated Agreement between the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Education Association.

Monthly Budget Report

Finance Director Letty Debenham gave the monthly budget report. She noted that \$2.2 million still needs to be collected and should be included in the final report next month.

Member Cannon asked how much USDB is funded through federal monies. Ms. Debenham responded that USDB receives federal funds through Medicaid (\$850,000), Medicaid Admin, IDEA and IDEA Preschool. She informed that federal funds come to the USDB through the USBE office. Superintendent Joel Coleman added that out of a \$36 million budget the USDB gets \$250,000 for IDEA and less than \$1 million for Medicaid reimbursement, plus \$70,000 for child nutrition programs.

Ms. Debenham referred to the report of enrichment funds projects, and informed that these projects are approved by the USDB Advisory Council. Chair Huntsman requested a report for previous years including amounts and number of students involved. Ms. Debenham indicated she will prepare a report for FY16 and FY17.

School Trust Funds

Lisa Schneider from the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration provided some background regarding the Utah Enabling Act which granted 100,000 acres to the School for the Deaf (USD) and 100,000 acres to the School for the Blind (USB) to support those programs throughout the state. The primary revenue source for the USD trust is mineral leases, and with the ebb and flow of that market some years there is more revenue than others. The USB trust doesn't have the same asset base, as most of those revenues come from the interest and dividends invested by the School and Institutional Trust Funds Office. Most of the lands given to the USB fall within national parks. In 1999 with the Grand Staircase National Monument designation President Clinton indicated that the school children would be made whole and a deal was struck with the federal government to buy the acres within the national parks. The USB trust received \$14.6 million from the sale of 16,000 acres.

Starting July 1, 2017 the formula for distribution will be different and the USDB trusts will be treated more like other public schools—all the revenue will go into the permanent funds and four percent of the balance will be distributed to the USDB institutions. This will even out the revenue streams and make it much more predictable to forecast revenue and spending. Total distribution is projected at \$866,000.

Ms. Schneider clarified that USDB also receives an amount per student from the Permanent School Trust.

Ms. Debenham also clarified that Trust funds are the only funds in the USDB enrichment fund. They are considered restricted funds that can't be used for operational expenses.

Ms. Schneider reported that SITLA has a great group of managers that are very aware of the portfolios in the areas they manage and discuss where to put priorities. They take a very proactive, rather than reactive, role and their highest calling is to be a fiduciary of the funds in the Trust. She reported that when SITLA was made an agency in 1994 the cumulative balance of all the funds in the Permanent School Trust was over \$94 million, and now it has grown to \$2.5 billion.

Superintendent Coleman expressed that USDB has been very grateful for the support from the Trust offices.

Blind Campus Programs Division Report

Associate Superintendent Carolyn Lasater introduced Karen Borg, Director of the Blind Campus Programs. Ms. Borg gave a presentation on the work of those programs and student progress. She recited the mission and vision of the Utah School for the Blind, and finally the School Motto which is, "Our vision has no limits."

Ms. Borg noted that it is a challenge to demonstrate how to measure the progress of the students, and it is necessary to look at different inventories and assessments. Superintendent Coleman also stressed that he doesn't want USDB to be the exception in reporting progress and is continuing to work on providing data.

Vice Chair Ellis expressed that she loves the school motto and imagery used in the presentation and asked Ms. Borg to convey that to the students.

Member Riebe expressed appreciation for the teachers in the program and congratulated them on the phenomenal growth of their students. She asked whether students are able to invite friends to participate in the extension programs with them. Ms. Borg responded that there are many activities to which families are invited, but likes the idea of having students invite friends.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Coleman reported on the following:

- The USDB Opening Institute will be held August 16. He invited Board members to attend.
- The negotiated agreement with the USDB Education Association had not be redone since 2013. This year it was significantly rewritten over the course of many meetings, and the plan is to look at it every two years. He reported that the USDBEA was very happy with the process and the agreement.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary
Minutes approved September 7, 2017