

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

**March 16, 2018**

A meeting of the Utah State Board of Education Acting as the Governing Board for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was held on March 16, 2018 at the Utah State Board of Education Building, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. First Vice Chair Brittney Cummins presided.

**Board Members Present:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Brittney Cummins  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Alisa Ellis  
Member Laura Belnap  
Member Michelle Boulter  
Member Janet A. Cannon  
Member Lisa Cummins

Member Jennifer Graviet  
Member Linda B. Hansen  
Member Carol Barlow Lear  
Member Scott B. Neilson  
Member Kathleen Riebe  
Member Terryl Warner

**Board Members Absent:**

Chair Mark Huntsman  
Member Spencer F. Stokes

Member Joel Wright

**USDB Executive Staff Present:**

Joel Coleman, Superintendent  
Carolyn Lasater, Associate Supt.

Michelle Tanner, Associate Supt.

**Others Present:**

Carl Empey, Susan Patten, Susan Thomas—USDB staff; Scott Jones, Deborah Jacobsen, Patty Norman, Leah Voorhies, Debbie Davis, Barbara Fuentes, Jerry Record, Lorraine Austin—USBE staff

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Brittney Cummins called the meeting to order at 12:52 p.m. Chair Mark Huntsman was excused.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Member Neilson and seconded that Board approve the minutes of the February 2, 2018 USDB Board meeting. [For additional information, see General Exhibit No. USDB18-9.]

Motion carried.

**Monthly Budget Report**

USDB Finance Director Carl Empey presented the budget report. [For additional information, see General Exhibit No. USDB18-10.]

**Statewide Testing Requirements Policy**

USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman presented the USDB Student Assessment Policy. He reported that USDB is not subject to the Board's testing policy, but is required to administer a test. He indicated that the SAGE test doesn't work well for USDB students. SAGE is used for the blind school, but the deaf school uses the MAP test, which tests the core standards.

Associate Superintendent Michelle Tanner explained that the state computer adaptive assessments take extensive extra time when waiting for the test to be brailled, and it becomes a long, laborious process for the student. Many parents have opted their children out of the SAGE test. Interpreters are hired for deaf students, but it extends the test time significantly and translations can change from interpreter to interpreter. The MAP assessment is much better for deaf students and compares them to students around the country.

Board staff clarified that a certain number of SAGE tests in braille are ordered every year, and efforts have been made to try to make the test accessible to USDB students. However, they acknowledged that it is a grueling process for those students.

Questions were raised whether SAGE is required for federal accountability for USDB.

**MOTION** was made by Member Boulter and seconded by Member Hansen that the Board approve the USDB Student Assessment Policy.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Hansen and seconded by Member Cannon to add that the policy will come to the Board for review to ensure it complies with Board rule.

Motion to amend carried.

Amended motion—that the Board approve the USDB Student Assessment Policy, and that the policy come to the Board for review to ensure it complies with Board rule—carried.

[For additional information, see General Exhibit No. USDB18-11.]

### **Deaf-blind Services Division Report**

Susan Patten, USDB Director of Deaf-blind Services, made a presentation about the division, which serves children birth through age 22. [For additional information, see General Exhibit No. USDB18-12.]

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Coleman reported on the following:

- This coming Thursday will be the inaugural meeting of the USDB Foundation.
- USDB has engaged the services of a Utah State University professor to develop an American Sign Language curriculum for families.
- USDB is finishing a survey of families of their students throughout the state who do not have broadband access. Access will be provided through the enrichment funds.
- Legislative funding was appropriated for the USIMAC sustainability plan, and some restructuring is occurring.
- Meetings have begun on the overhaul of USDB's website.
- Work on the Springville campus is on track.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary  
Minutes approved April 13, 2016