**UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

**Advisory Council Meeting Summary**

**Approved 9/24/15**

**Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind**

**250 East 500 South**

**Salt Lake City, Utah 84114**

**Board Room**

**Date: August 27, 2015**

**4:30 p.m. - General Session**

**Attending**:

Jared Allebest, Voting Member

Wayne Andrus, Voting Member (by phone)

Chris Bischke (Chair), Voting Member

Suzy Blackham, Non-Voting Member

Chris Edwards, Voting Member

Richard Gurgel, Voting Member

Melanie Hooten, Voting Member

Jenifer Lloyd, Voting Member

Stephanie Morgan, Non-Voting Member

Sandra Ruconich, (Vice-Chair) Voting Member

**Also Attending**:

Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent

Tamara Flint, Executive Assistant

**Interpreters**:

Michelle Draper

Seychelle Wylie

**Administrative Staff Present**:

Cindy Boring, Educational Support Services Coordinator

Letty Debenham, USDB Finance Director

Hollie Murdock, ERC/USIMAC Director

Michelle Tanner, Associate Superintendent of USD

Mike Tribe, USDB Human Resource Director

**Also attending**:

Glenna Gallo, USOE

Crystal Thomas, USOE

Boni Henrie, USDBEA Representative

Itzel Garcia, JMS Student

Charity Diven, Parent

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Bischke welcomed everyone in attendance. Ms. Lloyd led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

Itzel Garcia, a twelfth-grade USDB student who attends Skyline High School, approached the Advisory Council to thank the Council for paying for her flight to Oregon to attend the Deaf Youth Leadership Conference. She explained that there was no technology available at the camp, which forced everyone to develop socially and build alliances with other individuals. She also learned a lot about discrimination, oppression and how to become a good leader and is excited to implement this learning in her daily life.

Dr. Ruconich reminded the Council that public comments should be three minutes or less.

**ACTION ITEMS**

3. Consent Calendar

Mr. Mathis moved to accept the Advisory Council minutes of June 25, 2015, the Vacancy Report for July FY 15 and the Donated Accounts Summary for July FY 15. Mr. Andrus seconded. Motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

4. Budget

Ms. Debenham reviewed the Advisory Council Board Report as of July FY 15. She notified the Council that USDB is operationally capable as of July 31, 2015, with 4% of the budget spent and 92% of the school year remaining. All areas covered in the Board Report are operationally capable. Ms. Debenham asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Board Report. There were no questions or concerns from the Council.

Ms. Debenham reviewed the Cost Data report. It addresses overall costs and spending and also includes comparisons of 2015 and 2016 costs. There were no questions or concerns from the Council for the Cost Data Report.

Ms. Debenham reviewed the status of enrichment funds. We have spent approximately $15,415.25, about 1%, of our annual $1,747,893.01 budget.

Ms. Debenham explained to the Council the two amendments to the FY 16 Enrichment plan she is requesting. They are as follows:

1. **Purchase of white canes ($4,000)**

USDB provides services for O&M students statewide. It is a free service that USDB is obligated to provide per the Interagency Agreement between USOE, LEA’s and USDB. Our current cane inventory is extremely low.

1. **Ogden Campus Playgrounds (Increase from $200,000 to $350,000)**

With the rising costs of playground equipment, the additional $150,000 will give us the ability to acquire proper equipment and build sidewalks that will meet the needs of the students and provide for their safety when walking to and from the playground.

Dr. Bischke noted that we will need to include this as an action item next month. In addition, prior to the next meeting in September, the enrichment subcommittee will have to meet to discuss the proposed increase for the Ogden playground and also for the purchase of white canes in the amount of $4,000.

Dr. Gurgel and other Council members were concerned about the $60,000 allocated to the playground modular and requested a more detailed budget. Ms. Debenham understood and will work on more specific dollar amounts for both the white canes and the Ogden playground prior to the next Advisory Council meeting.

Dr. Bischke would like to make sure that USDB has considered recent news regarding playground slides getting hot and burning children. Ms. Tanner noted that this has been considered and that the slides will be in the shade; in addition, specific magnetic slides will be ordered that will accommodate children with cochlear implants.

Superintendent Coleman thanked the Council and assured them that we will provide a more precise estimate next month.

Dr. Bischke noted that because she is now the USDB Advisory Council Chair, she will have to recuse herself from the Enrichment subcommittee. She asked for a volunteer. Ms. Hooten will replace Dr. Bischke as a member of the Enrichment subcommittee.

5. Plan Agenda for Advisory Council Retreat

* Associate Superintendents Lasater and Tanner will present on the School Improvement Network (EDIVATE)
* Review Interagency Agreement
* Year-end financial report
* Brief presentation from each Director on their department’s role
* Updates to the Advisory Council nomination form
* Roles and responsibilities of new AC members
* Transition services provided to USDB students

6. Superintendent Items

Opening Institute/Start of 2015-16 School Year -

* This is a very exciting time of year. USDB hosted its annual Opening Institute on August 14, 2015. Administration has received numerous comments from employees who feel that it was the best Opening Institute yet and that it was nothing like they had experienced before.
* Ms. Blackham stated that it was a lot of fun and also provided valuable information.
* Ms. Morgan stated that she had a really good time. Opening Institute provided a very positive energy and was upbeat. She would like to share stories about student successes and achievements during next year’s Opening Institute. Teachers find this very inspirational.
* Superintendent Coleman noted that we will build on the wonderful feedback received and attempt to make next year even better.

USDB Annual Report –

* Each year USDB is required to produce an Annual Report to the legislature. We are almost finished with the rough draft. It will then be sent to Ms. Glenna Gallo and her department for feedback.
* We will provide a rough draft to the State Board of Education for the USDB Board committee meeting on September 17, 2015.
* The Annual Report has been significantly reduced this year from approximately 60 pages to 25.

Logan Deaf Program –

* USDB was working under an MOU with Utah State University. We will not continue that MOU. USDB has begun scheduling IEP’s for the students in this program and has opened a classroom in Logan to serve these students.
* Some parents are choosing to move forward with USDB and some are choosing to move forward with Sound Beginnings, but USDB will no longer be funding the Sound Beginnings program.

Hiring/Teacher Recruitment –

* USDB has had one of the best years with regard to recruitment. Vacancies were filled long before school started, even though there is a teacher shortage. Everyone seems to be excited to come to USDB right now and is on board with our high expectations and a passion to improve education for our students.
* Ms. Tanner noted that she still has an SLP position open and would appreciate the Advisory Council’s putting the word out to help fill this position.
* Mr. Mathis had two questions regarding Sound Beginnings.
  1. What services are provided by USDB?
     + USDB has begun scheduling IEP’s. Each student will receive the same services from USDB as before, but those services will be delivered at a different location.
  2. What sort of relationship does USDB have with Logan School District?
     + Ms. Tanner stated that Logan District has been incredibly cooperative and has provided a classroom for us. She believes we will continue to have a wonderful partnership.

7. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items were discussed under item five above.

8. Executive Session

No executive session was needed.

Dr. Bischke adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Tamara A. Flint, Executive Assistant

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