

UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Advisory Council Meeting Summary

May 25, 2023

Openshaw Education Center

4:30 p.m. - General Session

Attending:

Jared Allebest, Voting Member, Zoom
John Clements, Voting Member, Zoom
Kiara Guymon, Voting Member, Zoom
Aunilie Hathaway, Voting Member
Jennifer Hayes, Voting Member
Ryan Hemming, Voting Member
Philippe Montalette, Voting Member, Zoom
Katie Nelson, Voting Member
Ray Wright, Vice-Chair - Voting-Member
LeAnn Wood, District 4, State Board of Education

Also Attending:

Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent
Tamara Flint, Executive Assistant
Susan Patten, USB Associate Superintendent, Zoom
Michelle Tanner, USD Associate Superintendent

Interpreters:

Michelle Draper, Interpreter
Emily Longshore, Interpreter

Others:

Brandon Watts, USB Outreach Director
Robbin Clark, ECC and Instructional Specialist
Jacquelyn Phillips, Executive Assistant
Candace George, Related Services Director
Marie Hollinger, O&M Specialist
Lacey Goforth, Davis School District TVI
Sarah Erb, NFB Parent Representative, Zoom

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Allebest welcomed Council members and guests in attendance to the May 25, 2023 Advisory Council meeting. Mr. Allebest led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

Sarah Erb - Ms. Erb is a parent of a blind child and is a representative of NFB Parent group. She is excited to report that her daughter is finally excited to read. She has been a reluctant reader for years and it is amazing for her family to have received services through PIP and was almost like they had a third parent. She hopes that every parent is receiving these services for students who are blind, deaf and deafblind.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Consent Calendar

Mr. Allebest asked Council members if they had any questions or concerns with the May 25, 2023 consent calendar. Mr. Wright made a motion to accept the Advisory Council minutes for April 27, 2023, the Donated Funds Account Summary as of April 30, 2023 and the Vacancy Report as of May 17, 2023. Mr. Montalette seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. USB Washington DC Advocacy Trip

Ms. Patten introduced Marie Hollenger, USDB O&M Specialist and Lacey Goforth, Davis School District TVI. The students shared their favorite experiences from this trip such as visiting the JFK Memorial, the White House, an African American museum, public transportation system and eating at many good restaurants. Students learned so much from this trip including the use of technology to know where they were and how to get to where they wanted to go by using Google maps. Each student took turns being in charge. They feel very fortunate to have such a strong Blind program in Utah.

5. USB Boston Stateside Trip

Ms. Patten introduced Robbin Clark. Ms. Clark provided an overview of the Boston stateside program values that included:

- Apply Expanded Core skills to everyday situations in an unfamiliar environment.
- Build confidence and maturity by taking ownership and responsibility for themselves.
- Manage their time, deal with challenging situations, meet new people and make decisions without oversight from their parents.
- Students will be exposed to new places and activities to allow them to consider new possibilities for their interests, preferences and motivation through connecting to new communities, cities and cultures.
- Model empathic communication and self-awareness.
- Connect with other students with visual impairments in meaningful ways.

There were eleven students who participated from the Bridges program and Outreach. Students leveraged the rich history of the city of Boston to help students develop targeted Expanded Core Curriculum skills. They participated in a special workshop with the Compass College Success program that focused on executive functioning and college readiness. They visited many food and historical sites, Harvard, Perkins School for the Blind and college success program mixer, Fenway Park and a trip to the beach.

Ms. Nelson asked how the eleven students were selected for this trip. Ms. Patten noted that students have to apply by application. Notifications were sent out via Parent Square and the TVI memo, but is open to ideas to possibly reach additional students.

6. FY23 Budget Update as of April 30, 2023

Mr. Empey notified the Council that year to date expenditures for FY2023 are \$40,740,875 as of April 30, 2023. All areas covered in the Financial Report are operationally capable, with a remaining budget balance of \$9,629,800. Mr. Empey reviewed student numbers across the state and noted that they have been increasing significantly from 339 students to 395 with no increase in funding. He thanked Superintendent Coleman, Dr. Tanner and Ms. Patten for making this happen by juggling services to the best of their ability. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Financial Report.

Mr. Montalette wondered about the increase in student numbers and wondered how USDB is able to absorb the additional students without an increase in funding. Superintendent Coleman noted that the increase in students is spread across the state and we are usually able to absorb the additional student services. Mr. Empey also noted that we have a tour on June 8th with our fiscal analysts and staff from the Governor's office. We will tour all of our campuses and discuss our key data report. It is important when we ask for a funding increase that we can prove that there is a significant need based on an increase in student population. There were no additional questions or concerns regarding the Financial Report.

Mr. Empey reviewed the status of Enrichment Funds as of April 30, 2023. USDB has spent approximately \$790,820 of its beginning balance of its annual FY23 Enrichment Funds budget of \$603,068, which leaves a balance of \$447,538, which includes a deposit of \$498,410 from a quarterly transfer of the \$747,615 in revenues received. All remaining Enrichment Funds will be forwarded to the next fiscal year. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any additional questions or concerns regarding the Enrichment Funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the Enrichment Funds expenditures from Council members.

Mr. Empey provided an update on USDB Donated funds. The balance as of April 30, 2023 was \$271,486. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Donated funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the USDB Donated Funds from Council members.

Mr. Empey reviewed the status of the Education Foundation as of April 30, 2023. The balance was \$1,108,002. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Education Foundation funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the USDB Education Foundation from Council members.

7. USDB Strategic Facilities Plan

Superintendent Coleman noted that we recently participated in a space study regarding our additional building space that we are needing. We are hopeful that we can submit our plan for the board's review and approval during the board meeting on June 1st. Then it will go to the Public Education Appropriation Committee on June 13th. It will then go to the Executive Appropriation Committee sometime in August, to decide if we can receive our money to move forward with our facilities requests. The Chair of the board has created a subcommittee composed of some board members and DFCM representatives that will review the strategic facilities plan next week including certain board members and DFCM representatives.

8. UPIPS Task Force Way Forward

We had a conversation with other Special Ed Director across the state. Small districts with less than ten students have not reported out data such as Daggatt School District. There will be more to follow on this item. That would be super helpful for USDB.

9. Superintendent Report -

USDB Graduation - Board member Wood addressed our graduates and surprised us with her sign language. Superintendent Dickson and Chair Moss were also present. It is an extremely unique and intimate experience for our students.

Wrap up of 2022-23 school year - Summer will be busy with 48 summer camps over the summer.

10. Future Agenda Items

Advisory Council terms expiring

11. Other

Please email any future agenda items to Jared Allebest or Tamara Flint.

The May 25, 2023 USDB Advisory Council meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.