

MINUTES OF THE UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2024

USBE Board Rooms

250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

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Members Present:

- Chair Brian Bowles (Absent due to a graduation)
- Vice Chair Cynthia Phillips (Acting Chair)
- Member Krystle Bassett
- Member Stephanie Speicher
- Member Erik Olson
- Member Rabecca Cisneros (Virtual)
- Member Michelle Smith (Virtual)

Staff Present:

- Paul Kremer
- Marie Steffensen
- Lisa Cooper
- Smriti Dhakal
- Brendan McGinn
- Amber Hellstrom
- Jenna Magnetti
- Amy Pace

Others Present:

- Laura Wilson, USBE Finance Team

MEETING BEGINS (10:00 AM)

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

- Vice Chair Cynthia Phillips (Acting Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Member Stephanie Speicher.

Excused Absence

- Chair Bowles was excused due to attending a graduation. With a quorum present, the board proceeded with the meeting.

Consent Calendar

- Approval of minutes from the previous meeting and budget actuals.
- Passed unanimously.
- Board members were reminded to complete a graduation preference survey.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Paul Kremer

Staff Updates and Traction Implementation

- Discussed the implementation of the Traction system, identifying areas for improvement.
- Acknowledged staff workload, travel demands, and recent charter school visits.

Strategic Initiatives

- Discussed promoting charter school success through flexible authorizing.
- Currently in the rulemaking process with public notices posted.

Fiscal Year Closing and Upcoming Budgeting

- Discussed closing out fiscal year 24 and budgeting for fiscal year 25.
- Approved a \$170,000 procurement item for a public relations and communications campaign.

Charter School Loans and Academic Framework Update

- Discussed the recommendation of approving four charter school loans.
- Updated the academic framework to better support school choice, innovation, and accountability.

Stakeholder Engagement and Surveys

- Highlighted the importance of engaging with stakeholders and building relationships.
- Progress in evaluating charter schools through stakeholder surveys and focus groups.

ACTION ITEMS

Charter School Revolving Loans

- Laura Wilson provided an overview of four recommended charter school loan applications.
- Motion to approve all four loans was made by Member Cisneros, seconded by Member Spiker, and approved unanimously.

Updating Academic and Financial Frameworks

- Discussed updates to the academic and financial frameworks to minimize administrative burden and support school autonomy.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Impact of Legislative Changes on Charter Schools

- Discussed recent legislative changes and their impact on charter schools, including assessments and accountability measures.

ADJOURN (2:45 PM)

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Member Stephanie Speicher moved to adjourn, Member Erik Olson seconded.
- **Motion Passes:** Unanimously.