

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting - August 8, 2024

Thursday, September 12, 2024

USBE Board Rooms

250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Opening

- Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Chair Bowles, who welcomed board members and attendees, including newly appointed member Clint Biesinger. Dr. Rich Nye, the newly appointed member from the Governor's office, was also introduced.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by the board members.

Consent Calendar

- Motion: Member Olson made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Seconded by: Member Bassett. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Accountability Framework and Strategic Priorities

- The board discussed the progress of the State Charter School Board's accountability framework. The framework focuses on student growth, disaggregated student data, and is aligned with trends from states such as New Mexico and Colorado. This framework will be finalized by November 27, 2024, and adopted in early 2025.
- Motion: Member Cisneros made a motion to proceed with the development of the accountability framework. Seconded by: Member Speicher. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

"25 in 2025" Event Planning

- The board discussed the upcoming "25 in 2025" event, a celebration of Utah's charter schools' 25th anniversary. The event is scheduled for January 16, 2025, at the Natural History Museum of Utah and will include keynote speakers and recognition of milestones in charter school history.

New Office Space and Associated Costs

- The board discussed the financial and logistical implications of moving to a new office space. They discussed indirect costs associated with IT and financial services, which are currently provided by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE), and evaluated the feasibility of continuing to work with USBE or sourcing third-party providers.
- Motion: Member Olson made a motion to approve the budget adjustments related to the office move. Seconded by: Vice Chair Phillips. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

LeverageEd Leadership Program Presentation

- Representatives from LeverageEd, a nonprofit foundation, presented their leadership development programs, which are designed in collaboration with Harvard University. They introduced school leaders involved in their Launchpad Leadership Development Program. The board discussed the impact of the program on school leadership.

Closed Session

- Motion: Vice Chair Phillips made a motion to enter a closed session to discuss the character, competence, mental, or physical health of an individual. Seconded by: Member Olson. Vote: The motion passed unanimously, and the board moved into closed session.

Re-Entering Open Session and Committee Nominations

- Motion: Member Speicher made a motion to exit the closed session Seconded by: Member Olson. Vote: The motion passed unanimously, and the board returned to the open session.

School Visits

- Experiences were shared visiting schools in Southern Utah, including Utah Arts Academy and Valley Academy. The board praised the innovative programs and strong community relationships developed by these schools.

Financial Performance Discussion

- The board held a discussion on shifting the focus of financial evaluations from compliance to performance. They emphasized the need to balance objectivity in measuring school performance while minimizing administrative burdens. Schools that were struggling financially were highlighted as requiring additional support to ensure continued success.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned.