



EDITH BOWEN
LABORATORY SCHOOL
Utah State University

**Edith Bowen Laboratory School
Governing Board Meeting
Unofficial Minutes
The Collaboratory Room 233
January 16, 2025
3:30 PM**

Board Members Present

Dr. Steven Camicia - Board Chair
Dean Al Smith
Jody Clarke-Midura
Whitney Mortenson
Jennifer Grewe
Frank Schofield
Joel Lopez
Dr. Nate Justis
Dr. Laura Reina
Jennifer Barton

Visitors:

Joey Kozlowski
Eric Newell
Melinda Lee

Excused:

Carolina Harward (GB Secretary)

1. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Steven Camicia called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. Roll call

Dr. Steven Camicia - Board Chair

Dean Al Smith

Dr. Jody Clarke-Midura

Whitney Mortenson





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Dr. Jennifer Grawe
Frank Schofield
Joel Lopez
Dr. Nate Justis
Dr. Laura Reina
Jennifer Barton

Dr. Justis welcomed Melinda Lee as the new director of Weber State's Lab School, which had been closed for a few years. Previously offering only kindergarten, there is now interest in expanding its programs.

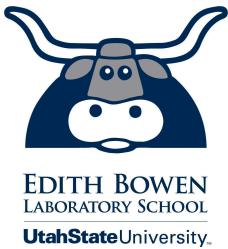
2. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Vote to approve board meeting minutes from November 14, 2024
Action: Vote to approve board meeting minutes from November 14, 2024
Motion: Jennifer Grawe
Second: Dean Al Smith
Vote: Dr. Steven Camicia
Dean Al Smith
Dr. Jody Clarke-Midura
Whitney Mortenson
Dr. Jennifer Grawe
Frank Schofield

3. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

- a. Monthly Summary
Dr. Justis reviewed the monthly financial summary. He mentioned the playground design project with USU, originally costing over \$400,000, now reduced to \$250,000. Dr. Justis stated that he plans to find a matching sponsor





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to share costs. Dr. Justis noted that the building process has been slower than expected, partly due to complex bidding and approvals. He confirmed that the school has savings to cover costs.

[Monthly Summary of Accounts](#)

[Monthly Comparison FY25](#)

4. Public Comment

No public comment

5. REGULATORY & STATUTORY COMPLIANCE

a. Education Innovation Program Grant - Dr. Kozlowski (vote)

Doctor Kozlowski discussed an innovative curriculum grant aimed at integrating bird-related studies in the 2nd-grade classroom. The program incorporates science, social studies, reading, and math centered around birds, using both fictional and non-fictional resources to engage students. Key activities include creating bird feeders, solving related word problems, and documenting field experiences where students identify various birds. The initiative has fostered strong connections between students and their learning, with positive feedback from parents. To enhance this program, Dr. Kozlowski seeks funding for a high-quality camera and lens to better capture and document their field experiences, which would enrich classroom learning.

Vote to approve Education Innovation Program Grant

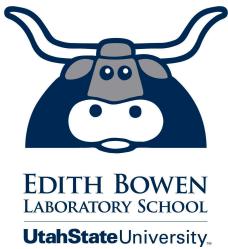
Action: Vote to approve Education Innovation Program Grant

Motion: Jennifer Grawe

Second: Dean Al Smith

Vote: Dr. Steven Camicia





**Edith Bowen Laboratory School
Governing Board Meeting
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3:30 PM**

Al Smith
Dr. Jody Clarke-Midura
Whitney Mortenson
Dr. Jennifer Grewe
Frank Schofield

b. Proposed policy 2190 Educator-directed Paid Professional Hours (vote)

Dr. Justis addressed the need to vote on a policy regarding educator-directed pay discussed in November. The discussion included using funds for travel and registration fees, with a process involving a Google form and travel authorizations per USU policies. It was noted that while there might not be a formal policy on this, there is a procedure in place for calculating amounts based on teachers' pay rates for professional development.

Action: Vote to approve policy 2190 Educator-directed Paid Professional Hours

Motion: Whitney Mortenson

Second: Frank Schofield

Vote: Dr. Steven Camicia

Al Smith

Dr. Jody Clarke-Midura

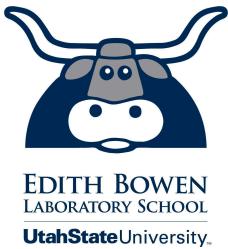
Whitney Mortenson

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[Policy 2190 Educator-directed Paid Professional Hours](#)





**Edith Bowen Laboratory School
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c. Proposed 2025-26 school year calendar (vote)

Dr. Justis presented next year's school calendar, which closely resembles this year's. While there were no significant changes, discussions arose about past discrepancies between Cache County and Logan City schedules. Concerns were raised about the lack of parent feedback on the proposed calendar, with suggestions for better communication moving forward. Although most parents appreciated the two-week Christmas break, some expressed frustration over frequent long weekends. Ultimately, a motion was made and approved to accept the calendar, but members acknowledged the need for improved engagement with parents in future discussions.

Action: Vote to approve 2025-26 school year calendar

Motion: Frank Schofield

Second: Dr. Jody Clarke-Midura

Vote: Dr. Steven Camicia

Dean Al Smith

Dr. Jody Clarke-Midura

Whitney Mortenson

Dr. Jennifer Grewe

Frank Schofield

[2025-26 school year calendar](#)

d. Title IIA use of funds (discuss)

Dr. Justis discussed the use of Title II A funds, emphasizing stakeholder involvement. This year, the \$4,000 will be allocated to enhance teaching quality by purchasing the Greg Tang math curriculum, favored by teachers for its effective instructional framework. The curriculum offers adaptable resources for





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various grade levels and includes support for both teachers and parents, with options for live sessions and direct assistance. In previous years, funds were used for teacher training, but K-3 teachers have completed that. Dr. Justis invited questions about the fund's usage and noted that their total allocation this year is \$4,034, which will cover a significant expense.

6. SCHOOL REPORTS

a. Mid-year data review - Dr. Reina

Doctor Reina presented the mid-year data review, focusing on literacy and math goals across grades. Key points include:

- **Kindergarten:** Increased first sound fluency; maintenance goal achieved.
- **1st Grade:** Adjusted accuracy goal to 95%; achieved 70% accuracy mid-year.
- **2nd Grade:** Goal was to increase accuracy by 4%; current accuracy at 74%, with action plans in place.
- **3rd Grade:** On track for a 12% accuracy increase; mid-year increase of 8%.
- **4th Grade:** Targeting 88% typical progress; currently at 71%.
- **5th Grade:** Achieved a 17% increase in accuracy; met end-of-year goal early.
- **6th Grade:** Goal to increase accuracy by 10%; current accuracy at 87%.

For math, highlights include:

- **Kindergarten:** Proficiency goal maintained with a 5% increase mid-year.
- **1st Grade:** 75% of students made typical growth, meeting the end-of-year goal.
- **2nd Grade:** Achieved 94% proficiency in concepts and applications.
- **4th and 5th Grades:** Significant growth in proficiency, with goals set for end-of-year assessments.





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Overall, the data shows improvement across grade levels, with targeted strategies being implemented to address specific student needs. The focus remains on continuing this progress as the year ends.

[2024-25 Data Review - MOY](#)

b. Principal's report - Dr. Justis

i. Teacher merit award program update

Dr. Justis expressed that teachers chose not to participate in the merit pay program, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and a supportive culture over competition in education. The conversation highlighted the \$300 million bill for merit-based pay, arguing that teacher collective efficacy is more impactful than performance pay. Discussions arose stressing the need for support over competition to retain quality teachers.

ii. School safety grant application

Dr. Justis provided an update on the School Safety Grant application, highlighting the importance of adhering to state requirements for school safety measures. He noted the collaboration with local law enforcement and stressed the need to follow processes without revealing specific safety upgrades during public meetings. Dr. Grewe raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of safety protocols based on previous experiences. In response, Dr. Justis assured that steps are being taken to ensure legal compliance, and he recommended further discussions to address the specific safety concerns shared by Dr. Grewe.





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iii. Highlights

Eric has been taking kids to the Elk Refuge for 18 years, fostering a strong partnership with wildlife biologists. The experience allows students to engage with nature, discussing adaptations and habitats while surrounded by elk. This year, they have enjoyed flexible scheduling and hands-on learning, such as tracking wildlife. Eric highlighted the joy of witnessing students overcome challenges, like one who succeeded in skiing despite physical difficulties. The program blends science with language arts, encouraging students to express their experiences through writing, making it a magical and memorable educational journey.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

