

Date: March 11, 2025



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*The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.*

**Members Present:** Chair LeAnn Wood, Vice Chair Randy Boothe, Member Jennie Earl, Member Joann Brinton, and Member Cindy Davis

**USDB Committee Staff:** Leah Voorhies, USBE Deputy Superintendent; Joel Coleman, USDB Superintendent; Susan Patten, USB Associate Superintendent; Carl Empey, USDB Finance Director; Ashley Biehl, Assistant Attorney General (AAG); Andrea Curtin, Secretary; and Jennifer Jackson, Interpreter, Tony Bonny, Interpreter

**Others Present:** Jerry Record, Alex Farah, Ben Rasmussen, Deborah Jacobson, Elisse Newey, Kelsey James, Representative Jill Koford, Representative Jason Thompson, Sarah Erb-parent,

USDB Committee Chair LeAnn Wood called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## 6.2 INFORMATION: Public Comment

Sarah Erb, a parent of a USDB student, made comment about the support of USDB and this new standing committee. She would like to be a resource to get parent feedback throughout the state.

## 6.3 ACTION: Board Bylaws (Amendment)

**USDB Committee Discussion:** Proposed changes to the Board Bylaws are presented for Board consideration.

**USDB Committee Action:** Member Earl made a motion that the Committee recommend draft one to the Board with this language:

- a. Standing committee meetings shall be open to the public, except as provided in Subsection (1)(h).
- b. The Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind Committee may close a meeting to the public, with 24 hours prior notice, for the following purposes:
  - i. Discussions regarding necessary services for an individual student;
  - ii. Discussions regarding appropriations that may affect specific individuals;  
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- iii. Discussions regarding the implementation of safety protocols on USDB campuses; or
- iv. Any other purpose allowed by Section 52-4-205.
- c. A Member may not discuss confidential information discussed in a closed meeting outside of the closed session.

**Motion:** passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board approve the bylaws, Draft one, one second and final reading.

#### 6.4 **ACTION: Establishing Working Group**

**USDB Committee Discussion:** 2025 Interim Study, The Legislature and the State Board of Education in fulfilling their constitutional roles in the public education system need to come together on how USDB fits into the state system and what facilities the schools require. The State Board of Education has started a working group to begin to solve the issues surrounding USDB.

We recommend that the Legislature formalize this process and participate in developing a solution by providing a statutory process that includes the following:

1. Direct the State Board of Education to establish a working group to address concerns about USDB governance, oversight, role and scope of service, and facility needs.
2. Include representatives of the Legislative Interim Committee and Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee appointed by the Speaker and the President to develop a joint understanding of the above items.

**USDB Committee Action:** Member Earl made the motion the Committee recommends that the Board approve the following make-up of the USDB Working Group:

Proposed membership for 19 person USDB Working group - Facilitator assigned from USBE.

1. Three USBE Board Members
2. Two Superintendents, one small and one large
3. RESA Representative
4. Business Administrator

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5. 2 USBE Staff
6. 4 USDB Staff
7. One House Member (from public ed interim or PEA)
8. One Senate Member (from public ed interim or PEA)
9. One member representing charter schools
10. Two LEA Special Education Directors, one small and one large
11. USDB Advisory Council member
12. Invitees based on content needs

**Motion:** passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board approve the makeup of the membership for 19 person USDB Working group, facilitator assigned from USBE.

1. Three USBE Board Members
2. Two Superintendents, one small and one large
3. RESA Representative
4. Business Administrator
5. 2 USBE Staff
6. 4 USDB Staff
7. One House Member (from public ed interim or PEA)
8. One Senate Member (from public ed interim or PEA)
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12. Invitees based on content needs

## 6.5 **DISCUSSION: Role and Scope of Service**

**Committee Discussion:** The Recommendation of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Public Education Report, asked the following questions about the Role and Scope of Service

1. How Does USDB fit into the state public education system?
  - a. Is USDB's primary role to be a service provider to students through their LEA or a direct education provider to students?
  - b. What is the balance between the two?
2. What criteria should govern direct "in-house" services to students?
  - a. While governed by the special education Individualized Education Program (IEP) process, who decides? Each additional student increases the state cost of services and facilities.
  - b. Is it financially viable for the Jean Massieu School to return to a charter school?
3. Should the state continue using a multi-campus model for USDB?
4. Cost increases at the Salt Lake Campus are primarily for secondary students:
  - a. Should USDB provide a comprehensive high school experience "in-house"?
  - b. If so, should secondary services be offered at every campus?
  - c. How can district facilities be leveraged to provide secondary education programs?

Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent, gave a presentation to the Committee about the laws for students with disabilities. Please see the presentation slides in CivicClerk.

**Committee Action:** Member Briton made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.