

UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Advisory Council Meeting Summary

April 24, 2025

Openshaw Education Center

4:30 p.m. - General Session

Attending: Jared Allebest, Voting Member, Zoom
John Clements, Voting Member
Kiara Guymon, Voting Member, Zoom
Kari Harbath, Voting Member
Aunilie Hathaway, Voting Member, Zoom
Jennifer Hayes, Voting Member
Shari Solomon-Klebba, Non-Voting Member
Philippe Montalette, Vice-Chair, Voting Member
Katie Nelson, Voting Member
Amy Query, Voting Member
Gretel Sampson, Non-Voting Member, Zoom
LeAnn Wood, Non-Voting Member
Ray Wright, Chair, Voting Member

Absent: Kari Harbath

Also Attending:

Joel Coleman, Superintendent
Carl Empey, Finance Director
Tamara Flint, Executive Assistant
Susan Patten, USB Associate Superintendent
Michelle Tanner, USD Associate Superintendent
Vicki Summers, Finance Manager

Interpreters:

Emilee Beattie, Interpreter
Emily Longshore, Interpreter

Others:

Candace George, Related Services Director
Adam Billings, USD Outreach Director
Wade Hester, Student Guidance Counselor

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wright welcomed Council members in attendance to the April 24, 2025 Advisory Council meeting. Mr. Clements led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Consent Calendar

Mr. Wright asked Council members if they had any questions or concerns with the April 24, 2025 consent calendar. Mr. Montalette made a motion to accept the Advisory Council minutes for March 27, 2025 and the Vacancy Report as of April 18, 2025. Ms. Query seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

4. 2025-26 Land Trust Plan

Dr. Tanner reviewed the 2025-26 Land Trust Plan with Council members. It is for a total of \$35,661.57. She will send out an email tonight and you as Council members have to approve this spending in their system. It is used for both the Deaf and Blind schools. There is a detailed list of what we are using the money for. This spending is for campus students only. Mr. Montalette made a motion to approve the 2025-26 land trust plan. Mr. Clements seconded the motion. Motion carried

5. USDB Enrichment Funds Request

Ms. Patten reviewed an Enrichment Funds request with Council members. The amount is for \$1,461.20 for a special tomato soft touch sitter and activity tray. Although the Enrichment funds are supposed to be used for all student activities, this is for a particular student so she wanted to bring this request to you. The TVI and parent did a wonderful job describing how this chair and activity tray would benefit him in regards to ECC. Ms. Nelson feels that this request should go through FAPE or through the assistive technology program rather than a use of enrichment funds. Mr. Wright made a motion to reject the application for the use of Enrichment funds. Mr. Montalette seconded the motion to reject the

application for use of Enrichment funds. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

6. FY26 Enrichment Fund Change

Following the Enrichment Fund review during the March Advisory Council meeting, we had to reduce the enrichment funds amount below \$1.7. We put the positions back to the operating budget, but did add \$65,000 for field trip transportation because we do not have a bus driver right now and are contracting it out and we cannot pay for this out of the Directors budget. Mr. Wright asked council members if they had any questions about the necessary changes to the Enrichment Funds. There were no questions from Council members. Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the enrichment funds as it was presented today. Mr. Montalette seconded the motion. Motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. USB Washington DC presentation

Ms. Candace George provided a presentation on the recent trip to Washington DC from March 17-21, 2025 with four students and four chaperones.

The students visited the Washington monument, walked around and saw war and presidential memorials. Although it was a little too soon for cherry blossoms, students navigated the subway system and had to find their way around using an app. They found places where they wanted to eat and what metro to get on to accomplish that. Kaylee feels confident that she could access any metro system if she was able to do it in Washington. The students also visited many museums (American Indian, Holocaust, Air and Space and American History that were pre-planned accessible tours.

Mr. Wright how accessible the app was that they used to get around the city. The students explained that it was the transit app. It was free to download and you just had to put in where you wanted to go. Ms. Nelson appreciates the chaperones making the students reach out beforehand to make the trip accessible to all the students. It is very valuable.

8. Academic Bowl Presentation

Ms. Shari Solomon-Klebba presented on the Academic Bowl. They had the a few council members participate in this trivia game that sort of mimicked what

the academic bowl looked like for the students. They participated by answering 6 trivia questions on white boards and finding out whether their answers were correct or not. They had 30 seconds to answer each question.

They were very excited that the students received second place in the southern region this year.

9. Japan Study Abroad Presentation

Dr. Tanner informed Council members that there were 12 students who attended the Japan study abroad trip this year. Although going through customs was a nightmare because of long lines and filling out all the necessary forms they finally arrived at the hotel. The students really enjoyed seeing the cherry blossoms from the sakura trees, koi fish ponds and bridges were absolutely beautiful. They visited many towns that included Shibuya, Asakusa. They were able to visit a buddhist temple in Tokyo.

The group discusses their experiences in Japan, including various foods they tried, visiting Disneyland, and interacting with Japanese high school students at a deaf space called 505. They describe Japanese cuisine, including bento boxes and the tradition of omiyage gifts. The participants also review Japanese Sign Language signs for various words and share their impressions of Japanese culture, transportation, and public facilities. They note the prevalence of vending machines, the absence of public trash cans, and the widespread accessibility features for blind people throughout Japan.

The group visited Tokyo Disneyland on their last night in Japan. They enjoyed a special event featuring Donald Duck called "Quack Quack Day". The park had unique attractions and merchandise that are only available at Tokyo Disneyland. The students had fun experiencing the Disney magic with a Japanese twist.

Mr. Billings ended the presentation describing the benefits of experiential education for students, highlighting three key aspects: hands-on experience in different cultures, applying classroom knowledge to real-world situations, and developing essential life skills. He emphasizes the importance of international trips in fostering cultural understanding, empathy, and personal growth. He outlined the four components of experiential learning: hands-on opportunities, reflection, application, and integration into students' lives.

10. FY25 (Period 8) Monthly Budget Update as of March 31, 2025

Mr. Empey welcomed everyone to the April 24, 2025 AC meeting. Mr. Empey notified the Council that year to date expenditures for FY2025 are \$46,161,081 as of March 31, 2025. This leaves us in a deficit of \$1,346,308 until we receive funds in May from the USBE and also Tooele School District. All areas covered in the Financial Report are operationally capable, with a remaining budget balance of \$15,817,419. We have really started cutting back on expenses and out-of-state travel. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Financial Report. There were no questions or concerns regarding the Financial Report from Council members.

Mr. Empey reviewed the status of the Education Foundation as of March 31, 2025. The balance was \$1,217,700. 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 Education Foundation from Council members.

Mr. Empey reviewed the status of Enrichment Funds as of March 31, 2025. USDB has spent approximately \$(867,487) of its beginning balance of its annual FY25 Enrichment Funds budget of \$1,052,781 leaving a balance of \$766,547. We receive an electronic wire transfer each quarter, so that total will continue to increase as the fiscal year goes on. All remaining Enrichment Funds will be forwarded to the next fiscal year. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Enrichment Funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the Enrichment Funds expenditures from Council members.

11. USDB Subcommittee Update

Member Wood provided an update on the USDB subcommittee. This committee was approved to meet on a monthly basis. The first two months were spent figuring out all the details. Anyone can watch the meeting via YouTube and there is an interpreter provided. We want to create a working group to fund USDB for the long run rather than having to go to the legislature each year and beg for money each year. Mr. Montalette wondered what sort of people will be on the committee? Member Wood replied that we will be looking for board members, legislative fiscal analysts, special education directors, and district administrators. Ms. Nelson expressed an interest in serving this committee.

11. Superintendent Report

Budget Preparation - USDB will be moving over under USBE for financial operations. Deborah Jacobson is working on creating a new chart of accounts for USDB. Our FY26 budget will be prepared and reviewed during the June 2nd board meeting.

Audits:

- USBE is going through a financial audit of USDB's financials to understand details spearheaded by Debbie Davis. We are excited about this and looking forward to transparency.
- OLAG audit - Legislative audit for a kick-off meeting May 5-9. We imagine that there will be a lot of overlap between the two audits.

12. Future Agenda Items

Monthly Budget Update as of April 30, 2025

USD Strategic Plan

USD trip to Boston

USB Epic Road trip

Deaf Theater

Debrief from Member Wood from the USDB subcommittee

FY26 Budget review (if we are ready)

9. Other

Mr. Wright thanked everyone for attending. Our next meeting will be May 22, 2025.

Please email any future agenda items to Ray Wright or Tamara Flint.

The April 24, 2025 USDB Advisory Council meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m