

Sep 5, 2025

Utah State Board of Education

The meeting was conducted in a virtual format.

Members Present: Cindy Davis, Cole Kelley, and Randy Boothe.

Members Excused: Mark Hymas and Christina Boggess.

Committee Staff: Scott Jones, Deborah Jacobson, and Cammy Wilcox.

Others Present: Elisse Newey, Darin Nielsen, Jared Felt, Sam Urie, Thalea Longhurst, Aaron Brough, Dale Frost, Gina Smith, Katrina Brinkley, Michael Iwasaki, Paula Plant, Rebecca Nielsen, Sara Wiebke, Todd Hauber, Tami Gear, Greg Connell, Dakota Cambruzzi, Sarah Humphries, Elida Barrera, Scott Crapo, Rebecca Nielsen, Sara Wiebke, Garrett Russell, Megan Menlove, Noralee Green, and Jerry Record.

Committee Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

USBE Staff Highlights:

- Dakota Cambruzzi, Human Resources Field Director
- Sarah Humphries, Human Resources Agency Partner
- Elida Barrera, Human Resources Generalist

6.2 R277-407, School Fees (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff identified a clause in the rule that was missed in the last update. The definition of non-waivable charge needs to be updated to reflect the legislative changes from HB 344 (2025) School Fees Amendments.

Staff presented R277-407, School Fees, Draft 2, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 2](#); [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53G-7-503](#)

Committee Action:

Member Kelley Motion:

That the Committee strike line 255 on draft 2.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Member Kelley Motion:

That the Committee approves R277- 407, School Fees, Draft 2, as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve R277-407, School Fees, Draft 3, on second and final reading.

6.3 R277-494, Charter, Online, Home, and Private School Student Participation in Extracurricular or Co-Curricular Activities (Amendment & Continuation)

Committee Discussion: Five-year review, expiration 10/15/25. Additionally, staff noticed that R277-494 needs to have the "co-curricular" activities defined, as HB 344 (2025), removed co-curricular as a category for fees.

Staff presented R277-494, Charter, Online, Home, and Private School Student Participation in Extracurricular or Co-Curricular Activities, Draft 2, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53G-6-704\(5\)](#); [53G-6-705\(6\)](#)

Committee Action:**Member Kelley Motion:**

That the Committee continue and approve R277-494, Charter, Online, Home, and Private School Student Participation in Extracurricular or Co-Curricular Activities, Draft 2, on first reading and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board continue and approve R277-494, Charter, Online, Home, and Private School Student Participation in Extracurricular or Co-Curricular Activities, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

6.4 R277-319, Special Educator Stipends (Amendment & Continuation)

Committee Discussion: This rule is up for a five-year continuation and staff has suggested amendments to include Speech Language Pathologists and updates to the survey requirements.

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Staff presented R277-319, Special Educator Stipends, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53F-2-310](#)

Committee Action:**Member Kelley Motion:**

That the committee continue and approve R277-319, Special Educator Stipends, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board continue and approve R277-319, Special Educator Stipends, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

6.5 State Fiscal Year 2025 Carry Forward Balance Status and Approval for Use

Committee Discussion: Following fiscal year end close activities there are balances remaining of unencumbered funds from the prior year. Amounts in excess of \$100,000 are presented to the USBE Finance Committee along with supporting spending plans.

Committee Action:**Member Boothe Motion:**

The Committee recommends postponing, *State Fiscal Year 2025 Carry Forward Balance Status and Approval for Use*, and forwarding it to the full Board for consideration and recommendation at the October Board meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action:

The Committee recommends forwarding the *State Fiscal Year 2025 Carry Forward Balance Status and Approval for Use* to the full Board for consideration.

6.6 State Fiscal Year 2025 Discretionary Carry Forward Balance Status and Approval for Use

Committee Discussion: Following the fiscal year-end close activities, balances are made available to the Board in their discretionary funds account. Each September, the Finance Committee reviews these balances along with previously approved projects and makes recommendations to the Board regarding whether

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to continue, repurpose, or reallocate funding. The Committee also advises on the use of any remaining balances resulting from the year-end close.

Committee Action:**Member Boothe Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board approves continuing a contingency fund of \$200,000, and a legal contingency fund of \$250,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Boothe Motion:

The Committee recommends that the Board approves using \$350,000 of State Discretionary funds to:

- \$100,000 - Support the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- \$150,000 - Continue onsite security guard services at the USBE office.
- \$100,000 - Establish a building operations budget for fiscal year 2026, covering various replacements and repairs.

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Davis Motion:

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the use of \$550,000 in State Federal Mineral Lease (FML) Discretionary funds to continue support for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), contingent upon the discontinuation of federal funding for the program.

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Davis Motion:

The Committee recommends that the Board approves the allocation of \$32,500 in State Discretionary funds to support a statewide essay contest commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, for students in grades 5, 8, and high school.

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

- \$25,000 for 250 awards of \$100 each
- \$7,500 for three scholarships of \$2,500 each

This item is proposed for inclusion in the additional September Board meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

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**MOTION #1 FOR THE BOARD:**

That the Board approves continuing a contingency fund of \$200,000, and a legal contingency fund of \$250,000.

MOTION #2 FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approves using \$350,000 of State Discretionary funds to:

- Support the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction - \$100,000
- Continue onsite security guard services at the USBE office - \$150,000
- Establish a building operations budget for fiscal year 2026, covering various replacements and repairs - \$100,000

MOTION #3 FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve the use of \$550,000 in State Federal Mineral Lease (FML) Discretionary funds to continue support for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), contingent upon the discontinuation of federal funding for the program.

MOTION #4 FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approves the allocation of \$32,500 in State Discretionary funds to support a statewide essay contest commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, for students in grades 5, 8, and high school.

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

- \$25,000 for 250 awards of \$100 each
- \$7,500 for three awards of \$2,500 each

6.7 Creation of a USBE Foundation for the Statewide Attendance Campaign

Committee Discussion: This item proposes the establishment of a USBE foundation to support the new statewide attendance initiative, "Every Day Counts." The foundation would allow the USBE to accept donations from the local community and business partners.

The Committee discussed multiple options for funding the attendance campaign and staff agreed to explore additional avenues, including potential legislative support and funding proposals.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

No motion for the Board.

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6.8 School Children's Trust Quarterly Report

Committee Discussion: The Finance Committee has requested a quarterly report update from the School Children's Trust concerning the Utah Trust System activities, the School LAND Trust Program and School Councils.

6.9 Recognition of Progress, Achievements, or Improvements

Deputy Superintendent Jones commended the accounting staff for their dedication and professionalism in successfully completing the Fiscal Year 2025 financial closeout. Their efforts ensured that all budgetary obligations were met, records were reconciled accurately, and reporting requirements were fulfilled in a timely manner—contributing to a smooth and compliant transition into the new fiscal year.

6.9.1 INFORMATION: Program Monthly Report (PMR) on USIMS

Committee Information: The Utah Schools Information Management System (USIMS) is an ongoing project that will modernize USBE's legacy data systems and enable real-time access to and secure movement of data to support effective decision-making at all levels of the education system.

There was no in-depth presentation this month.

6.9.2 INFORMATION: Program Monthly Report (PMR) on Utah Grants

Committee Information: Utah Grants is the Electronic Grants Management System utilized by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) for managing the full life cycle of grant funding. Utah Grants is used by USBE staff as well as LEAs and CBO partners for managing grant applications, awards, payments and monitoring activities. The USBE works closely with system developers to continue to meet the expanding needs of the agency, while maintaining proper safeguards in the use and distribution of grant funds.

There was no in-depth presentation this month.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.