

Date: September 9, 2025



Utah State Board of Education

The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom. Zoom recording link below:

Members Present: Chair LeAnn Wood, Vice Chair Randy Boothe, Member Cindy Davis, and Member Erin Longacre

USDB Committee Staff: Leah Voorhies, USBE Deputy Superintendent; Susan Patten and Michelle Tanner, USDB Associate Superintendents; Ashley Biehl, Assistant Attorney General (AAG); Andrea Curtin, Secretary; Cindy Andersen, and Bethany Anderson, Interpreters.

Others Present: Jerry Record and Alex Farah, USBE IT/Media Production Specialists; Molly Hart, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent; Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent, Jake Davis, Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG); Jennie Earl and Carol Lear, Board Members; Debbie Davis and Kevin John, Internal Audit; Sarah Erb, parent; and Closed Captioning Services.

USDB Committee Chair LeAnn Wood called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

INFORMATION: Public Comment

1. Sarah Erb made public comments about the needs of the USDB Advisory Council.

6.2 ACTION: Student Owned Device Policy

Committee Discussion: Associate Superintendents Tanner and Patten presented the USDB Student Owned Device policy for the Committee review and approval.

Committee Action: Member Davis made a motion that the Committee review and approve the Student-Owned Device policy and forward to the Board for final approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Board: That the Board review and approve the Student-Owner Device policy.

6.3 INFORMATION: USDB Leadership Structure

Committee Discussion: Because of time restraints this item was moved to the October meeting.

6.4 ACTION: USDB Audit

Committee Discussion: On September 4, 2025, during the USBE Board meeting the Board voted to release the USDB audit. The Committee discussed the audit findings.

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In August 2025, IAD presented a draft of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) internal audit report to the Audit Committee. The audit considered laws, data, operations, and other items related to USDB. The report identified a variety of financial, compliance, and performance concerns. The final report was presented to the full Board and released for public review during the September 4, 2025 Board meeting and is available at: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/internalaudit/index> (see Audit Reports).

Additionally, pursuant to Board Policy 2006 Item 4, Board leadership assigned the audit report to the USDB Standing Committee for further consideration.

Committee Action: Board Member Davis made a motion that the committee asks staff to bring back information on a) Role of Advisory Board and if it follows SCC guidelines, will it narrow or enlarge the scope, and b) What logistical and policy changes need to be made to address audit recommendations including combining accounts and defining responsibilities of the advisory board and the foundation.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Board: that the Board asks staff to bring back information on a) Role of Advisory Board and if it follows SCC guidelines, will it narrow or enlarge the scope, and b) What logistical and policy changes need to be made to address audit recommendations including combining accounts and defining responsibilities of the advisory board and the foundation.

Committee Action: Board Member Davis made a motion that the committee recommends to the Board to support the Superintendent's request for a consultancy from the USBE Internal Audit section to help develop internal controls for USDB.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Board: that the Board support the Superintendent's request for a consultancy from the USBE Internal Audit section to help develop internal controls for USDB.

Committee Action: Board Member Davis moved that staff bring the committee recommendations for additional work on the Strategic Plan including: a) People involved, b) Budget needed, and c) Timeline.

Motion for the Board: No motion for the Board on this item at this time.

Committee Action: Board Member Boothe moved that the committee recommend that the full board adopt and support the requirements of the USDB audit to bring both financial and programmatic systems under the agency, and in addition recommend the

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following changes to code, "...The Superintendent shall appoint an Assistant Superintendent of USBE to function as the Superintendent of the USDB..."

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Board: That the Board adopt and support the requirements of the USDB audit to bring both financial and programmatic systems under the agency, and in addition recommend the following changes to code, "...The Superintendent shall appoint an Assistant Superintendent of USBE to function as the Superintendent of the USDB..."

2.1 Closed Session – Closed in accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act

A closed session was not held for this meeting,

Committee Action: Member Davis made a motion to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.