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*The meeting was conducted in a virtual format.*

**Members Present:** Cindy Davis, Cole Kelley, Randy Boothe, Christina Boggess and Matt Hymas (MH – Present unless noted).

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

**Others Present:** Sam Urie, Michael Iwasaki, Jared Felt, Rebecca Nielsen, Paula Plant, Samuel Gibbs, Todd Hauber, Casey Crellin, Jeremias Solari, Ari Fenn, Carrie Mayne, Claudia Duque, Dale Frost, Greg Connell, Jon McQueary, Karen Tao, Katrina Brinkley, Royce Van Tassel, Malia Hite, Aaron Brough, and Jerry Record.

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

**USBE Staff Highlights:**

- Jerry Record, Technical Support Specialist, Information Technology
- Claudia Duque, General Services Technician, Administration

**Public Comment:**

The Committee heard public comment as identified below:

[Item 3.4, R277-477, Distribution of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration for the School LAND Trust Program \(Amendment\):](#)

- Royce Van Tassel, Executive Director at Utah Association of Public Charter Schools

[Item 3.5, R277-491, School Community Councils \(Amendment\):](#)

- Royce Van Tassel, Executive Director at Utah Association of Public Charter Schools

[Item 3.7, Special Education Add-on for New and Expanding Charter Schools:](#)

- Casey Crellin, American Preparatory Academy Chief Financial Officer
- Jon McQueary, Academica West Business Manager
- Samuel Gibbs, Salt Lake Academy Executive Director

**4.2 Research Brief – Charter Schools in Utah, Performance on College and Career Metrics**

**Committee Discussion:** This research, requested by the USBE as part of the UDRC research agenda, examines the long-term educational and workforce outcomes of students who attended charter high schools in Utah.

**Scope of Research:** The study compares high school students (grades 9-12) who attended a charter school versus those who did not, using graduation cohorts

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from 2012-2021. Data from the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) and the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) were used to track outcomes.

#### Postsecondary and Workforce Outcomes for Utah's Charter High School Students

This UDRC research examines associations between charter school attendance and postsecondary enrollment, graduation rates, and workforce outcomes in Utah. It compares students who attended charter schools between grades 9-12 against those who did not from the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) cohort years 2012-2021, using data from the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) and the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS). The study analyzes USHE enrollment and graduation rates, identifies differences in time to USHE enrollment and completion, and examines workforce participation after education. Descriptive statistics indicate that, on average, charter high school students have lower high school graduation rates, USHE enrollment rates, and USHE graduation rates compared to their non-charter school peers. Additionally, charter high school students have lower average USHE GPAs and report lower average earnings in the workforce compared to their non-charter school peers.

Additionally, this study uses matching techniques to estimate the relationship between attending a charter high school and these outcomes. While propensity score matching pairs individuals with similar propensity scores, inverse probability weighting (IPW) adjusts for differences in treatment assignments (attending charter high schools in this study) by weighting individuals based on their propensity scores. Using IPW to ensure comparable demographic distributions between student groups, this study indicates an association between attending a charter high school and differences in USHE enrollment rates, USHE graduation rates, USHE GPA, time to USHE enrollment, time to USHE graduation, and workforce participation and reported wages.

### 4.3 **R277-484, Data Standards (Amendment)**

**Committee Discussion:** Staff are proposing changes to R277-484 to clarify when LEAs and schools need to alert USBE of significant changes to data reporting such as shifting a charter campus under a different authorizer, extending a campus to include new grade levels, or splitting a campus.

Staff presented R277-484, Data Standards, Draft 2, for consideration and discussion.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-301](#)(d) and (e); [53E-3-401](#); [53E-3-401](#)(8)(a); [53E-3-511](#)(8)

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**Committee Action:****Member Kelley Motion:**

That the Committee approves R277-484, Data Standards, Draft 2, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading. – MH absent.

The motion passed w/Members Davis, Boothe, and Kelley in favor and Member Boggess abstaining.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:**

That the Board approves R277-484, Data Standards, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

**4.4 R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program (Amendment)**

**Committee Discussion:** Staff have worked with the Trust Land Advisory Committee over the last few months to recommend updates to R277-477. Draft 1 reflects changes recommended by the group. The changes include updates to terminology and school plan requirements.

Staff presented R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401](#); [53F-2-404](#)

**Committee Action:****Member Kelley Motion:**

That the Committee approves R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading. – MH absent.

The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** that the Board approves R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

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**4.5 ACTION: R277-491, School Community Councils (Amendment)**

**Committee Discussion:** Staff and TLAC recommend amending R277-491 to update requirements for local governing boards to grant exemptions to school community council requirements consistent with the code.

Staff presented R277-491, School Community Councils, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [Title 53G, Chapter 7, Part 12](#)

**Committee Action:****Member Kelley Motion:**

That the Committee continue and approve R277-491, School Community Councils, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading. – MH absent.

The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** that the Board continue and approve R277-491, School Community Councils, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

**4.6 School LAND Trust Website - Cost Benefit Analysis**

**Committee Discussion:** The Board requested a cost-benefit analysis of the School LAND Trust website. Staff reviewed a report comparing the current development costs and progress to date with those from the previous development contract. Members had an opportunity to ask questions.

**4.7 Special Education Add-on for New and Expanding Charter Schools**

**Committee Discussion:** Utah statute (53F-2-307) outlines the formula for calculating Special Education Add-On WPU for LEAs. However, for new and expanding charter schools, USBE does not have the Average Daily Membership (ADM) data necessary to accurately calculate these WPUs. For this reason, 53F-2-307(2) allows USBE to allocate WPUs to LEAs for Special Education according to Board rule.

R277-479-3 outlines the data used to calculate Special Education WPUs for new and expanding charter schools. As USBE staff have implemented R277-479, questions and concerns have arisen related to the structure and timing of the rule.

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Staff presented an overview of implementation challenges associated with this rule and reviewed several potential policy questions that may require clarification.

**Committee Action:****Member Kelley Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board waive R277-479-3(1), Charter School Special Education Add-On Funding, for FY26 for expanding charter schools whose SPED Add-On and SPED Self-Contained allocations would be reduced from their amounts in the Legislative Estimates for these programs under the rule.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Member Davis Motion:**

The committee directs staff to present recommendations for corrective functions to R277-479 at the December Finance Committee meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board waive R277-479-3(1), Charter School Special Education Add-On Funding, for FY26 for expanding charter schools whose SPED Add-On and SPED Self-Contained allocations would be reduced from their amounts in the Legislative Estimates for these programs under the rule.

#### 4.8 **Recognition of Progress, Achievements, or Improvements**

##### 4.8.1 **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.

Staff presented the PMR summary and members had an opportunity to ask questions.

##### 4.8.2 **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

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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.

Staff presented the PMR summary and members had an opportunity to ask questions.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.