



Meeting Minutes

Utah State Board of Education

Utah State Board of Education Board Meeting,
Utah School for the Deaf and Blind (USDB),
USB E Work Session, and
Continued Business from the previous
meeting on October 2, 2025.
1:00 to 7:30 PM

A regular Utah State Board of Education meeting was held on October 2, 2025. Chair Hymas presided. As Utah Code 52-4 authorized, this meeting was held at the state board offices, 250 E. 500 S, Salt Lake City, Utah. The public can view the discussion through live YouTube streaming.

Members Present

Board Chair Matt Hymas,
First Vice-Chair Amanda Bollinger
Second Vice-Chair LeAnn Wood
Member Christina Boggess
Member Joseph Kerry
Member Randy Boothe
Member Joann Brinton
Member Carol Lear

Member Jennie Earl
Member Sarah Reale
Member Rod Hall
Member Cole Kelley
Member Emily Green
Member Erin Longacre
Member Cindy Davis

Executive Staff Present

Molly Hart, State Superintendent
Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent
Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent

Minutes were taken by:

Cybil Prideaux, Executive Assistant

Others present

Ashley Biehl, Assistant Attorney General, Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent, Darin Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent Patton, Tami Gear, Tanya Albornoz, Becca Rae, and Jennifer Wadsworth.

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) Board Meeting

Monthly USDB Budget Update

USBE Assistant Superintendent of Operations Deborah Jacobson provided board members with a monthly USDB financial update.

Superintendent Report

State Superintendent Dr. Molly Hart, Interim USDB Superintendent Darin Nielsen, Associate Superintendent of the Deaf Dr. Tanner and Associate Superintendent of the Blind Ms. Patten provided a summary of recent USDB events to board members.

USDB Committee Standing Committee Report/Recommendations – (Items duplicated from the September 9, 2025, meeting).

Student Owned Device Policy

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board review and approve the Student-Owned Device policy.

The motion passed unanimously.

15 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Kerry, Brinton, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, Green, Hall, Boggess, Longacre, Lear, Bollinger, Hymas, Davis, and Wood.

USDB Audit Report

MOTION was made by Member Wood 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..."

The motion passed unanimously.

15 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Bollinger, Hymas, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Boggess, Green, Longacre, Reale, Kerry, Lear, and Hall.

Outstanding Board Matters from the Meeting of October 2, 2025

MOTION TO RECONSIDER was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Boothe.

The motion carried.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Brinton, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, Green, Hall, Boggess, Longacre, Bollinger, Hymas, Davis, and Wood.

2 OPPOSED: Members Reale and Lear.

Chair Hymas passed the gavel to Vice chair Bollinger.

MOTION was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board add a requirement for the Superintendent to provide an itemized list of expenditures to be reviewed by the Board for each \$500,000 that the USDB spends from the \$3,000,000 contingency fund at the time of the monthly budget report.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Kerry, Brinton, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, Green, Hall, Boggess, Longacre, Lear, and Bollinger, Davis, and Wood.

1 ABSENT: Member Hymas.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Green that the Board reconsider the motion to request staff work with the Legislature to amend Subsection 53G-6-803(9)(a) to add the following language:

(iv) is a computer adaptive assessment; or

(v) is an assessment that an LEA or school administers in lieu of an assessment described in Subsections (i) through (iv).

The motion carried.

8 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Brinton, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, and Wood.

6 OPPOSED: Members Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, Reale, and Boggess.

1 ABSENT: Member Hymas.

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Green request staff work with the Legislature to amend Subsection 53G-6-803(9)(a) to add the following language:

(iv) is a computer adaptive assessment; or

(v) is an assessment that an LEA or school administers in lieu of an assessment described in Subsections (i) through (iv).

The motion failed.

4 IN FAVOR: Members Boggess, Brinton, Kelley, and Green.

11 OPPOSED: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Hymas, Wood, Lear, Boothe, and Reale.

CALL THE QUESTION was made by Member Reale and seconded.

9 IN FAVOR: Members Boothe, Davis, Earl, Kelley, Lear, Reale, Wood, Bollinger, and Hymas.

6 OPPOSED: Members Boggess, Brinton, Green, Hall, Kerry, and Longacre.

Vice chair Bollinger passed the gavel to Chair Hymas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS From October 2, 2025, Meeting Agenda

MOTION was made by Member Kelley and seconded by Member Davis that the Board approve repurposing \$150,000 from the FY2025 carry-forward balances to support the *Every Day Counts* attendance campaign.

MOTION was made by Member Longacre and seconded by Member Brinton that the Board to the October 3 Board's Unfinished Business.

The motion carried.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Kerry, Brinton, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, Green, Hall, Boggess, Longacre, Lear, and Bollinger.

3 OPPOSED: Members Hymas, Davis, and Wood.

MOTION TAKEN FROM THE TABLE that the Board approve repurposing \$150,000 from the FY2025 carry-forward balances to support the *Every Day Counts* attendance campaign.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board add the following to the end of the above motion:

"At the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year, staff shall provide a report summarizing the campaign's performance, including key data and metrics"

The motion passed unanimously.

15 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Kerry, Brinton, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, Green, Hall, Boggess, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Davis, Wood, and Bollinger.

MOTION, AS AMENDED

That the Board approve repurposing \$150,000 from the FY2025 carry-forward balances to support the *Every Day Counts* attendance campaign. At the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year, staff shall provide a report summarizing the campaign's performance, including key data and metrics.

The motion carried.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Kerry, Brinton, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Davis, Wood, and Bollinger.

1 OPPOSED: Members Boggess.

Strategic Plan Workshop

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) held a strategic planning workshop on August 22–23, 2025, to establish a clear, unified direction for the Board’s work in the coming years.

The workshop concluded with agreement on a shortlist of draft strategic goals and priorities. These aligned goals and priorities will serve as the foundation for formalizing the strategic plan. The consultants provided recommendations on which goals and priorities to vote on, based on your feedback from the workshop and the post-workshop survey.

The Board took action on some of these items during the September 5 board meeting and is reconvening to continue the strategic plan discussion.

The Board approved the following goals and priorities as part of the Board Strategic Plan:

1. Elevate Student Learning
 - o Establish clear, concise, and rigorous academic standards that elevate knowledge, skills, and expectations for students and educators, ensuring high-quality learning and parental accessibility.
 - o Ensure assessment systems will evaluate content knowledge to inform instruction and provide parents with personalized feedback that supports them in their primary responsibility for the education of their children.
2. Promote Educator Quality & Effectiveness
3. Optimize Oversight and Accountability

Workshop Schedule

3:15 - 4:00 Mission and Vision

4:00 - 4:45 - Elevate Student Learning Priorities

4:45 - 5:45 - Promote Educator Quality & Effectiveness Priorities

6:00 - 7:00 - Optimize Oversight & Accountability Priorities

7:30 - Conclusion and Action

Members Brinton and Reale were absent for the motions below.

MOTION was made by Member Wood and seconded that the Board approve “To open doors of opportunity for all Utah children” as the vision statement and “Academic and organization excellence in Utah education for an elevated, educated citizenry” as the mission statement.

New

Vision: To open doors of opportunity for all Utah children

- Participate in civic responsibilities
- Uphold and strengthen our constitutional republic
- Provide for themselves and their families
- Engage in post-secondary opportunities
- Pursue personal goals
- Embody strong moral and social values

Mission: Academic and organizational excellence in Utah education for an elevated, educated citizenry

- Sets academic standards
- Protects information systems
- Manages public education funds
- Directs transparent operations
- Develops policy for education
- Advocates for Utah students
- Provides support and oversight of schools

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

MOTION was made by Member Davis and seconded that the Board add a purpose statement that reads: “The Utah State Board of Education is responsible for general oversight and supervision of the public education system, as established by the Utah Constitution. With an appreciation for Utah’s pioneer heritage, we look ahead — working as policymakers and educators committed to support parents in their central role as their children’s first teachers.”

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve “Establish systems that identify and support highly effective educators and empower them to share best practices with educators statewide.” as priority 1 under the Promote Educator Quality and Effectiveness goal.

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve “Streamline licensing pathways to attract and retain highly qualified professionals to public education.” as priority 2 under the Promote Educator Quality and Effectiveness goal.

The motion carried.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

1 OPPOSED: Member Kerry.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve “Enhance meaningful professional development and evidence-based administrator and educator training to strengthen leadership, teaching, and improve student outcomes.” as priority 3 under the Promote Educator Quality and Effectiveness goal.

The motion carried.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, Reale, and Kerry.

1 OPPOSED: Member Boggess.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve “Enhance instruction by identifying, supporting, and scaling effective teaching practices that optimize student learning and academic outcomes.” as priority 3 under the Elevate Student Learning goal.

The motion carried.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, Reale, and Kerry.

1 OPPOSED: Member Boggess.

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded that the Board approve “Support initiatives and interventions that enable educators to close individual learning gaps by equipping all

learners in meeting or exceeding grade-level proficiency.” as priority 4 under the Elevate Student Learning goal.

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Kerry and seconded that the Board approve “Close individual learning gaps with timely support for learning interventions and initiatives.” as priority 4 under the Elevate Student Learning goal.

The motion failed.

7 IN FAVOR: Members Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Lear, Kelley, and Kerry.

5 OPPOSED: Member Boggess, Boothe, Wood, Earl, and Green.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve “Clearly communicate required expectations” as priority 1 under the Optimize Oversight and Accountability goal.

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve “Support and monitor entities under the Board’s supervision to ensure compliance” as priority 3 under the Optimize Oversight and Accountability goal.

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Lear and seconded that the Board add “entities under the Board’s supervision” after “monitor.”

The motion carried.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Boggess, Reale, and Kerry.

1 OPPOSED: Member Kelley.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Kerry and seconded that the Board approve “Strengthen risk assessment and mitigation processes to improve internal controls” as priority 2 under the Optimize Oversight and Accountability goal.

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board approve “Direct performance improvement steps as priority 4 under the Optimize Oversight and Accountability goal.

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Earl and seconded that the Board strike “, up to corrective action” from the motion

The motion carried.

11 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Boothe, Kelley, Reale, and Kerry.

2 OPPOSED: Members Boggess and Green.

FINAL MOTION

The motion passed unanimously.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Longacre, Bollinger, Davis, Wood, Lear, Green, Boothe, Kelley, and Boggess.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Boothe.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

The executive assistant took the meeting minutes.
The minutes were approved on November 7, 2025.