



# Meeting Minutes

## Utah State Board of Education

Utah State Board of Education Board Meeting,  
Utah School for the Deaf and Blind (USDB),  
USBE Work Session, and  
Continued Business from the previous  
meeting on November 6, 2025.  
1:00 to 3:30 PM

A regular Utah State Board of Education meeting was held on November 7, 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 Cole Kelley  
Member Randy Boothe  
Member Joann Brinton  
Member Carol Lear

Member Jennie Earl  
Member Sarah Reale  
Member Rod Hall  
Member Joseph Kerry  
Member Erin Longacre  
Member Cindy Davis

### Members Absent

Member Emily Green  
Member Christina Boggess

### 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**

Angela Doan, Assistant Attorney General, Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent; Darin Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; Susan Patton, Assistant Superintendent; David Goff, Dwight Overgaard, Cindy Andersen, Vicky Summers, and Jennifer Wadsworth.

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 1:01 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.

**MOTION** was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Boothe that the Board approve the FY26 USDB Family and LEA Activities Support Enrichment budget items.

**The motion carried.**

**10 IN FAVOR:** Members Kelley, Boothe, Earl, Green, Longacre, Lear, Bollinger, Hymas, Davis, and Wood.

**2 OPPOSED:** Members Brinton and Kerry

**3 ABSENT:** Members Boggess, Hall, and Reale.

#### Superintendent Report

State Superintendent Dr. Molly Hart, Assistant Superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind 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 October 14, 2025, meeting).**

**Teacher Student Success Plan (TSSP)**

**MOTION** was made by Member Boothe and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board approve the Teacher Student Success Plans for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

**The motion carried.**

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

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

**DeafEd Alternate Pathway to Professional Educator Licensing (APPEL)**

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve USDB as an authorized APPEL sponsor for Deaf Education (Birth–22) and authorizes USDB to implement the program in accordance with Utah Code §53E-6-306 and Rules R277-303 and R277-304.

**The motion carried.**

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

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

### **2025-26 USDB Positive Behavior Plans**

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the USDB Positive Behavior Plans for JMS, KBS, EDS, SUSD Online and Utah School for the Blind in compliance with UCA 53G-10-407 on second and final reading.

**The motion carried.**

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

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

**1 ABSTAINED:** Member Kerry.

### **Paid Professional Hours for Educators Policy**

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the USDB Paid Professional Hours to Educators policy in compliance with R277-629 on first reading and forward to the Board for final approval.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Wood and seconded by Member Brinton that the board amend section 7.1 by striking “12” and “2025” and adding “on that date following payroll”. In section 7.2 strike “15” and “2026” and add “on that date following payroll”.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION** was made by Member Hymas and seconded by Member Brinton that the Board strike “2025” and “2026” throughout the document. *Passed without objection.*

**The motion passed unanimously.**

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

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

#### **USDB Bullying, Cyber-Bullying, Hazing and Retaliation Policy**

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the USDB Bullying, Cyber-Bullying, Hazing and Retaliation Policy on second and final reading.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

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

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

#### **USDB Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy**

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the USDB Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

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

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

**1 ABSTAINED:** Member Kerry.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Hymas.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

The executive assistant took the meeting minutes.  
The minutes were approved on December 4, 2025.

