

## **MINUTES OF THE UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, December 11, 2025**

**10008 Creek Run Way, Sandy, UT, 84070**

**[www.youtube.com/utahscsb](http://www.youtube.com/utahscsb)**

### **Members Present:**

- Chair Stephanie Speicher
- Vice Chair Erik Olson
- Member Susan Pulsipher
- Member Krystle Bassett
- Member Stacey Hutchings
- Member Nathan Marshall

### **Members Excused and Not Present:**

- Member Clint Biesinger

### **Staff Present:**

- Marie Steffensen
- Dr. Paul Kremer
- Andrea Jones
- Amber Hellstrom
- Lisa Cooper
- Smriti Dhakal
- Brendan McGinn
- Betty Jimenez
- Amy Pace
- Jenna Magnetti
- 

### **Others Present:**

- USBE Liaison Rod Hall (virtually)
- AAG Darin Goff (virtually)

### **Public Comment (0)**

## **(10:06AM) MEETING BEGINS**

### **Consent Calendar**

Vice Chair Erik Olson: "I move that we approve the consent calendar."

Member Clint Biesinger: "I will second."

All members present say "Aye." Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion and Action Item: School Model Amendment Request-Merit Preparatory Academy**

Although this item was later on the agenda, due to the nature of the board meeting, Chair Speicher and the board decided to allow this item to go first as Merit Preparatory Academy was ready and present as the meeting began. The SCSB Board, David Wisemann and Jessica Sitton both from Merit prep, all engaged in a discussion of their request. A request for the Board to consider allowing them to add online learning to their school model, after discussions and questions the board took to a vote.

Vice Chair Erik Olson: "I move to approve the amendment request that has been submitted by Merit Preparatory Academy specifically to change the language in paragraph E of their schedule A to allow them to provide educational services through in-person, blended, or online formats in accordance with all applicable Utah Laws and Utah State Board of Education Laws."

Member Stacey Hutchings: "I will second."

All members present say "Aye." Motion passed unanimously.

### **Closed Session: To discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual**

The Board moved into a closed session, this means it is to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. The Board did vote to enter closed session as well.

Vice Chair Erik Olson: "I move we enter close session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual."

Member Nathan Marshall: "I will second."

All members take a role call:

Member Nathan Marshall: "Aye."

Member Susan Pulsipher: "Aye."

Member Clint Biesinger: "Aye."

Vice Chair Olson: "Aye."

Chair Stephanie Speicher: "Aye."

Member Stacey Hutchings: "Aye."

Member Krystle Bassett: "Aye."

#### **Discussion and Action Item: As Needed From Closed Session**

Coming out of closed session, Chair Stephanie Speicher made the announcement that Dr. Paul Kremer has put in his resignation as the Utah Charter School Board's Executive Director as December 12<sup>th</sup> being his last day. Appointing Marie Steffensen as Interim Executive Director.

Chair Stephanie Speicher: "I would like to entertain a motion to appoint Associate Executive Director Steffensen as Interim Executive Director."

Vice Chair Olson: "I second that motion."

All members take a role call:

Member Nathan Marshall: "Yes."

Member Susan Pulsipher: "Yes."

Member Clint Biesinger: "Resoundingly Yes."

Vice Chair Olson: "Absolutely Yes."

Chair Stephanie Speicher: "Yes."

Member Stacey Hutchings: "Yes."

Member Krystle Bassett: “Yes.”

Associate Executive Director Marie Steffensen will be acting Interim Executive Director starting December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

### **Report to the Board: Lead Forward-The Mentorship Network**

The State Charter School Board had a grant in place with WestEd that created Lead Forward – The Mentorship Network. This was the project that Associate Executive Director Marie Steffensen co-presented on at the NACSA conference in October. During the meeting, Robin Chait served as the main presenter, and a collective of our charter schools who participated in this mentorship network also presented and shared their experiences with the Board. Cohort one was nearing completion and reported on the successes and challenges they had experienced, as well as discussed plans for launching Cohort two.

### **Report to the Board and Charter Agreement Signing Day Celebration for Mountain Heights Academy, Providence Hall Charter School, Thomas Edison Charter School, and Wallace Stegner Academy**

At last month’s Board meeting, the updated charter agreements for Mountain Heights Academy, Providence Hall Charter School, Thomas Edison Charter School, and Wallace Stegner Academy were approved on the consent calendar. As suggested by the Authorizing Committee, each school had been invited to participate in a “Signing Day” Celebration and prepare a short presentation highlighting their best practices and successes. During the meeting, Mountain Heights Academy was present and signed their agreement in person, and a few members from Providence Hall Charter School were also in attendance. Thomas Edison Charter School and Wallace Stegner Academy elected to sign their agreements electronically.

### **Executive Director Report**

In his last report as Executive Director, Dr. Paul Kremer expressed his gratitude to the Board and staff before handing over responsibilities to Associate Executive Director Steffensen. Steffensen then delivered updates on the board, school, and staff, responded to feedback from the Utah Charter Schools Institute, and outlined key dates and plans for the upcoming 90 days.

**(3:00PM) ADJOURN**

