

Date: January 13, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

*The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.*

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

**USDB Committee Staff:** Leah Voorhies, USBE Deputy Superintendent; Darin Nielsen, USDB Assistant Superintendent; Susan Patten and Michelle Tanner, USDB Associate Superintendents; Ashley Biehl and Angela Doan, Assistant Attorneys General (AAG); Andrea Curtin and Amy Magruder, Secretaries; Cindy Andersen and Jennifer Jackson, Interpreters.

**Others Present:** Jerry Record and Alex Farah, USBE IT/Media Production Specialists; Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent; Kathy Carlisle and Robbin Clark, USDB staff; Sarah Erb, parent giving public comments; and Closed Captioning Services.

USDB Committee Chair LeAnn Wood called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

#### **INFORMATION: Public Comment**

1. Sarah Erb, parent of a blind student, spoke about the Bridges to Community Readiness Program.

#### **1.2 INFORMATION: Update on Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind**

**Committee Discussion:** Updates were provided by Associate Superintendents Susan Patton and Michelle Tanner on various educational programs and initiatives for the schools for the blind and schools for the deaf, with discussions focusing on funding needs and upcoming events.

**Motion for the Board:** No motion for the Board, information item.

#### **1.3 INFORMATION: Advisory Council Update**

**Committee Discussion:** Assistant Superintendent Nielsen shared updates from the USDB Advisory Council, including appointments of new members. Condolences were expressed for a blind student that passed away.

**Motion for the Board:** No motion for the Board, information item.

#### **1.4 ACTION: Anaphylaxis Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** This policy establishes protocols for the maintenance and administration of unassigned stock epinephrine to address suspected life-threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) on USDB premises. It ensures compliance with the Utah Emergency Injection for Anaphylactic Reaction Act, providing necessary training and

Date: January 13, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

civil liability protection for authorized staff. This policy serves as an emergency safety net for students, staff, and visitors during school-based activities.

**Committee Action:** Member Longacre moved that the Committee approve the USDB Anaphylaxis Policy, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion for the Board:** That the Board USDB Anaphylaxis Policy, Draft 1 on second and final reading.

### **1.5 ACTION: Bridges to Community Readiness — Post High Program Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** While USDB has historically supported post-high students, this policy formally codifies the Bridges to Community Readiness (BCR) program's unique competency-based model and distinguishes it from standard high school coursework. This policy establishes the formal purpose, structure, and operational framework for the Bridges to Community Readiness (BCR) Post High Program at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. The program provides intensive, individualized instruction in the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) to bridge the gap between graduation and adulthood for students with vision impairments. The Bridges to Community Readiness Program (BCR) is designed to ensure students are prepared for successful transitions to college, the workforce, or community life.

**Committee Action:** Member Longacre moved to postpone action on the USDB Bridges to Community Readiness – Post High Program Policy until the next USDB Standing Committee meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion for the Board:** No motion for the Board currently. This item was moved to the February committee meeting.

### **1.6 ACTION: Emergency Safety Interventions Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** This new policy establishes the standards and limitations for the use of Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI), including physical restraint and seclusion, in accordance with Utah Code §53G-8-301 and State Board Rule R277-608. It provides a rigorous framework for staff training, immediate parent notification, and strict documentation to ensure that these interventions are used only in cases of immediate danger. The policy reinforces USDB's commitment to student dignity by prohibiting corporal punishment and mechanical, chemical, or prone restraints.

Date: January 13, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

**Committee Action:** Member Longacre moved to amend 2.12 to add the words, “which may be” after the word “supports” and add the acronym “(BIP)” after the words “Behavior Intervention Plan” in 2.3.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the Committee approve the USDB Emergency Safety Interventions Policy, Draft 1, as amended and with any necessary non-substantive technical changes, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion for the Board:** That the Board approve the USDB Emergency Safety Interventions Policy, Draft 2 on second and final reading.

### **1.7 ACTION: Student Conduct and Discipline Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** This updated policy aligns USDB’s student conduct and discipline framework with recent changes to Utah Code 53G-8-202 and State Board Rule R277-609. The revisions strengthen the focus on Least Restrictive Behavior Interventions (LRBI) and formalize the roles and responsibilities of the Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) Committee. These updates ensure that USDB’s disciplinary procedures remain proactive, legally compliant, and supportive of individualized student needs.

**Committee Action:** Member Wood moved to strike the language “the next person in” in 9.7.1 of the USDB Student Conduct and Discipline Policy.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Wood moved to amend the language in 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 of the USDB Student Conduct and Discipline Policy to read:

“3.5.1 The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited daily (53G-10-304). Students shall have respect for the flag and civility toward all during patriotic activities. Participation in the Pledge of Allegiance is voluntary and not compulsory. It is acceptable for an individual to choose not to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance for religious or other reasons. Students should show respect for individuals who participate and individuals who choose not to participate.

3.5.2. Students shall show proper respect for their country's emblem. ~~Instructions should include the frequent repetition of the Pledge of Allegiance by students and teachers.~~ Discourteous treatment of the flag or other national symbols shall be cause for disciplinary action as outlined in the Discipline Procedures of this policy.”

Date: January 13, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

Motion passed unanimously with Member Davis absent.

**Committee Action:** Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve the USDB Student Conduct and Discipline Policy, Draft 1 as amended with any necessary non-substantive technical changes, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Davis absent.

**Motion for the Board:** That the Board approve USDB Student Conduct and Discipline Policy, Draft 2 on second and final reading.

### **1.8 ACTION: Swimming/Therapy Pool Use Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** This policy governs the use and maintenance of the USDB therapy pool, outlining the requirements for supervision, sanitation, and eligibility for students and staff.

**Committee Action:** Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve the USDB Swimming/Therapy Pool Use Policy, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Davis absent.

**Motion for the Board:** That the Board approve the USDB Swimming/Therapy Pool Use Policy, Draft 1 on second and final reading.

### **1.9 ACTION: Bed Bug Prevention and Response Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** This policy provides standardized procedures for the identification, reporting, and professional treatment of bed bugs to protect the health and safety of the USDB community. By defining clear roles for the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator and facility staff, the policy ensures a rapid, evidence-based response to sightings while minimizing the use of pesticides. It also outlines specific protocols for residential facilities and school vehicles to prevent the spread of pests across the agency.

**Committee Action:** Member Boothe moved that the Committee approve the USDB Bed Bug Prevention and Response Policy, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Davis absent.

**Motion for the Board:** That the Board approve the USDB Bed Bug Prevention and Response Policy, Draft 1 on second and final reading.

Date: January 13, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

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### 1.10 ACTION: Video Remote Interpreting Policy

**Committee Discussion:** This policy establishes the operational framework and professional standards for Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) to ensure consistent communication access for USDB students and staff when on-site interpreters are unavailable. It outlines specific technology requirements, classroom management strategies, and professional best practices to mitigate the inherent limitations of remote services. The policy provides a structured approach for distance learning, rural support, and administrative meetings while maintaining high-quality interpreting standards.

**Committee Action:** Member Boothe moved that the Committee approve the USDB Video Remote Interpreting Policy, Draft 1 on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Davis absent.

**Motion for the Board:** That the Board approve the USDB Video Remote Interpreting Policy, Draft 1 on second and final reading.

### 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 Boothe made a motion to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Davis absent.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.