



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 January 7, 2026.
Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM

A regular Utah State Board of Education meeting was held on January 8, 2026. 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 Cindy Davis
Member Carol Lear
Member Joann Brinton

Member Jennie Earl
Member Sarah Reale
Member Rod Hall
Member Joseph Kerry
Member Erin Longacre
Member Emily Green
Member Christina Boggess

Executive Staff Present

Molly Hart, State Superintendent
Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent
Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent
Scott Jones, 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, Kelsey James, and Jennifer Wadsworth.

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

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

Public Comment for USDB

The Board heard from Sarah Erb.

- The public may sign up to share public comments at publiccomment@schools.utah.gov.
- The public may send written public comments to the Board at board@schools.utah.gov
- Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per person.
- A comment can express support or dissent for regulatory action.
- Individuals should refrain from using public comments to complain about personnel issues or attack or defame another individual.
- Speakers making a highly detailed or complex comment should also consider providing a written outline of their words to the Board.
- Please remember that children may hear your comments. Be thoughtful and professional.
- Keep your comments appropriate for a general audience. If you have material with explicit language or content, submit such material in writing to the Board at board@schools.utah.gov

Monthly USDB Budget Update

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

Superintendent Report

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 November 10, 2025, meeting).

Utah State Board of Education Policy 4002

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the Utah State Board of Education Policy 4002, Draft 3, as amended, on second and final reading.

Without objection, the staff will update the draft by changing “that” to “who.”

The motion carried.

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

1 ABSTAINED: Member Reale.

USDB Advisory Council Bylaws

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the USDB Advisory Council Bylaws, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Wood that the Board amend Article III, #4 of the Bylaws to read “the board may appoint members according to Board Policy 4002”.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

MOTION, AS AMENDED

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Parent Rights to Academic Accommodations

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve Parent Rights to Academic Accommodations Policy, Draft 2.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Data Governance Policy

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the Data Governance Policy, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Language Access Policy

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the Language Access Policy, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Green to amend that the Board amend Language Access Policy 4.2, that the word “here (hyperlink)” be replaced with a clear URL location, and add the words “USDB Interpreter Request Form”.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

MOTION, AS AMENDED

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Employee Acceptable Use Policy

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the Employee Acceptable Use Policy, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Student Device & Network Acceptable Student Use Policy

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the Student Device & Network Acceptable Use Policy, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

The Chair passed the gavel to the Vice Chair.

The Vice Chair passed the gavel to the Board Chair.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Brinton that the Board amend 8.8.4 to add a clear URL after the USDB Student Code of Conduct.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board replace the words “USDB Student Code of Conduct” with “Policy 6.03 Student Conduct and Discipline” in Item 8.8.4.

The motion carried.

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

3 ABSENT: Members Hall, Longacre, and Green.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Wood that the Board insert the following words “or neglect” after damage in 10.3.

The motion carried.

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

1 ABSTAINED: Member Hall.

MOTION, AS AMENDED

The motion passed unanimously.

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

MOTION was made by Member Green and seconded by Member Wood that the Board direct staff to standardize the numbering and naming conventions for the USDB policies as policies are revised.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Deaf Parent Infant Program (PIP)

MOTION was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the Deaf Parent Infant Program (PIP) Policy, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 PM.

The executive assistant took the meeting minutes.
The minutes are pending approval.

