

Date: March 13, 2026



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The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom. [This is the link to the YouTube video link.](#)

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

**USDB Committee Staff:** Darin Nielsen, USDB Interim Superintendent; Susan Patten and Michelle Tanner, USDB Associate Superintendents; Ashley Biehl and Darin Goff, Assistant Attorneys General (AAG); Andrea Curtin, Secretary; Cindy Andersen and Bethany Andersen, Interpreters.

**Others Present:** Jerry Record and Alex Farah, USBE IT/Media Production Specialists; Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent; Tamara Flint, Katy Hagemeyer, and Robbin Clark, USDB staff; Sarah Williams and Kristi Lee Mortensen, made public comment; and Closed Captioning Services.

USDB Committee Chair LeAnn Wood called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**INFORMATION: Public Comment**

1. Sarah Williams spoke on the LCP (Language and Communication Plan)
2. Kristi Lee Mortensen spoke on the LCP

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

**Committee Discussion:** Updates were provided by Associate Superintendents Susan Patten and Michelle Tanner on various educational programs and initiatives for the schools for the blind and schools for the deaf, with discussions highlighting enrichment activities, funding needs, and upcoming events. See additional materials on the YouTube video recording, link above.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion.

**6.3 INFORMATION: Advisory Council Update**

**Committee Discussion:** Interim Superintendent Nielsen shared updates from the USDB Advisory Council.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion.

**6.4 INFORMATION: General Session Legislation Update**

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**Committee Discussion:** This item was postponed to the April meeting because of time constraints.

**There was no Committee Action.**

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion.

### **6.5 ACTION: 6.6 Suicide Prevention Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** Staff presented the revised USDB Suicide Prevention Policy for Board approval. This update ensures USDB's continued alignment with Utah Code §53G-9-702 and USBE Rule R277-620, following recent state-level refinements to school mental health protocols. The policy establishes a comprehensive framework for student education, mandatory staff training, and clear intervention procedures.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the Committee strike the words "have been" in 4.2 and replace with the words with "must be"

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the Committee amend 6.1 strike "caring and climates" and replace with "caring and school environments."

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Longacre moved that the Committee add the words "based on current data" after "suicide" and strike the remaining text in 6.2.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the words "agitation or intoxication" and "occurs" be stricken from 9.1.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Brinton moved that the committee strike "and" before "problem" and add the words " and methods of strengthening the family and a youth's relationships in the school and community" to 7.1.2.

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Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Longacre moved that the Committee strike 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Longacre moved that the Committee replace the word “should” with “shall” and strike the words “Assemblies or Public Address System announcements should be avoided.” in 18.3.1.9.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Wood moved that the committee add “5.3 The SAFEUT Primary Contact shall notify the parents of a USDB student of any SAFEUT tip regarding their student.”

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the committee strike the words “A plan for supervision will be discussed” and replace it with “A recommendation for a plan of supervision will be discussed”. Also, strike the words “the plan” and replace with “recommendation will be documented” in 10.10.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the committee strike the word “their” in 11.4.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the committee strike the words “informed and” in 16.2.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the committee replace the word “meet” with “re-entry meeting” before “with the student’s parent or guardian” and

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add the words “may help the team determine” after “SafeUT application” in section 15.1.1 And strike section 15.1.2.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve the Suicide Prevention Policy, Draft 1 as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Ask:** The Committee asked Ashley Biehl, A.A.G., to do some research on transporting a student in an emergency and what the liability would be.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board approve the Suicide Prevention Policy, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

#### **6.6 ACTION: 8:24 Parents Review of Curriculum and Instructional Materials/Complaint Process Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** Staff presented for Board approval the updated policy regarding parental involvement in the selection and review of instructional materials, as required by USBE Rule R277-468. This policy establishes formal procedures for involving a committee of parents, reflective of the USDB community, in the adoption of primary curriculum. It also outlines the process for parents to review materials used in the classroom and provides a clear, transparent framework for filing and resolving complaints regarding specific instructional resources. These updates ensure USDB remains compliant with state transparency laws while respecting the primary role of parents in their children's education.

**Committee Action:** Member Wood moved 6.2 and 6.3 of the Parent Review of Curriculum and Instructional Materials to next month's agenda.

Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion.

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### **6.7 ACTION: 6.02 Attendance and Truancy Prevention Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** Staff presented the USDB Truancy Prevention Policy for Board approval. This update aligns USDB with recent amendments to USBE Rule R277-607, which shifts focus toward identifying and supporting students at risk of chronic absenteeism. The policy codifies the role of the USDB Attendance Review Team, establishes clear definitions for excused and unexcused absences (including considerations for medical and sensory-related needs), and outlines a tiered intervention model. These changes ensure USDB meets state reporting standards while maintaining a supportive, communication-accessible environment that encourages regular student participation.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the Committee replace the word “family” with “parent” in 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3.2.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve the Truancy Prevention Policy, Draft 1 as amended, 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 Truancy Prevention Policy, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

### **6.8 ACTION: 6.07 Child Abuse and Neglect Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** Revision of USDB Policy 6.07 (Child Abuse and Neglect) would ensure full alignment with the October 2022 updates to Utah State Board of Education Rule R277-401. This update modernizes legal citations following the recodification of the Utah Juvenile Code (shifting references from Title 62A to Title 80) and incorporates mandatory state language regarding an employee’s personal duty to report and the school’s requirement to preserve reporter anonymity.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the Committee strike section 3.2 and add it to an appropriate scope of employment policy, and that the word

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“reporting” be added to the title.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Davis moved that the Committee replace the word “that” with “those” in section 5.1.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Wood moved that the Committee amend 3.1.4 of the Child Abuse and Neglect Policy to read, “The school is required to refer a licensed educator to the Utah Professional Practice Advisory Commission (UPPAC) for failure to report abuse, which may result in suspension.”

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Wood moved that the committee amend 6.4 of the Child Abuse and Neglect Policy to read, “An employee responsible for child abuse or neglect may be disciplined, up to and including termination. Licensed employees shall also be referred to the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, for consideration of licensure discipline.”

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve the Child Abuse and Neglect Policy, Draft 1 as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Committee approve Child Abuse and Neglect Policy, Draft 2 on second and final reading.

### **6.9 ACTION: 6.08 Immunization Policy**

**Committee Discussion:** Staff presented the updated USDB Immunization Policy

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for Board consideration and approval. This update ensures USDB remains in full compliance with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Rule R277-800 and the 2025–2026 Utah Department of Health and Human Services requirements. The policy outlines the necessary documentation for enrollment, procedures for conditional enrollment, and the process for medical or personal exemptions to ensure the continued health and safety of our students across all campuses and outreach programs.

**Committee Action:** Member Wood moved that the committee move 6.08 immunization Policy to next month’s meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **2.1 Closed Session – Closed in accordance with the Utah Open and Public**

### **Meetings Act**

A closed session was not held for this meeting because of time constraints and will be moved to the April meeting and added to the agenda after public comment.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion.

**Committee Action:** Member Longacre made a motion to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.