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The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom. [Link to YouTube recording.](#)

Members Present: Chair LeAnn Wood, Vice Chair Randy Boothe, 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, Assistant Attorney General (AAG); Leah Voorhies, USBE Deputy Superintendent; Andrea Curtin, Secretary; Cindy Andersen and Jennifer Jackson, Interpreters.

Others Present: Jerry Record and Alex Farah, USBE IT/Media Production Specialists; Molly Hart, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent; Jennifer Wadsworth, Policy Advisor; Malia Hite, Executive Coordinator of Educator Licensing; Robbin Clark, USDB staff; Ryan Layton, Allyssa Nielsen, Jonathan Helgesen, and Alisa Ensign, made public comment; and Closed Captioning Services.

USDB Committee Chair LeAnn Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INFORMATION: Public Comment

1. Ryan Layton spoke about concerns with the recent USDB Townhall meeting.
2. Allyssa Nielsen spoke about concerns with the recent USDB Townhall meeting.
3. Jonathan Helgesen spoke in favor of the enrichment funds that were approved.
4. Alisa Ensign spoke in favor of the Board's support of USDB during the legislative session. She also expressed concerns about the recent USDB Townhall meeting.

6.0 Closed Session

Committee Action: Member Boothe moved that the Committee go into a closed session for the purpose of discussing any of the following:

1. Student Services: Discussions regarding necessary services for individual students.
2. Appropriations: Discussions regarding appropriations that may affect specific individuals.

Upon the voice vote of Members Wood, Boothe, Brinton, Davis, and Longacre, the Committee entered a closed session at 9:15 a.m.

The following individuals were also present: Andrea Curtin, Jennifer Wadsworth,

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Molly Hart, Leah Voorhies, Robbin Clark, Darin Nielsen, Michelle Tanner, Susan Patten, and Deborah Jacobson.

Committee Action: A motion was made by Member Boothe that the Committee come out of the closed session.

Upon voice votes of Members Wood, Boothe, Brinton, Davis, and Longacre, the Committee came out of the closed session at 10:09 a.m.

6.2 (closed session action) ACTION: 8.23 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 BCR is designed to ensure students are prepared for successful transitions to college, the workforce, or community life.

Committee Action: Member Boothe moved that the Committee approve 8.23 Bridges to Community Readiness — Post High School Services Policy, Draft 2, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Committee Action: Member Davis made a substitute motion to postpone this agenda item until the May USDB Committee meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: No motion for the Board at this time.

6.3 ACTION: FY26 USDB School LAND Trust Plan Amendment

Committee Discussion: During the FY25 closeout, a failure to complete necessary accounting adjustments resulted in a larger-than-anticipated carryforward balance for the USDB School LAND Trust program. This administrative oversight occurred during a period of significant leadership transition and staffing reductions within

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the USDB business office. To rectify this and ensure compliance with Utah Administrative Rule R277-477, the USDB Advisory Council met on March 26th and voted to amend the FY26 plan. This action reallocates the excess funds to current academic priorities, ensuring that the trust distributions are utilized effectively for the benefit of current students as intended by state law.

Committee Action: Member Boothe moved to approve the USDB FY26 amended School LAND Trust Plan and forward to the Board for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve the USDB FY26 amended School LAND Trust Plan.

6.4 ACTION: FY27 USDB School LAND Trust Plan Amendment

Committee Discussion: In accordance with Utah Code R277-477, the Utah State Board of Education (acting as the Local Education Authority for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind) is required to review and approve the annual School LAND Trust Plan. The USDB Advisory Council, which serves as the School Community Council for USDB, met on March 26, 2026, to develop and finalize the FY27 School LAND Trust Plan. The Council formally recommended the plan for Board approval to ensure the timely distribution of trust funds for the upcoming fiscal year.

Committee Action: Member Davis moved that the Committee approve the USDB FY27 School LAND Trust Plan and forward to the Board for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve the USDB FY27 School LAND Trust Plan.

6.5 ACTION: LEA Specific Licenses

Committee Discussion: Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) staff, request that the Board—acting in its capacity as the Local Education Authority (LEA)—review and approve LEA-Specific License requests for seven (7) educators. These requests, submitted in accordance with R277-301-7, enable USDB to fill

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specialized positions with qualified individuals who are currently meeting locally defined competency standards. Approval ensures that USDB remains in compliance with state staffing requirements while maintaining continuity of instruction for students with sensory impairments.

Committee Action: Member Davis moved that the Committee approve the LEA Specific Licenses as requested and forward to the Board for final approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve the LEA Specific Licenses.

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 Boothe moved that the Committee approve the Parents Review of Curriculum and Instructional Materials 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 approve the Parents Review of Curriculum and Instructional Materials Policy, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

6.7 ACTION: 6.19 Student Search and Seizure

Committee Discussion: This policy is proposed in accordance with Utah Administrative Rule R277-615, which requires LEAs to adopt written policies and procedures for student searches. The draft presented establishes a two-part "reasonableness" test, requiring that any search be justified at its inception and

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reasonable in scope relative to the student's age, sex, and disability or communication needs. Furthermore, it fulfills the rule's mandate for specialized communication access during searches and provides clear protocols for the confiscation and disposal of electronic cigarette products.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved to add a new definition to Section 2. Definitions stating, "'Appropriate school official' means the most appropriate school employee, considering all the circumstances, who should search a student. Usually, the appropriate school official will be the school principal or school director. Generally, the more intrusive the search, the higher the level the appropriate school official should be who conducts the search. Other factors may include age of the student, gender of the student, if the student has an IEP, the student's background, seriousness of the item(s) being searched for, which appropriate school official is reasonably available, and the urgency of the situation," and then alphabetize and renumber the definitions.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved to strike the language in Section 1.3.–
~~"USDB recognizes that student searches can be disruptive and intrusive. Searches will be conducted only when justified and will be carried out in a manner that is respectful, trauma-informed, age-appropriate, and as minimally intrusive as reasonably possible under the circumstances.~~

Motion passed 4 to 1 with Member Davis opposed.

Committee Action: Member Davis moved to change the word "may" to the word "shall" in Section 10.2.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Boothe moved that the Committee approve the Student Search and Seizure 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 approves the Student Search and Seizure Policy, Draft 2 on second and final reading.

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6.8 ACTION: R277-800, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (Amendment and Continuation)

Committee Discussion: Summary of the Rule:

This rule establishes governance, operational requirements, and service parameters for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB), including provisions related to student services, enrollment, reporting, and program administration.

Reason for Proposed Changes: Staff suggested the revisions in Draft 2 due to the passage of HB 448 Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind Amendments. Legislative changes required updates to ensure alignment with current statute governing USDB operations, reporting requirements, and oversight responsibilities. Changes included updates to statutory citations for accuracy and consistency with current law; incorporating provisions related to Board oversight of capital facilities planning; clarifying reporting requirements and aligning them with statutory directives; adding and revising definitions for clarity; and making technical and conforming changes to improve clarity and consistency throughout the rule. Staff presented R277-800, Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, Draft 2, for continuation and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53E-8-204](#); [53E-8-402](#); [53E-8-409](#).

Committee Action: Member Wood moved to rearrange the sentence in lines 240-242 to read, "For students who are school-age as defined in 53G-6-201, USDB shall limit its services to those on an IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan except as otherwise provided for the enrollment of hearing siblings under R277-800-9."

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Longacre moved that the Committee approve R277-800, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind, Draft 2 as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

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MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board continue and approve R277-800, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind, Draft 3 on second and final reading.

6.9 ACTION: General Session Legislation Review

Committee Discussion: Interim Superintendent Nielsen and Chair LeAnn Wood will review bills and answer Board member questions.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved that the Committee recommend the Board create a Board working group as appointed by the Board Chair including up to seven Board Members, with USDB Standing Committee members having the first opportunity to volunteer to participate; a representative from DFCM; the USDB Superintendency; and an USDB Advisory Council member to discuss USDB capital facility needs and bring recommendations to the full Board in August.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board create a working group as appointed by the Board Chair including up to seven Board Members, with USDB Standing Committee members having the first opportunity to volunteer to participate; a representative from DFCM; the USDB Superintendency; and an USDB Advisory Council member to discuss USDB capital facility needs and bring recommendations to the full Board in August.

6.10 and 6.11 INFORMATION: Update on Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind and INFORMATION: Advisory Council Update

These items were not discussed because of time restraints.

Committee Action: Member Boothe made a motion to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.