

MINUTES OF THE UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Location: 10008 Creek Run Way, Sandy, UT 84070

www.youtube.com/utahscsb

Members Present:

- Chair Stephanie Speicher
- Vice Chair Erik Olson
- Member Susan Pulsipher
- Member Nathan Marshall
- Member Clint Biesinger

Member Excused:

- Vice Chair Erik Olson
- Member Krystle Bassett

Staff Present:

- Andrea Jones
- Amber Hellstrom
- Jenna Magnetti
- Amber Hellstrom
- Brendan McGinn

Staff Excused:

- Marie Steffensen
- Amy Pace
- Smriti Dhakal

Meeting Begins: 9:00 am

Public Comment: None

Consent Calendar: Member Clint Biesinger made a motion to “Pull the FY27 Startup Grant Funds off the consent calendar for a brief discussion.” Susan Pulsipher second the motion. All members said “Aye.”

Motion passed unanimously.

Member Susan Pulsipher made a motion to “Approve the remainder of the consent calendar.” Member Nathan Marshall second the motion. All Members said “Aye.”

The board went into a discussion about the startup grant funds and concerns that they had and SCSB team member Lisa Cooper-Loock spoke on all clarifications and questions the board had.

Member Clint Biesinger made a motion to “Approve the start up grants as described in our documentation.” Susan Pulsipher second the motion. All members said “Aye.”

Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report:

Stacey Hutchings, the new Executive Director to the SCSB, expressed her initial thoughts and all she has been working on in her first few days and outlined her future objectives to the board.

Board Member Report: Charter School Educational Service Centers: Board Member Marshall provided an update on the recently passed legislation establishing Charter School Educational Service Centers.

Board Committee Reports: Legislative Committee, Finance Committee, & Authorizing Committee:

We heard brief updates from the Board’s Legislative, Finance, and Authorizing Committees, highlighting their recent work, key developments, and ongoing efforts within their respective areas of responsibility.

Report to the Board: Readiness to Open Progress:

SCSB staff member Betty Jimenez addressed the Board and presented a Readiness to Open Report for Custom Class Charter School and Azure Fields Charter High School, both anticipated to open this fall. She reviewed the required metrics that must be met before the SCSB can certify to the USBE that a school is ready to open, provided an update on each school’s progress, and noted that certification is not due until June, allowing time for the Board to offer support or intervene if needed.

Discussion & Action Item: Transfer of Operation and Control of Charter from Endeavor Hall to Canyon Grove Academy:

Member Clint Biesinger did abstain from this item. Endeavor Hall requested to transfer operation and control of its charter to Canyon Grove Academy. Both schools addressed the Board to explain the reasons for the proposed transfer and their vision for the partnership. They previously met with the SCSB's Authorizing Committee, which expressed support for the request, and then presented to the authorizer to share details and seek the required approval under statute.

Member Natan Marshall motioned "To transfer operations and control of Endeavor Hall to Canyon Grove Academy." Member Susan Pulsipher second the motion.

All voting members said "Aye."

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion & Action Item: Charter Amendments: Azure Fields Charter High School:

Member Clint Biesinger did abstain from this item. Azure Fields Charter High School submitted several charter agreement amendments for the Board's consideration. Director Carol Ann Gregory from Azure Fields was present to speak to the Board about the proposed changes. As the amendments were material and the school is not yet operational, they were brought forward for Board review and they engaged in questions and clarification the board had.

Member Susan Pulsipher motioned "To approve the changes to Azure Fields Charter Agreement."

Member Natan Marshall second the motion.

All voting members say "aye".

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:43 AM