

Date: May 12, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

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 Superintendent; Susan Patten and Michelle Tanner, USDB Associate Superintendents; Darin Goff Assistant Attorney General (AAG); Leah Voorhies, USBE Deputy Superintendent; Andrea Curtin, Secretary; Cindy Andersen and Bethany Anderson, Interpreters.

Others Present: Jerry Record and Alex Farah, USBE IT/Media Production Specialists; Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent; Jennifer Wadsworth, Policy Advisor; Robbin Clark, Barrett Johnson, and Kathleen Carlisle, USDB staff; and Closed Captioning Services.

USDB Committee Vice Chair Randy Boothe called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Member Cindy Davis helped chair the meeting because Vice Chair Boothe was having some technical problems and Chair Wood might need to leave the meeting.

INFORMATION: Public Comment

1. Sara Williams, Disability Law Center, spoke in favor of language and communication plans.
2. Kate Larsen spoke in favor of language and communication plans.

6.2 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.

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Committee Action: Member Wood moved to change 1.2. to add a 1.2.1. stating, “Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be prioritized for this program.”, and to move the statement “Students who have graduated with a standard diploma, may apply for participation in this program.” from the language in 1.2. to become a 1.2.2.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Davis moved that a revised Section 11 be brought for consideration to the full Board with Draft 2 policy in June.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Longacre moved that the Committee approve the 8.23 Bridges to Community Readiness — Post High School Services Policy, Draft 2, 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 8.23 Bridges to Community Readiness — Post High School Services Policy, Draft 3, on second and final reading.

6.3 ACTION: R277-801, Services for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented R277-801, Services for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(4); 53E-8-401.

Committee Action: Member Wood Moved: to amend Subsection 4(1)(b) to read “when USDB is designated as the LEA, USDB and the student’s LEA of record shall enter into an educational partnership agreement consistent with Subsection 53E-8-201(2)(b);” and shift the existing language to become subsection 4(1)(c).

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve R277-801, Services for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind, Draft 1, as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for

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approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve R277-801, Services for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

6.4 ACTION: 6.07 Immunization Policy

Committee Discussion: Staff presented the updated USDB Immunization Policy 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 Brinton moved that the Committee approve the Immunization 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 Immunization Policy, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

6.5 ACTION: 8.24 School Personnel Medical Recommendations

Committee Discussion: This policy establishes standards for communication between school personnel and parents or guardians regarding student health, mental health, or medical concerns. Adopted in accordance with Utah Code §53G-9-203, the policy ensures that USDB staff communicate school-based observations appropriately while respecting the exclusive authority of parents and licensed health professionals to make medical decisions.

The policy strictly prohibits school personnel from making "medical recommendations," which includes advising that a student begin, continue, or modify any medical or psychiatric treatment. It provides clear guidelines on what staff *can* do—such as sharing observations of a student's academic and social progress—while establishing mandatory reporting and training requirements to prevent violations.

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Committee Action: Member Longacre moved to add in 7.1., "In accordance with Utah Code § 53G-9-203," before "if school personnel suspect child abuse, neglect, or a situation posing immediate danger to a student, they shall comply with mandatory reporting requirements under Utah law."

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve the School Personnel Medical Recommendations 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 School Personnel Medical Recommendations Policy, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

6.6 ACTION: USDB 2026-2027 Student Fee Schedule

Committee Discussion: Consistent with Utah Code 53G-7-505 and Administrative Rule R277-407, this item provides the Board (acting as the LEA) an opportunity to conduct its annual review of the proposed student fee schedule and spending plans for the upcoming school year.

Utah law requires that all LEAs adopt their fee schedules annually in a public meeting to ensure oversight and fiscal transparency. This process includes a review of:

- The Fee Schedule: A comprehensive list of all potential costs to students.
- Spending Plans: Detailed breakdowns of how each fee is utilized to support student activities.
- Fee Waiver Policies: Ensuring no student is denied the opportunity to participate due to financial hardship.

Committee Action: Member Longacre moved that the committee approve the 2026-2027 Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind student fees and forward to the full board with a favorable recommendation.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve the 2026-2027 Utah Schools for the

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Deaf and Blind Student Fees Schedule.

6.7 ACTION: FY2027 USD Enrichment Budget

Committee Discussion: In accordance with Utah Code § 53E-8-204 and § 53E-8-407, the USDB Advisory Council has reviewed and formally recommended the proposed FY27 USD Enrichment Budget and associated program implementation plan.

The Enrichment Fund comprises revenues from the Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA). These funds are distinct from the General Operating Budget and are specifically dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for students who are Deaf, Blind, or Deaf-Blind across the state of Utah.

The State Board of Education, acting as the governing board for USDB, is requested to review the Council's recommendations and approve the proposed budget allocation for the 2026-2027 year.

Committee Action: Member Boothe moved that the Committee approve the FY27 USD Enrichment budget 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 FY27 USD Enrichment budget on second and final reading.

6.8 ACTION: 10.13 Concussion and Head Injury Policy

Committee Discussion: This policy establishes mandatory procedures for USDB to protect student health and safety by ensuring appropriate response, management, and return-to-participation protocols for head injuries and concussions. Adopted in compliance with Utah Administrative Rule R277-614 and the Protection of Athletes with Head Injuries Act (Title 26, Chapter 53), the policy requires the immediate removal of any student suspected of sustaining a head injury during school hours, physical education, or school-sanctioned activities.

Committee Action: Board Member Longacre moved to change the title of the Policy to "Concussion and Traumatic Head Injury" and update 2.8. to read, "Concussion and Traumatic Head Injury" and 7.1. to read, "this Concussion and Traumatic Head Injury Policy".

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Motion passed 4-1 with Member Davis abstaining.

Committee Action: Member Davis moved that the Committee approve the Concussion and Head Injury Policy, Draft 1, as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed 4-1 with Member Davis abstaining.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve the Concussion and Head Injury Policy, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

6.9 ACTION: 8.23 Grading and Graduation Credit

Committee Discussion: This policy establishes consistent standards for grading practices and the awarding of academic credit at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB). It is adopted in accordance with Utah Code Title 53G and Utah Administrative Rules R277-705 and R277-717, ensuring that USDB grading remains fair, transparent, and aligned with the Utah State Board of Education's accountability framework. Notably, the policy addresses unique graduation pathways for USDB students, including the Alternate Diploma for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Committee Action: Member Longacre moved that the Committee approve the Grading and Graduation Credit 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 Grading and Graduation Credit Policy, Draft 1, on second and final reading._

Adjournment:

Committee Action: Member Davis moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.