MINUTES OF THE UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 18, 2026

10008 Creek Run Way, Sandy, UT, 84070

www.youtube.com/utahscsb

Members Present:

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

Members Excused and Not Present:

Staff Present:

- Stacey Hutchings
- Lincoln Fillmore
- Andrea Jones
- Amber Hellstrom
- Lisa Cooper-Loock
- Smriti Dhakal
- Betty Jimenez
- Amy Pace
- Brendan McGinn
- Jenna Magnetti

Staff Not Present:

Others Present:

- USBE Liaison Rod Hall (virtually)
- AAG Darin Goff (virtually)

Public Comment (0)

(9:00AM) MEETING BEGINS

Consent Calendar

Member Clint Biesinger: "I motion to approve the consent calendar."

Member Nathan Marshall: "I will second."

All members present say "Aye." Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Stacey Hutchings provided her report, highlighting several key activities and accomplishments over the past period. She shared insights from the Bold by Choice conference she attended, noting the valuable learning opportunities and innovative practices that could support continued growth and improvement.
Executive Director Hutchings also discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE), emphasizing the importance of collaboration and open communication in advancing shared educational goals.
In her report, she celebrated schools across the system for their achievements, recognizing both academic successes and the dedication of students, staff, and leaders. She additionally acknowledged the milestone of high school graduations, noting that members of the SCSB and the Board would be attending ceremonies to honor and support graduating students throughout the region.

Report: School Highlights – Innovation Grant
Amy Pace, a member of the SCSB team, presented an update on the Utah State Charter School Board Innovation Grant Program and its supporting cohort. Her report highlighted how these initiatives provided participating schools with funding, coaching, and collaborative learning opportunities to support the development, implementation, and sharing of innovative practices aimed at improving student outcomes. She also shared key program updates, accomplishments, and insights from participating schools.

Report: Comprehensive Reviews
SCSB team member Brendan McGinn provided a summary of the comprehensive reviews conducted in 2026. His presentation highlighted key findings, trends, and observations from the review process, offering the board an overview of outcomes and areas of focus identified across participating schools.

Report: Communications & Engagement
Lincoln Fillmore, Director of Communications and Engagement, provided the Board with an overview of the Communication and Engagement Office's activities, strategic initiatives, and key accomplishments since April. The presentation served as the first in a planned series of quarterly updates, offering insight into ongoing efforts and progress in advancing the office's communication and engagement goals.

Report: Cyber Security Training- UETN
Troy Jessup from UETN provided an update on current cybersecurity training initiatives, outlining participation levels, key areas of focus, and overall program progress. His presentation also highlighted new statewide cybersecurity efforts funded by the Utah State Legislature through USBE to expand cybersecurity resources and services to all public K–12 schools. In collaboration with the Utah Cyber Center (UCC), UEN supported the onboarding of charter schools and monitored implementation efforts to help strengthen cybersecurity readiness and ensure schools were effectively utilizing the available solutions.

Discussion & Action Item: Literacy Coach Allocation approval
Lincoln Fillmore, Director of Communications and Engagement, presented a proposed plan for the allocation of $1 million in SB 241 funding designated to support literacy coaching, professional development, and intervention services for charter schools. Following the presentation, Board members discussed the proposed use of the funds and took action to consider and vote on its approval.

Member Nathan Marshall: "I motion to authorize the charter board staff to establish and administer a statewide literacy coaching initiative."

Member Krystle Bassett: "an enthusiastic second"

All members present say “Aye.” Motion passed unanimously.

Board Committee Reports: Authorization Committee, Finance Committee, Legislative Committee
Board committees provided reports to the Board, with representatives from each committee sharing updates on the work they had completed over the past month as well as priorities and goals for the coming months. The updates reflected ongoing efforts to support governance, strengthen oversight, and advance key initiatives aligned with the Board’s mission.

Discussion & Action Item: Leadership Elections
The Board discussed leadership elections, including nominations and consideration of potential candidates for its officer positions. Following the discussion, members voted to select the individuals who would serve as Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming term. There was one self-nomination for Vice chair by Member Clint Biesinger and none for the role of Chair. Since there were no other nominations, the board can appoint the role of Vice Chair.

Member Susan Pulsipher: “I make a motion to appoint Stephanie as our Board Chair for the next year and Clint Biseinger as the Vice Chair for the next year by acclamation.”

Member Nathan Marshall: “I will second.”

All members present say “Aye.” Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: National Charter Schools Institute Strategic Advisory Partnership Proposal
Executive Director Hutchings presented and discussed the proposed Strategic Advisory Partnership with the National Charter Schools Institute. The discussion outlined the scope of services, potential benefits, and strategic support the Institute could provide to strengthen governance, operations, and long-term organizational planning. Executive Director Hutchings reviewed the proposal and addressed questions regarding the partnership's objectives, expected outcomes, and alignment with the organization's strategic goals.

Discussion & Action Item: Certification for Readiness to Open – Azure Fields
As part of its responsibility to determine whether new charter schools were prepared to begin operations, the Board reviewed staff recommendations regarding each school’s readiness for certification. Because certification recommendations were required to be submitted to USBE during the month, staff presented their findings and recommendations for Board consideration. Following the presentation, the Board voted on each school’s certification status and reviewed potential options for schools that were not recommended for certification. Azure Fields Charter School: This school met all elements of the readiness to open checklist; however they were well below their breakeven enrollment target.

The school has requested to defer for a year, which the board voted on.

Member Nathan Marshall: “I motion to approve the request for deferral for opening Azure Fields High School for FY27 school year.”

Member Susan Pulsipher: “I will second.”

All members present say “Aye.” Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion & Action Item: Certification for Readiness to Open – Custom Class
As part of its responsibility to determine whether new charter schools were prepared to begin operations, the Board reviewed staff recommendations regarding each school’s readiness for certification. Because certification recommendations were required to be submitted to USBE during the month, staff presented their findings and recommendations for Board consideration. Following the presentation, the Board voted on each school’s certification status and reviewed potential options for schools that were not recommended for certification. Custom Class Charter School met all elements of the readiness to open checklist, including their enrollment targets.

Member Krystle Bassett: “I will make a motion and happy to recommend Custom Class based on their ready to open recommendations.”

Member Nathan Marshall: “I will second.”

All members present say “Aye.” Motion passed unanimously.

(1:43PM) ADJOUR