# Meeting Minutes
Utah State Board of Education

Utah State Board of Education Board Meeting,
Utah School for the Deaf and Blind (USDB),
USBE Work Session, and
Continued Business from the previous
meeting on August 6, 2026.
Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held on August 7, 2026. Chair Hymas presided. As authorized by Utah Code 52-4, this meeting was held at the state board offices, 250 E. 500 S, Salt Lake City, Utah. The public can view the discussion through live YouTube streaming.

**Members Present**

Board Chair Matt Hymas
First Vice-Chair Amanda Bollinger
Second Vice-Chair LeAnn Wood
Member Cole Kelley - virtual
Member Randy Boothe
Member Cindy Davis
Member Christina Boggess
Member Rod Hall
Member Carol Lear - virtual
Member Sarah Reale
Member Jennie Earl
Member Joseph Kerry
Member Erin Longacre
Member Emily Green - virtual
Member Joann Brinton

**Executive Staff Present**

Dr. Molly Hart, State Superintendent
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent
Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent

**Minutes were taken by:**

Cybil Prideaux, Executive Assistant

**Others present**
Lora Cooper, Assistant Attorney General; Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent; Elisse Newey, Assistant Superintendent; Aaron Wilson, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Patton, Assistant Superintendent; David Goff, Dwight Overgaard, Cindy Andersen, Vicky Summers, Vanessa Barnes, Ben Rasmussen, Jerry Record, Alex Farrah, Stephanie Clancy, Sara Williams, Katie Crockett, Katie Terry, Lotte Terry, Janece Winder, Kate Larsen, and Kathleen Carlisle.

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) Board Meeting**

<u>Public Comment for Utah School for the Deaf and Blind (USDB)</u>

Sara Williams, Katie Crockett, Katie Terry, Lotte Terry, Janece Winder, and Kate Larsen.

- The public may sign up to share public comments at publiccomment@schools.utah.gov.
- The public may send written public comments to the Board at board@schools.utah.gov
- Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per person.
- A comment can express support or dissent for regulatory action.
- Individuals should refrain from using public comments to complain about personnel issues or attack or defame another individual.
- Speakers making a highly detailed or complex comment should also consider providing a written outline of their words to the Board.
- Please remember that children may hear your comments. Be thoughtful and professional.
- Keep your comments appropriate for a general audience. If you have material with explicit language or content, submit such material in writing to the Board at board@schools.utah.gov

Monthly USDB Budget Update

USBE Assistant Superintendent of Operations Deborah Jacobson provided board members with a monthly USDB financial update.

**USDB Committee Standing Committee Report/Recommendations – (Items duplicated from the June 9, 2026, meeting).**

R277-802 USDB Enrichment Program (New)

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve R277-802, USDB Enrichment Program, Draft 3, on second and final reading.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**15 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Bollinger, Earl, Boggess, Hymas, Kerry, Green, Hall, Boothe, and Lear.

FY2027 USB Enrichment Budget

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the FY27 USB Enrichment budget recommended by the staff.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**15 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Bollinger, Earl, Boggess, Hymas, Kerry, Green, Hall, Boothe, and Lear.

USDB Fiscal Needs

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board move this recommendation to the Finance Committee.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**14 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Bollinger, Boggess, Hymas, Kerry, Green, Hall, Boothe, and Lear.

**1 ABSENT:** Member Earl.

8.30 Educational Benefit Review Policy

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the Educational Benefit Review Policy, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**14 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Bollinger, Boggess, Hymas, Kerry, Green, Hall, Boothe, and Lear.

**1 ABSENT:** Member Earl.

Language and Communications Plan

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve a voluntary LEA pilot for developing model materials and implementing a Language and Communication Plan as a component in Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing students including feedback and evaluation component from participants.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**15 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Bollinger, Earl, Boggess, Hymas, Kerry, Green, Hall, Boothe, and Lear.

**USDB Committee Standing Committee Report/Recommendations – (Items duplicated from the July 27, 2026, meeting).**

<u>USDB Facilities Working Group Recommendations</u>

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood that the Board approve the USDB Committee's recommendations based on the report from the USDB Facilities Working Group.

> **MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Wood that DFCM recommend that DFCM consider the purchase of 1643 Woodland Ave. and whether it aligns with the USDB long-term facilities plan and prioritizes our student needs.
>
> > **The motion passed unanimously.**
> >
> > **12 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Bollinger, Boggess, Hymas, Kerry, Hall, Boothe, and Lear.
> >
> > **3 ABSENT:** Members Longacre, Green and Earl.

**MOTION, AS AMENDED**

> **The motion passed unanimously.**
>
> **14 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Longacre, Bollinger, Earl, Boggess, Hymas, Kerry, Green, Hall, Boothe, and Lear.
>
> **1 ABSENT:** Member Davis.

**Unfinished Business**

<u>Requests for Statutory Changes</u>

**MOTION** was made by Member Wood and seconded by Member Boggess that the Board direct staff to work with legislators to amend 53E-4-202 (5) a and b by striking ~~90~~ days and inserting <u>60</u> days.

**The motion carried.**

**11 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Bollinger, Hymas, Hall, Boothe, and Lear.

**3 OPPOSED:** Members Boggess, Green, and Kerry.

**1 ABSENT:** Member Earl.

**MOTION** was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board direct staff to work with a legislator to amend appropriate code lines to ensure that all CTE teachers, Catalyst Center Educators, School Social Workers, leadership in charter schools, SLPs and audiologists are required to obtain a license through the USBE.

**The motion carried.**

**8 IN FAVOR:** Members Brinton, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Bollinger, Earl, Boggess, and Green.

**7 OPPOSED:** Members Hymas, Reale, Lear, Kerry, Wood, Hall, and Boothe.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Boggess that the Board add after charter schools, “staff members as defined in R277-322.”

**The motion failed.**

**1 IN FAVOR:** Members Kerry.

**14 OPPOSED:** Members Bollinger, Lear, Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Earl, Boggess, Hymas, Green, Hall, and Boothe.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Boggess that the board request the legislature review programs and program managers providing resources to private and home school students for cohesion, disbursement clarity, and possible duplications including UFA, Carson Smith, SOEP Private School Empowerment, Hoe school and small school support, ESAs, and Federal tax credits.

**The motion carried.**

**12 IN FAVOR:** Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Bollinger, Boggess, Hymas, Green, Boothe, and Lear.

**3 OPPOSED:** Members Hall, Earl, and Kerry.

**MOTION TO AMEND** was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Longacre that the Board amend the motion by striking “federal tax credits” and strike “home school students” and replace with “Home-based scholarship students.”

**The motion failed.**

**7 IN FAVOR:** Members Lear, Reale, Davis, Longacre, Earl, Green, and Boothe.

**7 OPPOSED:** Members Member Kelley, Hall, Wood, Brinton, Bollinger, Hymas, and Boggess.

**1 ABSTAINED:** Member Kerry.

**General Consent Calendar**

**MOTION** was made by Member Boothe and seconded by Member Kerry.

**The motion carried.**

**11 IN FAVOR:** Members Bollinger, Lear, Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Davis, Longacre, Hymas, Hall, and Boothe.

**1 ABSTAINED:** Member Kerry.

**3 ABSENT:** Members Earl, Green, and Boggess.

ACTION: Contracts/Agreements for Approval

**MOTION:** That the Board approves the monthly Consent Calendar.

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** That the Board approves the meeting minutes, as presented.

ACTION: Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education — Basic Needs  for Post-secondary Students Program

**MOTION:** That the Board allow Staff to accept the grant for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education - Basic Needs for Post-secondary Student Program, should it be awarded.

*Chair Hymas passed the gavel to Vice Chair Bollinger.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Kerry.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

The executive assistant took the meeting minutes.
The minutes are pending approval.