

Utah Virtual Academy Governing Board of Directors Board Meeting



Date: October 22, 2026

Time: 6:30PM

Location: 310 E. 4500 S., Suite 620; Murray, UT 84107

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88146624618>

In Attendance: Kristen Davidson, Doug DeVore, Armante Gordon, Kellie Openshaw, Dallin Drescher

Others in Attendance: Meghan Merideth, LuAnn Charles, Tiffany Allen, Lacey Robinson, Jillian Burns, Lori Phillips, Joette Hayden, Chantel Wixon, Priscilla Stringfellow, Krystal Taylor, Brad Taylor

Excused: Brian Maxwell, Marty Carpenter

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Doug Devore called the meeting to order at 6:38PM.

SPOTLIGHTS

The Board recognized the Middle School Mentor Team (Shelly Nielsen, Kimberlee Rose, Hillary Dalton-Basegoda, and Marie Reed) for taking on new responsibilities in tech support and attendance and engagement support while continuing to support grade-level PLCs, Lynx Time homeroom activities, the 7 Mindsets curriculum, and Acadience testing. Student spotlights recognized Azzy Willetts (8th grade), Aurora Kitterman (7th grade), and Evelyn Tongi (6th grade) for their perseverance, positive attitudes, active class participation, and encouragement and support of their classmates.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Comments limited to three minutes)

There were no comments.

BUSINESS ITEMS (Discussion and Voting)

- Finance Report

Chantel Wixon provided the Finance Report as of September 30, 2026, 25% of the way through the fiscal year. Year-to-date revenue totals approximately \$7.03 million (25.9% of the annual budget), including state revenue of approximately \$6.88 million (26.5%) and local revenue of approximately \$155,000 (34.5%); federal revenue has not yet been recognized due to the timing of federal grant reimbursements. Expenditures total approximately \$4.79 million (17.7% of budget), with salaries at 14.6% and employee benefits at 15.5%, resulting in year-to-date net income of approximately \$2.25 million. Several accounts are tracking higher due to annual or upfront costs, including technical services (71.4%, primarily the student dashboard), liability insurance (61.5%), software (62.6%), and dues and fees (53.4%, primarily UAPCS membership dues). Operating cash and investments total approximately \$19.26 million, compared with \$17.79 million at the same time last year. Current liabilities are approximately \$811,000, compared with \$43,000 last year, primarily due to larger contract payments currently due.

- Acceptance of State Revenue

Dallin Drescher made a motion to accept the August 2026 State Revenue

in the amount of \$2,635,017.19 and the September 2026 State Revenue in the amount of \$2,041,218.33. Doug DeVore seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.

- Bank Reconciliations and Payment and Deposit Registers
Kristen Davidson made a motion to approve the August 2026 and September 2026 Bank Reconciliations and Payment and Deposit Registers. Armante Gordon seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.
- Invoice Approval for Purchases over \$25,000
The UTVA administrative team will finalize the vendor and holiday gift for staff. Kristen Davidson made a motion to approve the purchase of holiday gifts in an amount up to \$30,000. Kellie Openshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.
- K12 / Stride Payment
- Academica West Payment
Kellie Openshaw made a motion to approve the K-12 Management September 2026 and October 2026 invoices in the amount of \$668,349.20 each, and the AW Services September 2026 and October 2026 invoices in the amount of \$42,822.42 each, and the AR School Insurance group participation payment in the amount of \$54,151.53. Doug DeVore seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.
- Director Report
 - October 1 Enrollment
 - Early Literacy Report
Meghan Merideth presented the Executive Director's Report. The official October 1, 2026, enrollment count was 1,912 students, up 33 students (1.8%) from 1,879 on October 1, 2025, and the highest count since 2021-22. Growth was driven by the middle school, where grades 6-8 increased by 46 students (10%), led by grade 8 (181 to 212). High school enrollment was essentially flat at 875 students (46% of enrollment), as gains in grades 10 and 12 offset a decline of 22 students in grade 11, while kindergarten (68) and grade 3 (81) were softer. Fifty-three percent of students are economically disadvantaged, 20% receive special education services (380 students, down 26), and 5% are English learners. Approximately 40% of students (759) are new to UTVA. Students reside in 27 of Utah's 29 counties and 38 school districts, with 72% living along the Wasatch Front and Granite School District the largest district of residence (416 students).
Ms. Merideth reported that the Class of 2026 four-year graduation rate reached an all-time high of 88.5% (215 of 243 students), up 8.3 points since Cohort 2021 and 1.3 points below the state rate. Economically

disadvantaged students (92.7%) and students with disabilities (92.5%) graduated 12.9 and 15.5 points above their respective state rates, while English learners trailed the state by 2.6 points. Most of the 28 non-graduates left UTVA a year or more before graduation, and 20 have unconfirmed outcomes; Ms. Merideth noted that verifying where withdrawing students go will help protect the rate for future cohorts. Ms. Merideth also reviewed the 2026-27 marketing plan, which aims to fill every seat with a waitlist, including the school's first in-house enrollment launch on March 1 for the 2027-28 school year, two Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP) campaigns, a new parent-focused website at utahvirtualacademy.org, and the UTVA blog, which publishes one to three posts per week and will be named by students through a contest led by student body officers.

Ms. Merideth presented the Early Literacy Report. In 2025-26, 3rd grade reading proficiency on Acadience increased from 42.6% to 47.8% and 3rd grade typical or better growth increased from 42% to 53%, while grades 1-3 proficiency rose from 46% to 52.5% and growth from 52.5% to 62.5%, 2.5 points above the state expectation. Third grade reading on grade level increased 5.2 points compared with 0.6 points statewide, and the school report card early literacy on-grade-level measure rose from 25.1% to 53.5%; SB 241 sets a statewide goal of 80% of 3rd graders reading on grade level by 2030. Ms. Merideth reviewed the elementary literacy schedule (a 90-minute ELA block, a 60-minute Power Hour, and a 60-minute math block), current and upcoming 3rd grade School Improvement Plan actions, and the 2026-27 Elementary School Improvement Plan goals. The school was recognized by USBE for exceptional 1st grade reading gains and, for the second consecutive year, for progress monitoring 90% or more of below-benchmark readers. For SB 241 Individual Reading Plan (IRP) compliance, 94 of 134 required IRPs for grades 1-3 (70%) have been completed, none are past the 45-day deadline, and four parent notifications are pending.

- Board Business

- August 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

- Kristen Davidson made a motion to approve the August 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Dallin Drescher seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.*

- 2027/2028 School Year Calendar

- The proposed 2027-2028 school year calendar was presented. The calendar begins August 18, 2027, and ends May 26, 2028, and includes 180 school days, meeting state requirements.

- Armante Gordon made a motion to approve the 2027-2028 School Year Calendar. Kellie Openshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.*

- Amended TSSA Framework

- The Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA) Framework was amended to add a Literacy Achievement Requirement in accordance with SB 241

(2026) and State Rule R277-927. The school's plan must address progress toward statewide literacy proficiency goals, and if the school does not meet those goals, at least 50% of TSSA funds must be dedicated to evidence-based literacy interventions and practices.

Kristen Davidson made a motion to approve the Amended TSSA Framework. Doug DeVore seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.

- Amended Policies
 - Attendance
 - Bullying and Hazing
 - Capitalization and Expense
 - Electronic Resources
 - Enrollment and Lottery
 - Fee Waiver
 - Financial Reporting
 - Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery
 - Sex Education Instruction
 - Student Conduct and Discipline
 - Student Clubs Authorization

Amended policies were presented to align the school's policies with changes from the 2025 and 2026 legislative sessions, federal regulations, and the USBE model bullying policy. Revisions included: Attendance, reflecting the school's learner validated program under SB 58 and adding Board review requirements; Bullying and Hazing, incorporating provisions from the USBE model policy, including new definitions, parent notification steps, and expanded reporting and training provisions; Capitalization and Expense, increasing the capitalization threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000; Electronic Resources, updating the policy for SB 88, including adding AI glasses to the definition of electronic device and a parent-accessible monitoring system; Enrollment and Lottery, updating enrollment preferences, admission denials based on prior misconduct (SB 131 and SB 167), and procedures for misrepresentations on lottery applications; Fee Waiver, limiting fee waivers to two school-sponsored trips per year with an action plan required for the second trip (HB 142); Financial Reporting, requiring audits under both GAAS and GAGAS; Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery, adding adoption and foster leave under HB 329 and retitling the policy the Paid Parental, Postpartum Recovery, Adoption, and Foster Leave Policy; Sex Education Instruction, updating definitions, prohibited topics, and health curriculum requirements under HB 281; and Student Conduct and Discipline, reflecting SB 167 reintegration plan requirements, SB 181 seclusion room standards, and HB 188 limits on court referrals for drug offenses. The new Student Clubs Authorization Policy establishes the process for applying for, reviewing, overseeing, and appealing the authorization of curricular and noncurricular student clubs.

Kristen Davidson made a motion to approve the Amended Policies. Kellie Openshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows:

Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.

CALENDARING

- Next Board Meeting—January 14, 2027

ADJOURN

At 7:49PM Kristen Davidson made a motion to adjourn. Doug DeVore seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Votes were as follows: Dallin Drescher, Aye; Kristen Davidson, Aye; Doug DeVore, Aye; Armante Gordon, Aye; Kellie Openshaw, Aye.

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