

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, September 8, 2022  
Red Ledges Golf Club  
Studio Room  
205 Red Ledges Blvd., Heber City, UT 84032  
[www.youtube.com/utahscsb](http://www.youtube.com/utahscsb)

**Members Present:**

Chair Bryan Bowles (\*refrains from voting, unless otherwise noted)  
Vice Chair Cynthia Phillips  
Member Krystle Bassett  
Member Stephanie Speicher  
Member Michelle Smith

**Staff Present:**

Jennifer Lambert, Director SCSB  
Liz Bunker  
Joanne Castillo  
William Evans  
Marie Steffensen  
Smriti Dhakal  
Amber Hellstrom  
Jenna Magnetti  
Brendan McGinn  
Andrew Vardas-Doane

**Others Present:**

Assistant Attorney General David Jones  
Jim Goenner  
Mark Comanducci

**Call to Order**

Meeting began at 10:31 am. Members Olson and Cisneros were excused from the meeting.

**Public Comment**

Chair Bowles indicated comments are to be limited to 2 minutes.

Victoria Stevens, Anne Kingston, Nara Gustafson, Analise Palmer, Joy Palmer, Valaytte Paulson, Michelle Johnson, Elaine Freeman, and Heidi Foster spoke on Vanguard Academy.

Mark Ursic spoke regarding an Interim Directorship at Vanguard Academy.

*Public comment ended at 11:03 am.*

Chair Bowles expressed appreciation for the efforts made to make the comments in person.

### **Board Member Thought**

Chair Bowles chose to share the thought at another meeting in light of time constraints.

### **Board Chair Report**

Chair Bowles chose to share the report at another meeting due time constraints

### **Executive Director Report**

Chair Bowles asked Director Lambert to defer sharing the Director's Report to the next meeting due to time constraints

### **Consent Calendar**

*Vice Chair Phillips: "I would love to pull an item from Consent, if possible, related to the appointment of Administrators to the board for discussion."*

*Member Smith: "I'll second that."*

*Discussion: None*

*Motion passes unanimously.*

*Member Speicher: "I'd like to make a motion to accept the Consent Calendar minus the item we just discussed which is Item F on our Consent Calendar."*

*Member Bassett: "I second."*

*Discussion: none*

*Motion Passes Unanimously*

Vice Chair Phillips began discussion relative to her motion. Vice Chair Phillips indicated that the school had not objected to the appointment of some co-administrators to help in the oversight of public monies and posed a question to the Board regarding moving forward with the appointments as listed on the Consent Agenda. Member Smith requested and received clarification on what specifically was being discussed. Vice Chair Phillips acknowledged the concerns regarding bias on the parts of both proposed interim appointees. Member Smith suggested making decisions on each proposed interim appointee one at a time instead of together. Member Speicher expressed thanks to both Members and public present and recognized the gravity of the situation. Member Speicher emphasized the origin of the decision.

*Vice Chair Phillips: "I would like to move that Moss Adams be appointed as the Finance Officer to work with Vanguard Academy alongside their original Business Manager."*

*Member Smith: "I'll second that motion."*

*Discussion:*

Member Smith expressed sensitivity to parental concerns regarding children and reiterated that the nature of the Board's actions has been rooted in the Board's responsibility to ensure the appropriate usage of public funds. Member Smith expressed confidence in the appointment of Moss Adams. Vice Chair Phillips spoke on the lack of timeframe in the motion.

*Motion passes unanimously.*

Discussion:

Vice Chair Phillips began discussion on Mark Ursic's possible appointment as co-director of Vanguard Academy and suggested that the Board consider a different individual to be appointed to that position. Director Lambert indicated that there were other individuals who could be presented to the Board at a later date.

### **Vanguard Academy Governing Board Members (11:21 am)**

Chair Bowles elected to skip this agenda item given the results of a Judge's decision.

### **Board Evaluation, Training, and Strategic Planning (11:55am)**

Chair Bowles introduced the Board Evaluators. Chair Bowles then called for a break. The meeting resumed at 11:55 am and began a working lunch. Chair Bowles introduced facilitators Jim Goenner and Mark Comanducci before excusing himself later in the afternoon for a prior commitment. The facilitators indicated that they were there both to give feedback on the bi-annual review and to help the SCSB create their strategic plan. A break was called at 1:17 pm.

### **Board Evaluation, Training, and Strategic Planning (continued) (1:37pm)**

*Member Smith: "I'll move that we go into closed session in accordance with Utah State Law to discuss pending litigation."*

*Member Speicher: "I'll second."*

*Discussion: none*

*Motion passes unanimously.*

### **(2:12pm)**

*Member Smith: "I move that we come out of closed session"*

*Member Speicher: "I second."*

*Discussion: none*

*Motion passes unanimously.*

Chair Bowles called for any motions relative to items listed on the Agenda.

*Vice Chair Phillips: "I would like to move that we at this time as a Board rescind our decision from the August meeting to replace the members of the Vanguard Board of Directors at this time."*

*Member Smith: "I would love to second that."*

*Discussion: none*

*Motion passes unanimously.*

Chair Bowles asked for any additional motions.

*Vice Chair Phillips: "I'd like to make a motion that we appoint a mentor for an indeterminate amount of time that would support the training of the current Vanguard members of the Board of Directors."*

Member Smith requested clarification that the motion regarding who would have the authority to make that appointment.

*Vice Chair Phillips: "I would also add to the motion that the Board give the Executive Committee of the Board its authority to appoint and place that mentor."*

*Member Bassett: "I'll second that motion."*

*Discussion: none*

*Motion passes unanimously.*

*Vice Chair Phillips: "I propose that this Board grant authority to the Executive Committee to appoint and place an Executive Director for Vanguard."*

Member Smith requested clarification on whether the appointee would be a mentor or a co-director in response to Chair Bowles' reiteration of the motion.

*Vice Chair Phillips: "This would be the Interim Co-Director."*

*Member Smith: I'll second that motion*

*Discussion:*

Vice Chair Phillips clarified why this motion was proposed.

*Motion passes unanimously.*

Chair Bowles requested that the names of the appointed be announced in the next Director's Report.

The Board resumed conversation regarding the third-party evaluation and the creation of a strategic plan.

(4:41 pm)

*Member Smith: "I move to adjourn."*