

# **UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

## **Advisory Council Meeting Summary**

**January 26, 2023**

**Openshaw Education Center**

### **4:30 p.m. - General Session**

#### **Attending:**

Jared Allebest, Voting Member, Zoom  
John Clements, Voting Member  
Kari Harbath, Voting Member, Zoom  
Annilie Hathaway, Voting Member  
Jennifer Hayes, Voting Member  
Ryan Hemming, Voting Member  
Sundie Marx, Non-Voting Member, Zoom  
Philippe Montalette, Voting Member, Zoom  
Jill Weiss, Non-Voting Member, Zoom  
Ray Wright, Vice-Chair - Voting-Member

#### **Also Attending:**

Joel Coleman, Superintendent  
Tamara Flint, Executive Assistant  
Susan Patten, USB Associate Superintendent  
Michelle Tanner, USD Associate Superintendent

#### **Interpreters:**

Michelle Draper, Interpreter  
Tony Bonny, Interpreter

#### **Others:**

Amy Zaharis, USDB Foundation Director  
Brandon Watts, Blind Outreach Director  
Dr. Massimiliano Frani, Genote Presenter

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Allebest welcomed Council members and guests in attendance to the January 26, 2023 Advisory Council meeting. Mr. Allebest led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

**ACTION ITEMS**

3. Consent Calendar

Mr. Allebest asked Council members if they had any questions or concerns with the January, 26 2023 consent calendar. There were no questions or concerns from Council members. Mr. Montalette made a motion to accept the Advisory Council minutes for November 17, 2022, the Vacancy Report as of January 20, 2023 and the Donated Accounts Summary as of December 31, 2022. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. 2022-23 School Community Council Plan

Dr. Tanner reviewed the 2022-2023 School LAND Trust Plan with Advisory Council members because they are now the governing board. The plan covers goals in specific academic areas, action steps and expenditures. The total amount available for 2022-23 is \$28,771.49. This money will be utilized with two purchases of:

- Books and technology for the 2022-23 school year - \$26,750
- Necessary supplies to administer the reading activities - \$2,000

There is no anticipated carryforward amount. The detailed 2022-23 School Community Council Plan can be found here:

 [Tab 5 AC USDB UpcomingSchool Land Trust Plan 2022-2023.docx.pdf](#)

Mr. Allebest asked for a motion to approve the 2022-23 School Community Council Plan. Mr. Wright made a motion to approve. Mr. Montalette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Wright wondered where screen readers would fall. Dr. Tanner noted that they would fall under electronic devices.


Mr. Montalette wondered how these funds differ from the Enrichment funds. Dr. Tanner noted that the Community Council funds are used for specific items that students need to enhance the curriculum in the classroom. This is also the case on the blind side. Superintendent Coleman shared that this money is based on our student numbers and is why our amount is low, averaging around \$25,000 per year. We are obligated to use this money the same way as other school districts

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 5. School Community Council Training

Dr. Tanner reminded Council members that we are required to provide an annual training reviewing the responsibilities of leading a school community council. We will email the video to Council members so that they can watch it on their own time. Additional training materials can be found here [USBE School Land Trust Website](#).

The link to the video is provided below for future reference.

 2019 Local School Boards training

### 6. 2021-22 School Plan Final Report

Dr. Tanner reviewed the 2021-22 School Plan Final Report with Council members. Detailed purchases are as follows:

NWEA	Renewal of MAP assessment tool	6274	\$ 2,037.50
beable	Renewal of reading/transition reading material	6185	\$2,500.00
PBL	Project Based Learning lessons	6185	\$ 399.00
GoReact	Annual fee for license	6185	\$ 899.70
Mind Research Institute	ST Math annual renewal subscription	6137	\$ 3,500.00

Apple	Refresh of iPads for 40 students	6469	\$ 11,760.00
University of Utah	Purchase of Word Study curriculum	6184	\$ 2,500.00
Mystery Science	Online science education tool	6137	\$1,499.00

Total expenditures including any carryforward as as follows:

#### 2021-2022 Funding Expenditures

Description	Planned Expenditures	Actual Expenditures
Carry-Over from 2020-2021		\$1,561.94
Distribution for 2021-2022	\$25,816.56	
<b>Total Available for Expenditure in 2021-2022</b>		
Membership Dues (6274) (NWEA)	\$2,000.00	\$2,037.50
Professional & Technical Services (6137)	\$5,000.00	\$4,999.00
Books & Subscriptions (6185)	\$4,000	\$3,798.70
Technology Related Supplies < \$5,000	\$12,000	\$11,760.00
Educational and Recreational Supplies (6184)	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$25,095.20</b>
Carry-Over to 2022-2023		\$721.36

Dr. Tanner asked board members if they had any questions or concerns regarding the 2021-22 Funding Final Report. There were no questions from board members.

#### 7. Deaf-blind Services Presentation

Ms. Erin Farrer introduced herself to Council members. Ms. Farrer is the Director of Deaf-blind services for the State of Utah. Ms. Farrer provided a powerpoint explaining deafblindness, who USDB serves and where, the services provided, provided a description of our Federal Grant and our School Improvement Plan.

## What is Deaf-blindness?

- Deaf-blindness means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.
- 85% of infants, children, and youth who are deafblind have additional disabilities and health impairments (NCDB Child Count, 2020)
- Deafblindness is a low incidence disability and within this population of children there is great variability.

## Who We Serve and Where:

### Who?

- 136 students
  - 17 Early Intervention (0-3)
  - 119 School-Age (3-22)

### Where?

- 19 students in USDB classrooms
- 117 students in 21 school district across the state

### How? (Educational Services)

- 15 Teachers of the Deaf-blind
  - National Center on Deaf-blindness Profiles
  - Cover the State
  - Specialize in different areas
- 48 Interveners identified on students' IEP's
  - Specially trained paraeducators

### Federal Grant

- Training and Technical Assistance (TA)
  - Intervener Training
  - Simulations
  - TA for educators throughout the state
- Family Support
  - Engagement Coordinator
  - Family Activities
- Collaboration with state agencies and national partners

### School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- Academic Excellence
- Expanded Core Curriculum
- Parents and Families
- Staff Recruitment and Retention
- Consumer Groups
- Districts
- Life-centered Education

Ms. Farrer asked Council members if they had any questions or concerns. Ms. Hayes asked what qualifies students to have an intervener. Ms. Farrer noted that it is a IEP team decision. If the student is accessing their curriculum without an intervener, one would not be assigned.

Mr. Montalette asked how the decision is made between whether a deafblind student is a campus student or an outreach student. Ms. Patten said that it depends on the IEP team. If their vision is their primary need they will be in the blind school and same for the deaf. The districts are the least restrictive environment and that is what is recommended for every student. We also provide training within the community/schools and the parents with the money from our grant.

### 8. Genote Health Music Presentation

Ms. Patten introduced Mr. Frani. He provided a presentation describing how health music therapy helps students.

Health Music protocols are made available to students, educators and specialists targeting individual and group specific behavioral goals, general well-being, mental health challenges, and improved learning experiences. Mr. Frani provided two specific examples of how music therapy has helped specific people. He also explained how the Genote algorithm works. He provided data on a 6 week pilot program of 27 students from ages 0-20. The results were as follows:

- Frequency of music usage
- Effectiveness in educational workflow
- Statistical significance in focus, mood, fall asleep, sleep consistency
- Effectiveness in mood and behavioral modifications
- Significant impact on single case experiences

- Hi satisfaction levels

He also provided studies on students ability to:

- Self-regulate
- Relaxation of muscle tone
- Emotional state

A link to the Genote Health Music Presentation is linked below:

📄 [Tab 9 AC USDB Genote Presentation.pdf](#)

9. FY23 Budget Update as of December 31, 2022

Mr. Empey notified the Council that year to date expenditures for FY2023 are \$23,479,140 as of December 31, 2022. All areas covered in the Financial Report are operationally capable, with a remaining budget balance of \$28,891,535. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Financial Report.

Mr. Allebest noticed that the number of students served has increased each month. Is that unusual? How is this affecting your budget? Mr. Empey noted that our budget is our budget and it is up to the Associates to stretch their personnel and services and if needed we will ask for additional funds the following fiscal year.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding the Financial report.

Mr. Empey reviewed the status of Enrichment Funds as of December 31, 2022. USDB has spent approximately \$417,101 of its beginning balance of its annual FY23 Enrichment Funds budget of \$410,320, which leaves a balance of \$491,629, which includes a deposit of \$498,410 from a quarterly transfer of the \$952,516 in revenues received. All remaining Enrichment Funds will be forwarded to the next fiscal year. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any additional questions or concerns regarding the Enrichment Funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the Enrichment Funds expenditures from Council members.

Mr. Empey provided an update on USDB Donated funds. The balance as of December 31, 2022 was \$261,893. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Donated funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the USDB Donated Funds from Council members.

Mr. Empey reviewed the status of the Education Foundation as of December 31, 2022. The balance was \$1,096,734. Mr. Empey asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Education Foundation funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the USDB Education Foundation from Council members.

10. Superintendent Report -

Legislative Update - Nothing really to report at this time. USDB has not yet presented to the Public Education Appropriations Committee.

Legislative Audit on new buildings - We have met with them a couple of times and they have visited our campuses over the past month. We will continue to work with them to provide any information they are requesting.

USBE Leadership meeting - We met with the USBE leadership team yesterday. We are looking forward to working with them. We had a great chat about their expectations and they were very accommodating. They recommended having a couple of board members come to our Advisory Council meetings moving forward. Superintendent Coleman will continue to have regular meetings with the Chair.

Western States Basketball tournament - Dr. Tanner noted that we just finished the Western States basketball tournament. We did not win, but the students had a lot of fun. We had a girls and boys team that competed. There is one additional basketball game on February 1st with Idaho School for the Deaf.

Braille Challenge - First week of March at DSBVI

February Deafblind Advocacy Day - We will be meeting with a couple of legislators in Washington and will be learning about the political systems in DC.

Rocky Mountain sports camp - We are working with TVI's across the state to create our own kind of Blind Olympics in Richfield. We will be Inviting another school from out of state to provide competitiveness.

River Rafting trip - We will be providing a 4 day river rafting trip at the end of June. Students will have to apply just like they do for international trips. We are looking at various ways to provide competitiveness for kids with all disabilities.

USDB Day on the Hill - February 27, 2023

11. Future Agenda Items

Executive Session to review applications for vacant positions.

Please email any future agenda items to Jared Allebest or Tamara Flint.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.