



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor

JON S. PIERPONT
Chief of Staff

April 22, 2022

Chair Mark Huntsman
Utah State Board of Education
250 E. 500 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Chair Huntsman,

As you know, staff from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) and the Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) recently conducted a review of K-12 capital projects. This review consisted of administering a survey to a sample of rural and urban school districts and interviewing the individuals who completed the survey. GOPB and DFCM then shared their report with all school districts to solicit feedback.

After reviewing the report and the feedback from school districts, Gov. Spencer Cox believes that while school districts are working hard to be good stewards, there are some opportunities for improvement. The governor would like to partner with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) and school districts to make these improvements. He recommends that USBE work with DFCM, and school districts to:

- **Develop a standardized cost-reporting system**, including precise definitions to ensure the transparency and comparability of capital costs between facilities and school districts;
- **Update USBE's School Construction Resource Manual** to make necessary technical changes and provide improved guidance, including detailed information about the various construction methods (e.g., design/bid/build, CM/GC, and design/build), etc.;
- **Prepare a repository of practical resources and analysis tools** complementary to the construction resource manual that school districts may use, including a net present value life-cycle cost calculation template; an RFP template; model policies/standards for

commissioning, facility condition assessments, capital improvement prioritization, facility maintenance, etc.; research on construction and energy/sustainability standards that exceed the minimum requirements of code; etc.

These recommendations represent an opportunity to provide school districts with practical support and taxpayers with confidence that their hard-earned dollars are being spent judiciously.

We look forward to a productive partnership. I have asked Brittney Cummins, Senior Advisor for Education, to reach out to you as soon as possible to discuss these recommendations in person.

Finally, on behalf of the governor I would like to express sincere appreciation for the countless hours that you and your fellow board members sacrifice each year in service to the public.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "jon pierpont". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jon Pierpont
Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Spencer J. Cox

cc: Laura Belnap, USBE Vice Chair and Audit Committee Chair
Cindy Davis, USBE Vice Chair and Audit Committee Vice Chair
Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent of Operations
Deborah Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations