

# UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

## Advisory Council Minutes

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
250 North 1950 West, Suite B  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Training Rooms 218 & 219

Date: January 26, 2012

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

Attending: Scot Ferre, Vice Chair & Voting Member  
Cheralyn Creer, Voting Member  
Heather Frost, Voting Member  
Von Hortin, Non-voting Member  
Tony Jepson, Voting Member  
Scott McAward, Voting Member  
Marla Palmer, Voting Member  
Jeff Pollock, Voting Member  
Cordie Weed, Voting Member

Excused: Bill Gibson, Chair & Voting Member  
Anne Harvey, Voting Member

Absent: Leslie Castle, Non-voting Member

Also Attending:  
Steve Noyce, Superintendent  
Kitty Stewart, Executive Assistant

Interpreters: Andrea Rathbun  
Barry Utley

Administrative Staff Present:  
Melanie Austin, Program Director of Blind, Region II  
Leslie Buchanan, Program Director of Deafblind Services  
Tami Gear, Director of Related Services  
Brian Gough, USDB/DHRM  
Carolyn Lasater, Associate Superintendent of USB  
Marilyn Madsen, Program Director of Deaf South Region  
Rod Price, Program Director of Blind Region  
Michael Sears, Finance Director  
Betsy Sutherland, Program Director of Deaf Central Region  
Michelle Tanner, Program Director of JMS

Excused: Karen Borg, Program Director of Blind PIP  
Betty Hall, Executive Assistant  
Mike Hillstrom, Program Director of KBS  
Hollie Murdock, Director of ERC/USIMAC  
Trena Roueche', Associate Superintendent of USD

Others Attending:  
Dave Rodemack, USOE DHRM  
Todd Hauber, USOE  
Philippe Montalette, UAD  
Martel Menlove, USOE

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance  
Mr. Ferre welcomed everyone in attendance and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Public Comments  
None

### **ACTION ITEMS**

3. Consent Calendar Approval  
A-C Mrs. Cordie Weed made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2011 as corrected [Marla Palmer is no longer part of the Project Strive], the Personnel Actions Reports and the Donated Account Summaries for November and December as presented. Mr. Scott McAward seconded. Motion carried.

- D. Annual Employee Morale Survey  
Mr. Ferre said that he doesn't know if there is a need to conduct another survey. Superintendent Noyce thinks that conducting this survey every year is a great idea but is concerned about who will develop and collect the information. Mr. Jepson suggests that we use the same questions from last year. Mr. Ferre thinks that there might be a few modifications but that the questions are reasonable and sound. He would like a small committee look at it again. Mr. Jepson wants to know if there are questions about the itinerants included in the survey. Mr. McAward said that those questions were covered in last year's survey.

It was moved by Mr. Jepson that a small committee consisting of Mr. Ferre, Mr. Pollock, and Mrs. Creer will meet to determine if a survey is warranted. Ms. Weed seconded. Motion carried.

- E. USDB Athletics Program  
Mrs. Tanner presented information about the USD athletic program. The program is growing and they are hoping to include basketball, volleyball and track. We are members of the Western States Basketball Council, because the Utah High School Athletic Association (UHSAA) doesn't allow USD to participate in tournaments due to the fact that we are an independent school. USD is asking for funds to help repay the costs of the

tournament they are presently participating in. They do have donations from the Dodge family \$1,000, Sorenson donated \$1,000 and the students have raised \$1,500. She is also sending proposals to community organizations. The students are hosting a 3 on 3 basketball tournament at Westminster College in February. The students are already at the tournament in Fremont, CA and the Advisory Council is being asked to counterbalance the remaining costs. Superintendent Noyce provided funds from his discretionary funds to help the students on this trip.

Mrs. Palmer has concerns about how many students are participating. It was noted that the number fluctuates every year. There is no girls team this year because they didn't meet the grade criteria and there are 7-10 boys right now. Mr. Sears said in the past the Council had \$2,000 that was budgeted for these activities. All coaches are volunteers.

Mr. McAward is uncomfortable with being asked after the fact for funds. Mr. Hortin shares the same concern. He is also concerned about other school activities that aren't being addressed. It should be in the school budget. He thinks the students should work toward be more active in UHSAA. Mr. Jepson feels that if the amount requested tonight were awarded that it would take away incentive for the students to do the fund raising. He suggests that we hold off approving this until there is a final determination of what is needed and help with that. Superintendent Noyce would like to see the Council recommend that they pay back what has already been given to the program. He would like to see this placed on the agenda in the future to discuss more thoroughly.

Mr. Pollock addressed out of state travel. He thinks that this opportunity is a big deal for the deaf kids. He wants to be sure that the blind kids have equal opportunities as well. He would like to see what the difference is and make a motion to give them funds as well. Mrs. Lasater stated that the blind school students have raised their own funds to cover their travel expenses to the Jr. Blind Olympics.

Mrs. Tanner said that this won't be an issue going forward. Superintendent Noyce agreed with Mr. Pollock. Other schools do pay for the majority of the program expenses. He thinks the funds should come from the School Land Trust fund.

Mr. Sears indicated this should be on the March agenda when he will have results of the fundraising. The budget will be more firm after the legislative session.

Mrs. Tanner thanked the Superintendent for funding for this activity.

## INFORMATION

### 4. Budget

Mr. Sears reported that USDB has now spent 89% of what we spent this time last year and are where we should be per USOE. He doesn't think there is anything in the legislative budget that should affect USDB at this time. In February he will bring tentative information and in March he will give the full report based on what happens in the legislature. He will come back in April and May with information on what the budget will be for FY 2012-2013.

Mrs. Frost enquired about requesting funds from the legislature. Superintendent Noyce says we are asking for building blocks only.

### 5. Report on Utah Common Core State Standards

Mrs. Lasater presented information on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This will provide high standards for our students the same as other school districts. The state adopted the CCSS in 2010 and had training in English language arts last year. The math training will be conducted next summer. This builds upon current state standards with hopes that our students are able to compete nationally and globally. This doesn't replace the expanded core curriculum for our students, this is just an enhancement.

Mrs. Creer is concerned that Chris Timothy at USOE will only work with the new common core and the curriculum that is already in place will be put aside and not included with these new standards. Mrs. Lasater assured her that they will both be used and this will be a continuing conversation. USDB will go forward with aligning the braille standards with the new common core. Mrs. Creer volunteered to help if it is needed.

### 6. Discussion of USDB Administration Letter and Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ferre read the letter aloud to the Council regarding governance of USDB. He recommends that two or three items from those listed be added to the agenda of each meeting until they have all been covered. Superintendent Noyce stated that because we are losing classrooms in the SLC area this should be number one on the agenda in February:

February – Classrooms, budget, symposium

March – Athletics, budget, USIMAC, Building Blocks

Superintendent Noyce will have staff put together brief presentations concerning each agenda item.

Mrs. Creer suggested that the Superintendent, the Associate Superintendents and Mr. Gibson determine timelines for the agenda.

### 7. Organization of Future Meeting to Discuss Language-Communication Issues

Mr. Pollock is concerned with the differences between ASL and LSL and would like to know more about how it will affect the students and when and where there is a need. If we follow LSL only we deny students from growing with ASL. He is requesting background information on both during the symposium. Mr. Ferre is

oral and learned ASL as an adult. Each person is different but we want to encourage students to make their own choice.

Superintendent Noyce recommended the symposium be held during the summer. He will send possible dates to everyone and Mrs. Hall will gather that information and get back to everyone. He suggests topics about what LSL is and the methodology used, what ASL English is, CUED speech and all other options. He asked if this a symposium just for Council member or should the USBE, parents, USDB staff be included? Who do you want as presenters? Would you prefer professionals from out of state or instate? These should all be discussion items for next month.

8. Superintendent's Report

- A. Updating policies and procedures - Mrs. Tami Gear is in charge of this project. They will be posted on the USDB website for review in two weeks.
- B. Building blocks are being prepared by Mr. Sears for the Council's review so they can make recommendations to the State Board and the legislative committee members.
- C. Child Abuse and Neglect Policy is being updated by Mr. Brian Gough in Human Resources.
- D. Fundraising Policy - the paper work is being submitted on Monday for a USDB foundation. Mrs. Kim Pierce is writing the proposal. The first board meeting was held on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Members include the mayor of Bluffdale Claudia Anderson, Michelle McOmber, Reverend Catherine Putnam-Netto, and Tanya Egbert.
- E. Mrs. Lasater has met with Bill Gibson and has established some areas of collaboration. She will meet with Moran Eye Center on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> and also has a meeting confirmed with the president of the Utah Optometry Association.
- F. USIMAC - the state has approved funding for a six month trial; districts can get products at no cost. USIMAC will pay 25% and USOE will pay the 75%. This will help determine what future needs are.
- G. USDB - an energy grant was submitted and was awarded in the amount of \$80,000. USDB has to match funds. After working with staff it was decided to replace the boiler in Ogden. All of the ARRA funds should be spent by April 30<sup>th</sup>. USDB will also receive an additional \$400,000 from funds not used by other agencies.
- H. The new director of Blind PIP is Mrs. Karen Borg. She is very qualified and should do a great job. She has administrative and early childhood endorsements.

9. Other

- A. A discussion was had about tracking students when they leave USDB services. Mrs. Lasater will schedule a meeting with Ms. Diana Yoder at DSBVI to determine what should be done. This would be only for students that USDB serves. Non-USDB itinerant teachers have a monthly meeting and maybe Ms. Yoder could meet with them. Mr. Horton says that there is a group called UTRAX who is keeping data and someone should be working with them.
- B. The March meeting date will be moved from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> due to conflicts. In the past this meeting was held at the Alpine School District. Some of the Council members think it should be changed. Mrs. Hall will poll the Council members to see if they want to go to Alpine for the March meeting.
- C. Superintendent Menlove reported.
  - (1) USOE did take a position to support building blocks. USBE will make them more flexible and should be out within the next few days.
  - (2) \$120-\$150 million would be made available to public education and he thinks some of that would come to USDB. The governor says there might be a small increase in pay for school employees of approximately 1%.
  - (3) State Board USDB Committee will meet at DSBVI next Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in order to use some of the equipment there.
- D. Mrs. Michelle Tanner's position on Council was discussed. It is a teacher contract position. Superintendent Menlove suggested the Council go forward with nominations and then make recommendations to USBE.

Mr. Pollock moved to adjourn and Mrs. Creer seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.