

# 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: June 16, 2010**

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

Attending: Von Hortin, Chair  
Gwyneth Kenner, Vice-Chair  
Cheralyn Creer, Voting Member  
Leslie Castle, Non Voting Member  
Amy English, Voting Member  
Scot Ferre, Voting Member  
Bill Gibson, Voting Member  
Jodi Kinner, Voting Member  
Scott McAward, Voting Member  
Linda Otte, Voting Member  
Marla Palmer, Voting Member  
Michelle Tanner, Non-Voting Member

Excused: Linda Braithwaite, Voting Member  
Marilyn Call, Voting Member  
Ron Gardner, Voting Member  
Kye Miner, Voting Member

Also Attending:  
Steve Noyce, Superintendent  
Betty Hall, Executive Assistant

Interpreters: Elizabeth Kocherhans  
April Wallace

Administrative Staff Present:  
Melanie Austin, Acting Associate Superintendent of the Blind  
Hollie Fletcher, Director of ERC/USIMAC  
Carolyn Lasater, Program Director of Blind Region II  
Marilyn Madsen, Program Director of Deaf South Region  
Day Mullings, Program Director of Deaf PIP  
Barbara Peterson, Acting Director of Blind PIP  
Jill Radford, Program Director of JMS  
Michael Sears, Finance Director  
Leah Voorhies, Director of Related Services

Others Attending:

Martell Menlove, USOE  
Dave Rodemack, DHRM/USOE  
Chris Timothy, USOE  
Elizabeth Parker, USDB Retiree  
Catherine Sharpsteen, USDB Retiree  
Al Stevenson, Spouse of USDB Retiree  
Patricia Noyce  
Julio Diaz, Jr., Parent

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Steve Noyce led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comments

None

Introduction

Chair Von Hortin introduced Advisory Council's new members, Mrs. Cheralyn Creer, adult who is blind, and Mr. Scott McAward, with student affairs at the University of Utah.

Consent Calendar Approval

Mr. Bill Gibson made a motion to approve the Advisory Council minutes of the May 26, 2010 meeting, the Personnel Actions & Vacancy Report for May 2010, and the Donated Account Summary for May 2010. Ms. Linda Otte seconded. Motion carried.

Recognition of USDB Retirees

- Superintendent paid tribute to Mrs. Catherine Sharpsteen, educator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, for her 29 years of service to USDB. A certificate of appreciation was given. Catherine will mentor at USDB a few days a month. He also recognized her husband, Mr. Al Stevens, a retired teacher with USDB.
- Superintendent acknowledged Mrs. Liz Parker who has 14 years with USDB, first as a teacher, then went to Utah State teaching deaf education and then returned to serve as director of Deaf Central. She retires with 30 years of service to the state of Utah. A certificate of appreciation was given.
- Virginia Ball, Jane Bronsema, Darla Fowers and Bill Worner were unable to attend. Their certificates will be mailed.

Recognition USDB Advisory Council Retirees

Chair Hortin presented plaques and thanked Mrs. Gwyneth Kenner and Ms. Linda Otte for their commitment and support on the Advisory Council. He also acknowledged Mr. Gardner's dedication, passion and commitment to braille issues. Mr. Gardner received his plaque last month because he was unable to attend this evening. Mrs. Marilyn Call was excused tonight. Her plaque will be mailed. All of these terms end June 2010.

## Executive Session

Chair Hortin adjusted the agenda because several voting members need to leave early and a quorum is needed to conduct business. Mrs. Kenner made a motion to go into executive session. Mrs. English seconded. A voice roll call was taken with all attending members agreeing to the executive session.

Mr. Bill Gibson made a motion to return to the regular session. Mrs. Kenner seconded. A voice roll call was taken with all members agreeing to return to the general session. Chair Hortin told the assembly that the purpose was to discuss nominations for Council openings.

## INFORMATION

### Budget

Mr. Michael Sears reported on the donated account and budget reports. We are right where we expected to be. There is no flexibility in the budget and we anticipate remaining on budget. All purchasing has been halted. This has been a hard year but we are doing alright. Mr. Sears invited new members to contact him for training on the budget by phone or in person. Chair Horton encouraged them to do that. Also, as representatives of constituents, it is helpful to understand what makes up the budget.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent noted we have had a difficult year. We have initiated new programs, brought on new staff, etc. Staff is coming together. He reported on vacancies. He commented on his perspective regarding the projection for enrollment.

#### In the School for the Deaf:

- Those who are choosing listening and spoken language will typically be mainstreamed into regular education by third grade. It will increase at an even younger age. In near future, the trend is that virtually all will be mainstreamed before junior high school.
- The ASL program at JMS is expanding to include higher grades.
- Families in PIP will also have the option to choose ASL and will have a quality program to be successful in life. He explained that there are also some children who do not have potential in a listening program to develop skills they need so ASL option is best option for their families. Parents need incredible access to extraordinary opportunities to make an informed choice.

#### In the School for the Blind:

- Mrs. Barbara Peterson is acting director of Blind PIP and has a great vision as to what needs to happen and where they are going. Superintendent believes we will have students coming out of PIP and preschools mainstreaming well before 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- We have a number of students that have multidisabilities. We are finding that vision is not their primary disability. We don't have the expertise to serve their other disabilities where public schools do have those capabilities. We are currently working with districts. We, as a School, believe the best thing we can do is to provide support out in the districts.

- Our Deafblind students are already being served in their districts with communication interveners from USB.

We are getting stronger and stronger programs and are going in the right direction.

#### OTHER

Mrs. Creer commented she has attended Council meetings over the years and has noticed that the agenda is the same. Chair Hortin explained that the state requires us to attend to certain business. Members can certainly add to the agenda. The Chair and Superintendent need to be notified in advance so it can be determined if the issue is appropriate for Council to address. Mrs. Hall also needs lead time to prepare the packet. It can be expected that an item might take one to two months before it appears on the agenda.

Mrs. Kenner made a motion to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.

DRAFT