

**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: October 27, 2011**

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

Attending: Bill Gibson, Chair & Voting Member  
Leslie Castle, Non-voting Member  
Cheralyn Creer, Voting Member  
Scot Ferre, Voting Member  
Anne Harvey, Voting Member  
Von Hortin, Non-voting Member  
Scott McAward, Voting Member  
Marla Palmer, Voting Member  
Michelle Tanner, Non-voting Member  
Cordie Weed, Voting Member

Excused: Jeff Pollock, Voting Member

Absent: Heather Frost, Voting Member  
Tony Jepson, Voting Member

Also Attending:  
Steve Noyce, Superintendent  
Betty Hall, 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  
Hollie Murdock, Director of ERC/USIMAC  
Michael Sears, Finance Director  
Betsy Sutherland, Program Director of Deaf Central Region

Excused: Marilyn Madsen, Program Director of Deaf South Region  
Day Mullings, Program Director of Blind PIP  
Carolyn Lasater, Associate Superintendent of USB  
Trena Roueche', Associate Superintendent of USD  
Barbara Peterson, Program Director of Blind PIP  
Rod Price, Program Director of Blind Region I

Others Attending:

Dave Rodemack, USOE DHRM  
Todd Hauber, USOE  
Jan Ferre', LCPD  
Christine Timothy, USOE  
Philippe Montalette, UAD  
Susan Patten, USDB  
Bonnie Henrie, USDB  
Sharon Zenger, USDB

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance  
Chair Bill Gibson welcomed everyone in attendance. Mr. Von Hortin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Public Comments  
None

**ACTION ITEMS**

3. Consent Calendar Approval  
Vice-chair Scot Ferre made a motion to accept the minutes of September 29, 2011 as corrected, the Personnel Actions Report and Donated Account Summary for September 2011 as presented. Dr. Scott McAward seconded. Motion carried.
4. USDB Advisory Council Bylaws  
Vice-chair Ferre noted we need to adjust the length of terms for Advisory Council members. All terms expire in June of 2012. Terms need to be staggered. He suggested this be discussed with the USDB committee.

Dr. McAward made a friendly amendment to recommend that the Utah State Board of Education address the issue that all Advisory Council members' terms expire in June of 2012. In order to set up staggering terms, it is recommended that in July 2012 that six of the eleven voting members be appointed for a one year term for this first cycle only and five members would be appointed for two terms [friendly amendment] to include that three of the code required positions be one year term for this cycle and three of the required positions be two year terms. All would have the potential of being reappointed again according to the bylaws. Mrs. Creer seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. McAward suggested Council could make a recommendation to USBE on length of term when submitting nominations for new members replacing a former member mid-term.

After a lengthy discussion and several friendly amendments, Dr. McAward condensed the motion to present the following information to the USBE: Advisory Council had a thoughtful and in-depth discussion about the makeup of the Advisory Council. To make sure we have adequate representation while maintaining flexibility to allow us to form a Council that is productive and functions effectively, we recommend that the current six positions in code remain with two changes. The Advisory Council shall include:

- (a) Two positions to include an adult and a parent of a blind child
- (b) Two positions to include an adult and a parent of a deaf child
- (c) Two positions to include an adult **and/or** a parent of a deafblind child, and that one of the deafblind positions could float to one of the other two categories.

Mrs. Creer seconded. Motion carried.

Chair Gibson assigned Dr. McAward to be prepared to present these items to USBE at the November 3, 2011 meeting. Mrs. Hall will provide a copy of the remarks to Dr. McAward before Thursday, November 3, 2011.

## **INFORMATION:**

Chair Gibson introduced Mrs. Anne Harvey as our newest member of Advisory Council. Mrs. Harvey fills the position of parent of a deafblind child.

### 5. Discuss Nominations for Departing Members

Vice-chair Ferre noted we had touched on this in #4 above but asked if we should be considering replacements for the three vacating positions. Mr. Hortin said his position will be from a finance department and will be appointed by USBE. The LEA position will also be handled by USBE. The teacher representative could be anyone on a teacher contract.

### 6. Discuss Task Force Recommendations Regarding Composition of Advisory Council.

Mrs. Creer moved to go back to Item #4 for further discussion. Seconded by Dr. McAward. Motion carried. See #4 for comments.

### 7. Budget

Mr. Sears noted that there is 81% of the budget remaining with 75% of the year remaining. The last pay period was 12% less than last year. Cost data figures are similar. He explained vacancy savings results. Mrs. Hall will send the Cost Data Report for Period 3 which was missing from the electronic packet.

### 8. Report on Project STRIVE

Mrs. Creer will present this report at our next meeting.

### 9. Report on International Deafblind Conference in Brazil

Mrs. Leslie Buchanan noted the International Deafblind Conference was a wonderful opportunity for educators and other professionals in education for deafblind adults and children to interact with each other. Dr. Jan VanDijk, a pioneer in this field was a presenter, as was Dr. Cathy Nelson of the University of Utah. Mrs. Susan Patten, who accompanied Mrs. Buchanan, shared concepts

they had learned. She also said that Mrs. Buchanan had developed a Best Practice Rubric which is being used extensively in Latin America and has also received requests for it internationally.

There are 120 deafblind students in Utah and each child has a specialist assigned to them. A PowerPoint gave a view of some student successes. Deafblind services is currently doing training.

10. Superintendent's Report

- A. Collaboration is being established with the Utah Personnel Development Center (UPDC) for professional development. Services and training that are already available could be accessed now. Discussions are taking place about specialized training for our population of students with disabilities. Expertise within USDB could be provided to teachers throughout the state and be funded by UPDC.
- B. The Skyward School Management System for data collection and management will be fully ready by the end of the school year. Mrs. Hall will scan and e-mail the handout to Chair Gibson and Ms. Weed.
- C. USIMAC software had been contracted to a company that did not meet our needs. A new RFP with better specifications has been issued. We are waiting for bids.
- D. Preschool and early childhood needs are increasing and adequate space is hard to find. Superintendent Noyce elaborated on three options being considered. (1) Meet with University of Utah (2) a Second building on the JMS campus, and (3) Talk with Murray School District about adding a room to their early childhood department.
- E. USDB has conducted interviews for a director of the ASL English program. It was expected that one person would supervise both KBS and JMS which would have resulted in a vacancy savings. As we have relooked at the program, it is not feasible. We will now have a dedicated JMS and a dedicated KBS director. Mr. Mike Hillstrom has been hired for KBS and will supervise JMS until a permanent replacement is found. We are now re-advertising because the position is different than originally advertised.
- F. Kimberly Bressler was chosen as Utah Outstanding Special Education Par-educator for Deaf and Blind.
- G. Advisory Council will receive a draft of the Student Code of Conduct to review and be prepared with suggestions at the next meeting. Mrs. Tami Gear will send them it Mrs. Hall who will forward it on to Advisory Council.

11. Future Agenda Items

- A. Project Strive report by Cheralyn Creer.
- B. Mr. Ferre noted to discuss code change when Mr. Pollock can attend.

12. Other

- A. Due to Thanksgiving, Council's next meeting will be held one week earlier, on November 17, 2011 at 4:30 at DSBVI.
- B. Chair Gibson reminded Council of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with the USDB Committee and USBE.

Mrs. Creer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

DRAFT