

**Utah Board of Higher Education
Granite School District
Friday, June 6, 2025**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES**

Board Members Present

Amanda Covington, Chair (excused at 8:30 a.m.)
Steve Neeleman, Vice Chair
Javier Chavez Jr.
Jon Cox
Danny Ipson (excused at 2:00 p.m.)
Tina Marriott
Cydni Tetro
Muskan Walia

Board Members Absent

Sharon Eubank
Aaron Skonnard

Office of the Commissioner

Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner
Alison Adams, General Counsel and Board Secretary
Taylor Adams, Associate Commissioner of Student Affairs
TJ Bliss, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs
Trevor Cross, Systems Administrator
Cassidy Dragunat, Assistant Commissioner of Financial Aid
Brynn Fronk, Executive Assistant to the Utah Board of Higher Education
Vic Hockett, Associate Commissioner of Talent Ready Utah
Richard Lainez, Facilities Director
Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist
Katie Mazzie, Assistant Commissioner of Strategic and Government Affairs
Hayley Mitchell, Administrative Assistant
Natalie Reidhead, Administrative Assistant
Brian Shuppy, Senior Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Finance
Angie Stallings, Deputy Commissioner and COO
Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner and CFO
Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner of Technical Education

Institutional Presidents Present

Mindy Benson, Southern Utah University
Chad Campbell, Bridgerland Technical College
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College
Paul Hacking, Tooele Technical College
Brad Mortensen, Weber State University
Greg Peterson, Salt Lake Community College
Taylor Randall, University of Utah

Jordan Rushton, Dixie Technical College
Shane Smeed, Utah Tech University
Al Smith, Utah State University (interim)
Jim Taggart, Ogden Weber Technical College
Stacey McIff, Snow College
Aaron Weight, Uintah Basin Technical College
Brennan Wood, Southwest Technical College

Others

Cathy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer, University of Utah
Michael Austin, Provost, Snow College
Sam Bertoch, Milliman
David Cowley, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, Utah State University
Joseph Fitzgerald, Legislative Financial Analyst, State of Utah

Brent Jensen, Milliman
Les Kartchner, Milliman
Michael Lacourse, Provost, Utah Tech University
Shauna Mendini, Interim Provost, Southern Utah University
Mitzi Montoya, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Utah
Paul Morris, Vice President of Administrative Affairs, Utah Tech University
Jim Mortensen, Vice President of Finance and Auxiliary Services, Utah Valley University
Chris Nelson, Chief University Relations Officer and Secretary to the University, University of Utah
John O'Neill, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Utah State University
Rob Patton, Executive Communications Manager, University of Utah
Jason Perry, Vice President for Government Relations and Director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics,
University of Utah
Val Peterson, Vice President for Administration/Strategic Relations, Utah Valley University
Jason Pickavance, Interim Provost for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Salt Lake
Community College
Whitney Pugh, Executive Director, Budget and Planning Office, Utah State University
Laurie Sharp, Senior Associate Provost, Utah Valley University
Tim Tingey, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, Snow College
Natalie Tippets, Associate Director, Government Relations, University of Utah
Rebecca Walsh, Director of Communications, University of Utah
Scott Wood, Senior Director of Budgets, Utah Valley University
Ben Winslow, Reporter, FOX 13

Vice Chair Neeleman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Committee of the Whole

Resolutions of Appreciation for Board Members Sharon Eubank, Tina Marriott, and Muskan Walia

Board member Chavez Jr. moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Sharon Eubank. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Board member Ipson moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Tina Marriott. Board member Cox seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Board member Marriott moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Muskan Walia. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Board Leadership Election

Board member Cox moved to elect Amanda Covington as Chair of the Utah Board of Higher Education. Board member Ipson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Board member Marriott moved to elect Jon Cox as Vice Chair of the Utah Board of Higher Education. Vice Chair Neeleman seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Shared Services Update

Nate Talley framed the presentation for the Board members. Brent Jensen, Les Kartchner, and Sam Bertoch from Milliman then presented the Feasibility Study for the Consolidation of Benefits and answered questions from the Board members and presidents. **Board member Tetro moved to**

forward Milliman’s feasibility study to the Legislature for review and further recommendation, after amending well-managed comparisons in the report as discussed. Board member Ipson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Higher Education Student Success Endowment Spending Policy and Recommendations

Nate Talley provided a status update on the Higher Education Student Success Endowment and presented the proposed endowment budgets for FY 2025 and FY 2026. Taylor Adams presented the endowment spending proposal. At the request of the Board members, Taylor will share work-study data with the Board as soon as it becomes available. Cassidy Dragunat discussed the current status of FAFSA completion. Board member Neeleman requested additional information regarding FAFSA growth. The Board members discussed financial aid gaps for students returning to higher education and ways to address these issues.

Board member Tetro moved to direct the Commissioner’s Office to work with community organizations, review scholarship education methods and policies, and make recommendations in the next Board meeting to address financial aid gaps for students who are returning to higher education. Board member Ipson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Vice Chair Cox moved to approve the FY 2025 and FY 2026 Higher Education Student Success Endowment budgets as proposed. Board member Marriott seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Board member Ipson moved to approve new Board Policy R1101, *Higher Education Student Success Endowment Spending Guidelines and Reporting*. Board member Walia seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Vice Chair Cox moved to elect to allocate 90% of the FY 2026 Endowment proceeds to institutions according to formula and retain 10% for Board spending priorities. Vice Chair Cox further moved to allow the Board to determine its spending priorities and spend its 10% allocation within the next year. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Consent Calendar

Board member Tetro moved to approve the consent calendar. Vice Chair Cox seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Utah System of Higher Education Strategic Reinvestment Plans

Commissioner’s Office Introduction

Commissioner Landward and Nate Talley provided an overview and introduction of the Strategic Reinvestment Plans. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

Weber State University

Nate Talley introduced Weber State University’s Strategic Reinvestment Plan, followed by the presentation of the plan from President Mortensen. **Board member Chavez Jr. moved to approve Weber State University’s Strategic Reinvestment Plan, conditional on the institution returning to the Board in or before September 2025 with sufficient detail and validation on all strategic reallocation items. Board member Marriott seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Southern Utah University

Nate Talley introduced Southern Utah University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. President Mindy Benson and Interim Provost Shauna Mendini presented the institution's plan. **Board member Ipson moved to approve Southern Utah University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. Vice Chair Cox seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Utah Valley Utah

Nate Talley introduced Utah Valley University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. Vice President Jim Mortensen and Senior Associate Provost Laurie Sharp then presented the institution's plan to the Board members. **Board member Ipson moved to approve Utah Valley University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Utah Tech University

Nate Talley introduced Utah Tech University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. President Shane Smeed, Provost Michael Lacourse, and Vice President Paul Morris then presented the plan. **Board member Ipson moved to approve Utah Tech University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. Vice Chair Cox seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Snow College

Nate Talley introduced Snow College's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. President Stacey McIff, Vice President Tim Tingey, and Provost Michael Austin then presented the institution's plan. **Board member Marriott moved to approve Snow College's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. Board member Chavez Jr. seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Salt Lake Community College

Nate Talley introduced Salt Lake Community College's Strategic Reinvestment Plan, followed by President Peterson's presentation of the plan. **Board member Chavez Jr. moved to approve Salt Lake Community College's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. Board member Marriott seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

University of Utah

Nate Talley introduced the University of Utah's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. President Randall and Senior Vice President Mitzi Montoya then presented the institution's plan. **Vice Chair Cox moved to approve the University of Utah's Strategic Reinvestment Plan, conditional on the institution returning to the Board in or before September 2025 with sufficient detail and validation on all strategic reallocation items. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Utah State University

Nate Talley introduced Utah State University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan. Interim President Al Smith, Vice President Dave Cowley, Executive Vice President John O'Neill, and Whitney Pugh then presented the institution's plan. **Vice Chair Cox moved to approve Utah State University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan, conditional on the institution returning to the Board in or before September 2025 demonstrating further evaluation of reallocation opportunities in**

Instruction, and with sufficient detail and validation on all strategic reallocation items. Vice Chair Cox also moved to approve Utah State University's Strategic Reinvestment Plan, conditional on review and approval by the next President of Utah State University. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

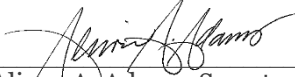
Vice Chair Cox moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; impending litigation; or the sale of real property. Board member Marriott seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Closed Session

Vice Chair Cox moved to end closed session. Board member Neeleman seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Vice Chair Cox moved to adjourn. Board member Marriott seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.


Alison A. Adams, Secretary

Date Approved: July 18, 2025