

**MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION MEETING**  
**April 14, 2025**

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Carrie Bala, Jessica Baxter, Melanie Brunson, Jeni Buist, Steven Camicia, Marilyn Cuch, Amanda Dawson, Nichelle Frank, Sharla Hart, Tom Higbee, Spencer Holmgren, Jana Johnson, Brynja Kohler, Jessica Koltz, Max Longhurst, Lisa McLachlan, Kelli Munns, Sylvia Read, Allison Riddle, Jessica Rivera-Mueller, Marla Robertson, Rick Woodford

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Curtis Benjamin, Halle Hart, Harrison Kleiner, Lauri Nelson, Maria Spicer-Escalante, Lynette Tervort, Nate Trauntvein, Greg Wheeler

GUESTS: Greg Cox, Bobbi Crabtree, JanaLee Johnson, Darcie Peterson

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Approval of Minutes: <https://usu.box.com/s/6xnx1zpuok7qnosczfsi2kskb3i4bu4>
  - a. Minutes for March 2025 were approved as written.

**Information/Discussion Items:**

1. USBE Updates – *Lisa McLachlan*

Lisa McLachlan said they postponed the emergent literacy competencies to 2026. The only program review that is due this year is for elementary literacy. For elementary and early childhood programs, they need to know how our programs align to the elementary literacy competencies and what we are using as evidence that they have demonstrated those competencies. Everything else will be due in 2026 or possibly 2027 for special education.

Meghan Everette, Ed.D., is their new Director of Teaching & Learning. They are excited to have her with them. She comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience in lots of different areas. Leah Voorhees moved from the Assistant Superintendent of Student Support to the Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement. In June, they will have a new Superintendent.

2. STER validity and alignment surveys

Sylvia Read said we are currently doing a validity process for the Student Teaching Evaluation Rubric. For program assessment, it is best if you have done some quality checks on your survey instruments or measures. We are doing 2 different surveys. One is true content validity using the Lawshe process. That is the one where you determine if this item is essential or useful. If it is not essential or useful, get rid of it. The second survey is more about the wording of the items, and it is much longer. We really want to use that feedback to make the STER a better instrument.

3. Master's degree in Secondary Teaching (MST) – *Max Longhurst*

<https://usu.box.com/s/s9jf3drz1c0i3ltlj205w13t666jdil3>  
<https://schools.utah.gov/licensing/endorsements>

Max said they have 2 new master's degrees that are going through the process; one is in secondary teaching, and one is in elementary teaching. He wanted to talk about the secondary degree, because it involves a lot of collaboration with our partner departments in terms of making sure they are advising them correctly about content courses and content methods courses that they need to take.

The idea is that we would send a student with their endorsement form that they want to work on to an advisor within the content area. The advisor would then use their expertise to determine the courses on their transcript that satisfy the requirements listed on the endorsement form to determine what they have already completed and what they still need to do. The rest of the courses, including pedagogy courses and student teaching, are part of the master's program. Amanda Dawson said they would love to be involved from the time the students are applying so they can have conversations with the students early in the process. Greg Cox said that there may be instances for which looking at the transcript won't be enough to see if they meet the endorsement requirement. They may need to dig deeper and look at a syllabus or something else. They can also reach out to a USBE specialist if they have any questions about certain courses and if they meet the requirements for the content areas. Lisa McLachlan said we can recommend these students for their endorsements if we have already been approved in the content area since somebody in the content area is doing that review and making that determination that whatever they have taken before matches what is on the endorsement form.

4. District Feedback – *Jeni Buist, Spencer Holmgren, Allison Riddle, Rick Woodford*

Jeni Buist: Cache County School District is in the middle of the hiring season. Over the next couple of weeks, they will have a huge influx of job postings on their website. With their new superintendent, they are getting very directed with their job postings with more specific job descriptions. They have a small team that goes through the applicants to select those they would like to interview. They use a point system to screen the applicants. Some of the key points they are looking for are: Have they met the requirements? Do they have a cover letter? Do they have letters of recommendation? Do they have a resume? Their scores on their student teaching evaluation are not really a factor in the selection process. Their decision to hire an applicant comes more from the interaction in the interview and reference checks from individuals who have actually worked with them.

Spencer Holmgren: When Logan City School District is hiring new teachers, they want to talk to the people who have seen them teach and they also look for complete applications. They have hired a new principal for Logan High School. He said they have plenty of openings for teachers and speech-language pathologists. Spencer said they were finishing up their testing process and having a lot of end-of-year celebrations.

Rick Woodford: Uintah School District is experiencing declining enrollment right now. This is one of the first years where they are transferring and using attrition to decrease their staff to commensurate with their declining enrollment. When he came to the district 5 ½ years ago, they had almost 7,000 students. Their projections for the next school year were under 6,100. There has been a moratorium on new water meters in one of their water districts for almost 3 years that has contributed to the declining enrollment since there were no new houses being built. Their new preschool is coming along nicely and currently has 7 classrooms but will have 10 when it is completed. Rick said practical experience is very important in their hiring process. If they have paraprofessionals that can do their student teaching in their district, they know firsthand if they are good and will hire them to fill their positions almost every time.

Allison Riddle: They have 74 student teachers in Davis School District right now that are finishing up student teaching. They currently have 8 special education and 17 secondary education teacher openings. They will post the openings for the elementary teachers in the next couple of weeks. Allison said she agreed that practical experience is one of the most important things they look at in their hiring process. She always tells the student teachers in their district to list their practicum and

student teaching assignments on their resumes under employment, even though they were not paid for it. Principals really want to know where they did their practice experiences and what grade levels they worked in. Their district is seeing declining enrollment as well, particularly in the south end of Davis County. They have four boundary studies going on right now. They will be closing a school in the south end of their district in the next couple of years. They just finished rebuilding Bountiful Elementary school and Sunset Junior High School will be an academy school for secondary practicum students.

5. Educator Licensing Newsletter for [April 2025](#)

**Next meeting: September 15, 2025**