

**MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION MEETING**  
**March 17, 2025**

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jeni Buist, Spencer Holmgren, Harrison Kleiner, Maria Spicer-Escalante, Nate Trauntvein, Greg Wheeler

GUESTS: Greg Cox, Bobbi Crabtree, JanaLee Johnson

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Approval of Minutes: <https://usu.box.com/s/e2eg0yo5anzp8zmamhapdv6sgm4ku40u>
  - a. Minutes for February 2025 were approved as written.

**Information/Discussion Items:**

1. USBE Updates – *Lisa McLachlan*

Legislative session updates: student teaching stipends funded again, Foundations of Reading test vouchers funded again, and renewed funding for Grow your Own grants (LEAs use these).

The Special Education Competencies are now included in R277-304, which will come with endorsement forms that align with the new competencies. They also made some changes in R277-304 that removed controversial words. The following name changes were made to the special education endorsements:

- Mild/moderate support needs (formerly mild/moderate disabilities)
- Complex support needs (formerly severe disabilities)

The special education team at USBE is reviewing the endorsement forms to make sure they align to the new competencies. Once they have the endorsement forms finalized, they will send them out. They will also be available on their web page so we will be able to see the new requirements there as well. There will be more information coming in the next couple of months.

Lisa McLachlan said they are working on sending out some communication this week on the deadline change for the general teaching and the elementary content competencies. They are now due June 1, 2026. They can be submitted early with a request for feedback. They are still waiting for approval templates for literacy, but they will be due June 1, 2025. They received some resources that they will share with us to help with these requirements.

They are adjusting the definition for the Early Childhood license so it will now include preschool general education (Preschool – Grade 3). They need a preschool license for schools to qualify for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) funds. Our early childhood major has always included preschool preparation, but we have never been able to tell them that it qualifies them for a preschool license. It was called K-3 for a long time, so we were excited about this new definition of the existing license. Sylvia Read added that our Human Development and Family Studies Department is integral in

providing the education that students get with these courses and practicum experiences to prepare them to teach preschool effectively.

2. [AAQEP Annual Report](#) (*Sylvia Read*)

Every year we report to our accrediting body, AAQEP. One of the things AAQEP wants us to do is share our data with our stakeholders to get their feedback, so we post the annual report on our website. The report gives basic information, like how many candidates were enrolled in our program during the past year, how many candidates completed their programs, and the number of credentials granted. We include information in the report on any State license exam results. The Utah Foundations of Reading Test is one of those exams. We also report on the employment rates of our students. Part 2 of the report asks us to set goals to help us make program improvement decisions. Faculty set the goals for these programs. One of their goals is to increase our pass rate on the science of reading tests. We have a new 1-credit course that is specifically designed for test preparation for the science of reading test that our students are taking now, and we are seeing good results from that.

3. [Program survey draft](#) (*Marla Robertson*)

Marla has drafted a program survey that covers content methods, classroom management, and assessment. CTE members were asked to review the survey and provide feedback on the questions we are asking or how we should be asking them. We are striving to get as much information as we can to better inform us on how we can improve our programs. Allison Riddle would like to see more detailed questions regarding their mentor teacher and if they had a great impact on their learning and what kind of relationship they had with their mentor teacher.

District Feedback –*Allison Riddle, Lynette Tervort, Rick Woodford*

Allison Riddle: They are thrilled that the student teaching stipends will be continuing for another year. They are also able to give a small stipend to those who didn't qualify for the stipend through the Davis Foundation. It is only \$500, but they are trying to help offset some of the costs for them. They came up to the career fair at USU and she brought 2 Aggies who were in their 2nd year. They had such great energy, and it was fun to listen to them talk about how they felt about teaching to these students who were there trying to get an interview for the day. They are in a budget crunch like everyone else, so their superintendent, directors, and administrators are working hard on their budget for next year.

Rick Woodford: They are excited that their new preschool will be completed in the next 6-8 weeks. They are going to hire an Early Childhood regular education teacher for the next school year for their preschool and have already committed funds for that.

Lynette Tervort: They are just plugging along and things are going well in her class.

4. Northern Utah UniServ Updates – *Curtis Benjamin*

UEA was not a fan of the HB 267 piece of legislation in the legislative session this time, so they decided to run a referendum with some of their labor partners. They are currently seeking signatures.

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

**Next meeting: April 14, 2025**