**TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Draft Minutes* September 24, 2018 - 12:15-1:30 PM

In attendance: Sarah Thomas, Cade Douglas, Carolyn White, Jay Blain, Susan Edwards, Tyler Slack, Jason Theler, Jennifer Meyer-Glenn, Scott Jones (phone), Shawn McLeod (phone), Paula Plant, Natalie Gordon, Karen Rupp, Ben Rasmussen.

Nancy Kennedy was excused.

Karen Rupp welcomed the committee.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

Karen noted that the SITLA report had been emailed last week, and referred members to the SITLA decision flowchart mentioned in the report that was in the meeting packet.

Natalie Gordon reported on the $74,000,000 distribution for the 2018-19 school year that was distributed beginning in July.

Paula stated that the Land Trust Protection and Advocacy Committee had been seated and would meet for the first time on Wednesday, September 26 at the Treasurer’s office to discuss organization and the Advocacy Director job description.

Paula introduced USBE Attorney Ben Rasmussen. In a previous TAC meeting, the committee had recommended approval of both R277-491 and R277-477 in one motion. In USBE Finance Committee on September 7, 2018, R277-477 was passed as amended. Ben discussed the changes, noting that in USBE rule, referring to the Superintendent also includes his/her designee. Since the SCT Director was removed from state code with the passage of HB404 (2018 1GS), there is no longer a need to list the director or his/her duties in rule. Cade Douglas mentioned that he understood the need for the rule change but felt it was past time for USBE Board or Superintendency to clarify the School Children’s Trust section roles, responsibilities and leadership. Cade made a motion that TAC draft a memo to USBE Board leadership and the Superintendency advising clarity regarding School Children’s Trust section leadership and management. Sarah Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in attendance voting in favor.

In discussion regarding the changes to R277-477, Jay Blain questioned why the word shall was changed to may on line 158. Paula stated that concerns that could be addressed with additional training may not need to be reported to the state board audit committee. Susan Edwards was concerned that the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Committee was not referred to properly in the rule. Ben stated that could be changed without the board amending the rule. Jennifer Meyer-Glenn made a motion to continue to support both proposed rule changes as amended. Sarah Thomas seconded the motion, and the motion passed with all in attendance voting in favor.

Alex Judd, Provo District Assistant Superintendent, discussed some concerns with Provo eSchool, which has had a large amount of carry over in the past, and requested that their School LAND Trust program distribution be withheld this year to allow for the reduction of carry over. He stated that the parents and students at eSchool had a difficult time feeling like a community because of diverse locations and differing attitudes and expectations. A large number of eSchool students opt out of assessments, which makes the data less able to define and address the school’s academic needs. A high school provider was offering a non-diploma track, which, when included with the school’s high turnover rate among students, made the school’s graduation rates even lower. Many students and their families live outside the district.

Alex stated that one way to improve education at eSchool could be to better train the parents. Jennifer Meyer-Glenn spoke of the importance of family involvement, and Natalie Gordon pointed out that with changes the State Board of Education made to R277-477 in April, School LAND Trust program funds could now be used to assist students and families as long as a direct impact on academic improvement can be measured.

Cade mentioned that the real concerns could be larger than just with the School LAND Trust program, and that it needs to be determined if an online school can provide services to students at a lower cost. Alex mentioned that it must first be determined how to best serve the students in an online school. Both agreed on the need for assessment data. Jason Theler listed three options to be considered. First, a ratio adjustment for online schools. Second, using Provo eSchool as a model, online schools could return excess funds voluntarily. Third, exceptions could be made to the current allowable expenses to provide fewer restrictions for online schools.

Jay suggested that more discussion was needed. It was decided that the committee should research other online schools, review their plans, and check statistics and data for students that are enrolled in two programs, either charter and online or district and online.

Natalie briefly discussed other items that need to be discussed during the committee’s carry over discussion, including the current red flag for schools with greater than 10% carry over in final reporting. Is this the correct number? Should the committee also recommend a dollar amount for excessive carry over? What could be done with training, reminders and penalties to reduce the problem.

The next meeting will be longer, and will take place on Monday, October 29 from 11-2 at the Utah State Board of Education building. Staff will provide additional data regarding carry over prior to that meeting.

The November meeting will be held on Monday, November 26th.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45.