Trust Advisory Committee Draft Minutes

May 13, 2019

Attending: Nancy Kennedy, Cade Douglas, Liz Mumford, Carolyn White, Jay Blain, Steve Davis, Lark Reynolds, Tyler Slack, Sarah Thomas, Jason Theler, Susan Edwards (phone), Shawn McLeod (phone), Paula Plant (phone), Natalie Gordon, Karen Rupp.

Excused: Jennifer Mayer-Glenn.

Carolyn White made a motion to approve the April minutes. Jay Blain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The members of the committee introduced themselves.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Carolyn White made a motion to retain Nancy Kennedy as Chair and Cade Douglas as Vice-Chair. Tyler Slack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The term of these offices is two years.

Sarah Thomas motioned to change the meeting date to the third Monday of the month from noon to 2:00. The motion was seconded by Steve Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

There will be no July, December or February meetings. Upcoming meeting dates are:

June 17, 2019

August 19, 2019

September 16, 2019

October 21, 2019

November 18, 2019

January 13, 2020

March 16, 2020

Jay Blain reported on the USBE Finance Committee meeting on 5/3/19 where the proposed changes to R277-477, R277-491 and Board Policy on the Trust Advisory Committee were presented and approved on 2nd reading. The rules and policy will be presented to the full Utah State Board of Education on June 6, 2019. Susan Edwards had some clarifying questions about the proposed changes to R277-477, concerned that the term “approving entity” was confusing and should be replaced in some sections of the rule with “local school board”. It was decided to present the concerns to Ben Rasmussen, USBE Director of Law, Professional Practice, determine if a change should be made, and then follow up with a committee conference call on Monday, May 20 if necessary.

Tami Daley briefly discussed the School Fees rule that is being revised and implemented. The committee discussed concerns on how the changes could affect the School LAND Trust program. Some items discussed were:

* The need to keep the program focus on academics; not trying to solve other issues
* Increased pressure on School LAND Trust program funds
* A possible increase in textbooks/software and fees for core classes (lab fees, etc.)
* The need to avoid fees being supplanted by program funds
* Discerning between academic and non-academic extra curricular or co curricular

The committee will begin a discussion of academic and non-academic expenditures in the June 2019 meeting, with the possibility of a continued discussion and recommendation to the Utah State Board of Education.

Natalie Gordon discussed issues raised during recent compliance reviews. The committee did not see a need for further discussion of using program funds for district overhead or simplifying rules for smaller schools, The committee identified the need to simplify the program for everyone, and would also like to begin compiling best practices to help local boards work with councils in their districts, with the goal of presenting the best practices at a future USBE training, and regional meetings. Some best practices identified at the meeting include:

* Using local board members as a resource to work with individual councils. This could help guide councils away from unallowable/not data-driven or research-based expenditures before the plan is reviewed.
* Reminding boards of their statutory responsibilities.

In a brief discussion about the TSSP, Paula Plant informed the committee members that the plans that are currently being approved/reviewed for 2019-20 could be amended in the fall if the TSSP identifies different needs or focuses for school improvement.

Paula also presented the draft SCC Safety outline. Natalie will resend it to the committee, and committee members should contact Paula with recommendations.

The next meeting will be held Monday, June 17, 2019 from noon – 2:00 at the USBE Building. Jennifer Mayer-Glenn will give a report to the committee on ACEESS, and Paula will introduce Justin Atwater, the Director of the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05.