

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- WHEREAS, PTA supports the democratic process and encourages its membership to be active participants in the election of child/parent-friendly representatives in the various elected bodies, including the State Board of Education;^{1,2} and
- WHEREAS, Article X, Section 3 of the Utah Constitution designates that “the general control and supervision of the public education system shall be vested in a State Board of Education;³” and
- WHEREAS, The Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act (Sec. 63G-3-301 et seq.)⁴ specifies procedures for state agencies to follow in making rules and Sec. 53A-1-40(3)⁵ authorizes the Board to adopt rules in accordance with its authority; and
- WHEREAS, The State School Board has adopted as the Mission of Public Education: 1.) To ensure literacy and numeracy for all Utah children; and, 2.) To provide high quality instruction; and, 3.) To establish curriculum with high standards and relevance; and, 4.) To require effective assessment to inform high quality instruction and accountability,⁶ and
- WHEREAS, The State Board of Education is designed to be a body representative of a geographic area and thus responsive, foremost, to voters,⁷ and
- WHEREAS, In 2004, the Utah State Legislature enacted legislation which has empowered representatives of special interest groups who are not accountable to the voters to make decisions concerning which candidates are on the ballot for the State School Board,⁸ and
- WHEREAS, On September 5, 2014, U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups ruled that Utah's process of selecting candidates for the State School Board, in which candidates are vetted by committee and chosen by the governor, unconstitutionally limits participation and violates constitutional guarantees of free speech,^{9,10} and
- WHEREAS, Partisan election of school board members puts the focus on political parties and not upon qualified candidates; and
- WHEREAS, A February 2015 Dan Jones Poll showed that only 27% of the state think that State School Board members should be selected through a partisan election where candidates represent the political parties who nominate them;¹¹ now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA recognizes the State Board of Education as the body elected to establish policy and standards for education in the State of Utah; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA work closely with the State Board of Education in designing and implementing policies and educational standards that benefit the children of the State of Utah; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support legislation which enacts direct, nonpartisan election of State School Board members and opposes partisan election of the same body.

Documentation

¹National PTA Mission Statement.

<http://www.pta.org/about/content.cfm?ItemNumber=944&navItemNumber=552>

²National PTA Values. <http://www.pta.org/about/content.cfm?ItemNumber=944&navItemNumber=552>

³Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 3. http://le.utah.gov/xcode/ArticleX/Article_X_Section_3.html

⁴Utah Administrative Code, Title 63G. Chapter 3. Section 301.

http://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title63G/Chapter3/63G-3-S301.html?v=C63G-3-S301_1800010118000101

⁵Utah Administrative Code, Title 53A. Chapter 1. Section 40(3).

<http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-100.htm#T2>

⁶Promises to Keep. Mission of Public Education. State Board of Education. (Adopted August 7, 2009). <http://schoolboard.utah.gov/board-mission>

⁷School Board District Boundaries. (August 7,2015). <http://schoolboard.utah.gov/uncategorized/state-board-districts>

⁸Utah State Legislature Enrolled Bills. Senate Bill 185. <http://le.utah.gov/~2004/bills/static/SB0185.html>

⁹"Judge Rules State School Board selection process is unconstitutional.' *Deseret News*. Wood, Benjamin. (September 7,2014). <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865610457/Judge-rules-State-School-Board-selection-process-is-unconstitutional.html?pg=all>

¹⁰"State School Board selection process unconstitutional, judge rules." KSL.com. (September 7, 2014). <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=31469187>

¹¹"Poll: Utahns want non-partisan elections for State School Board." Utahpolicy.com. Bernick, Bob. (February 17, 2015). <http://utahpolicy.com/index.php/features/today-at-utah-policy/4824-poll-utahns-want-non-partisan-elections-for-state-school-board>