

**Utah Military Academy Riverdale
School LAND Trust Council
Meeting- Thursday January 15, 2026**

Minutes

1. Attendees:

- a. Brandi Mcfarland- Parent Rep/Chair
- b. Nathan Dockter- UMA Principal
- c. Doreen Mabuhay Larsen- Parent Rep
- d. Matt Webb- Parent Rep

Absent: Amber Storm, Paul Kapp, Mariah Hicks, Nick Lopes, Fernando Morales, Lanetta Lewis, Erik Tisher

2. Reviewed minutes from 11/20/2025.

3. Reviewed the Rules of Order Procedures

- a. Brandi corrected line 7 to match what our procedures are on the website. Quorum is listed as 4 members.
- b. Motion to adopt – Mr. Dockter; Second by Matt Webb.
- c. All in Favor

4. Review Corrective Actions for Compliance Monitoring Review

- a. Brandi will submit Corrective Action Response Form this weekend.

5. Final Report review for 2024/2025.

- a. Last years committee started this report. Mr. Dockter has expanded and summarized the results.
- b. That plan was to hire an extra math teacher to identify individual cadets that needed special help in math (math lab). Around \$70k salary. We aren't sure who was hired directly for that role at that time. It was also implemented to put 7th and 8th grade into year-round math. IXL throughout the year showed growth but year end testing was low. It was discussed that this may be because top tier students opt out of testing. There is also a 30% attrition rate.
- c. It was discussed that because of testing environment and mid-year staff changes (2 math teachers lost during that time) it made it difficult to get a good measurement on end-of-year numbers but that there was overall improvement shown.
- d. Motion to approve final report by Matt Webb; Second by Brandi.
 - i. All in Favor

6. 2026/2027 plan creation discussion started.

- a. Talked about what is currently happening with the plan that was implemented last year for this school year.
 - i. 2 Math Para's were hired/filled.
 - ii. Lost a new math teacher right before current term started but had filled a math spot with a former UMA math teacher right before he resigned.

- iii. Recently reevaluated the math curriculum and did an overhaul to reidentify and target areas of focus better.
- iv. Would like to figure out a way to better encourage students/parents to participate in the end of year testing. We have a lot of top tier cadets that don't participate and that brings the overall school scores down.
- v. Are evaluating a plan to change the environment of the current year testing. Moving to separate classrooms from the lunchroom where everybody is together. Will implement this for ACT, Rise and Aspire tests.
- vi. Math all year for 7th and 8th grade should continue to have a good effect.
- vii. We have utilized ~\$70k for the two math paras.
- viii. We set aside ~\$20k for the parent university. We will have leftovers in this area, so we'll need to do a carryover/amendment for the unused funds.
 - 1. These parent university classes have been successful, but we haven't seen many parents participating.
- b. We will have about \$140k for 2026/2027 plan year that has been assigned to us from the state, and then another estimated ~\$10k from the carryover.
 - i. We will work on getting firmer amounts that we'll be working with between the new distribution and carryover.
- c. Mr. Dockter would like to continue to work on math since we are continuing to struggle in that area.
 - i. Work on testing in this area.
- d. Mr. Dockter threw out several ideas of other areas we could work on.
 - i. Current counselors are spending majority of their time working on the cadet's mental health.
 - ii. Would like to keep the math paras and continue to work on finding good teachers.
 - iii. Would like to add an interventionist to the current one to have one for high school and one for jr. high. They would work on watching teen center, absenteeism, uniform standards, and helping seniors stay on path to graduate.
 - iv. Would like to add a transition counselor. They would help transition kids to vocational programs, like OWATC and DATC or just work on their pathways for after high school.
 - 1. Great CTE classes like cybersecurity, etc.
 - 2. If we had enough staff, we could look at moving into more health services classes.
 - 3. Thinking more about how to create in-house college geared programs/classes.
 - 4. Talked about transportation to/from OWATC/DATC needs.
 - v. There was concern that these items might not fit quite into what State Land Trust program would allow.
 - 1. It was confirmed that bus/transportation is allowable.
 - 2. It was confirmed that College and Career Readiness is an eligible subject area.

3. How would we create goals/measurements on these types of items?
- vi. Repair and Maintenance of items is acceptable, and it was suggested we look at fixing the parking lot lights for those who are at school late.
 1. Those currently are working but set on a timer that they can't figure out how to change.
- vii. Brandi passed on suggestions from parents from the PIC meeting last month.
 1. If we continue with math, it was suggested we implement more textbooks and math journals to help cadets take notes in class and use them at home.
 2. Council member who was unable to attend also made a statement to Brandi about how the last two years of the plan we hired teachers but saw little movement of the needle with this solution.
 - a. This might be because the staff retention and turnover have been difficult so there's not been enough consistency.
- viii. Start thinking about goal areas for these items.
 1. Work on getting more data. Maybe Ms. Mbaku can help with this.
- ix. Mr. Dockter doesn't want to lose math paras.
 - a. We can focus on multiple areas so we could split it and do half for Math and half for Career and College Readiness.
 - b. We would need \$72k to keep math paras.
 - c. Maybe use the other half for interventionist.
 - d. But we should start brainstorming.
7. Talk about next meeting. Currently scheduled for 2/26/2026. It was agreed to stick with this day.
 - a. We will also have council communicate via email in the interim with brainstorming ideas and information to come prepared for more decision making at 2/26/2026 meeting.
 - b. Brandi will email all members early February to coordinate this email exchange.
 - c. March meeting scheduled for 3/26/2026.

Submitted by Brandi Mcfarland- Chair