

**Utah Military Academy Riverdale
School Land Trust Council
Meeting- Thursday March 26, 2026**

Minutes

1. Attendees:

- a. Brandi Mcfarland- Parent Rep/Chair
- b. Nathan Dockter- UMA Principal
- c. Lt. Col. Erik Tisher- School Rep
- d. Amber Storm- School Rep
- e. Lanetta Lewis- School Rep

Absent: Paul Kapp, Mariah Hicks, Nick Lopez, Doreen Mabuhay, Matt Webb, and Fernando Morales

2. No public comment. (no public attendees)

3. Reviewed and approved minutes from 2/26/2026.

- a. Discussed timeline and deadlines.
- b. We understand the plan must be approved by the UMA board by the end of April and submitted to USBE by May 1.
- c. Brandi and/or Mr. Dockter will attend the April 22 UMA board meeting to present the plan.
- d. If the plan is rejected or needs changes, we will need to meet as a council one more time between April 22 and May 1. See schedule discussion below.
- e. Mr. Dockter has been receiving emails from the state stating the plan must be approved soon by the LEA reviewer. We are not sure who this is.
 - i. Brandi will email the USBE rep and ask who/what this is because it's not found in the timeline on their website.
 - ii. Mrs. Storm suggested asking last year's chair, Janelle Stroud as she may know who this LEA reviewer is.

4. Start discussion about the 2026/2027 plan creation.

- a. It was discussed early on to find transportation to OWATC/DATC. Mr. Dockter says he believes there can be a plan made outside of the SLTC. That will not be included in the plan this year.
- b. The plan discussed last meeting was 2 math paras, 7-9th interventionalist/attendance support, and ELL needs.
- c. It was brought up during contract negotiations that Mr. Dockter was apart of, we knew one math para would not be returning next school year. We also knew the state gave us a warning about our ELL program. We also knew attendance and tardies was a major focus.
- d. It was advised we edit some details of the plan to fit these recent changes.
 - i. Those changes would be:
 - 1. One Math Para instead of two.
 - 2. Retain the current interventionist and transition that job to more focus on attendance support as an Attendance Support Specialist who will monitor student attendance, communicate

with parents of chronically absent students, and support and encourage regular attendance that will lead to greater academic achievement.

- a. Within this same academic area of attendance, we would purchase an attendance software program which will coordinate communication with parents and cadets. Possibly looking at the ClarisWorks software.
 - b. Within the same academic area of attendance, we will continue our Parent/Guardian University program.
3. The last change would be to hire an ELL support specialist to support reading instructions and testing within the ELL classrooms and general education classrooms.
- ii. All these changes still fall within the original areas we wanted to focus on. These changes would satisfy the state's recent recommendations and encouragement of ELL and absenteeism but also keep focus on math. Refer to 2026 HB106.
- iii. If we can increase our attendance, we believe academic grades will also increase. A portion of our ELL students are chronically absent and have failing grades, therefore this plan can enhance multiple areas at the same time.
- iv. The cost of these changes are:
 1. Math academic area- \$38,000
 2. Attendance Support Specialist- \$50,000; Attendance Software- \$6,000; Parent/Guardian University- \$4,000.
 3. ELL Support Specialist- \$48,000
- v. Mr. Dockter states he's concerned the incentives talked about at the previous meeting for attending Parent University may be denied.
 1. Mrs. Storm states they tried putting something similar into the plan last year, but it was denied.
 2. All agreed that we will leave that out. The \$4,000 will be only for speakers and technology.
 3. It was suggested by Mrs. Lewis that schedule all Universities early and then we put the Parent University into the school calendar at the beginning of the year.
 4. Brandi suggested that we also made it an option to attend virtually for the in-person Universities.
 5. Brandi brought up from the last meeting that she thinks a Parent University on how to use Aspire, IXL, etc would be helpful. It was agreed that it might be better to do that University at the beginning of last year. Also continue with Mr. Storm doing the training at Back to School Night but also do a separate training as well since that one is not attended much.

- vi. Mrs. Lewis suggested that the Math para has a more specific job description and that they are trained more and a strategy is in place to utilize them better.
 - 1. Mrs. Storm states they used to have state training for teachers and Paras to train together, but she can't find it for this year. She's still looking. Mr. Dockter states we could always do our own training for this.
- e. Discuss one more time about the change to the plan document that was presented today.
 - 1. That change is to #3 of Attendance Area. The change is that the cost will include the Guest Speakers and Technology and remove the statement about having incentives for attending.
- f. All approve with the plan document as presented with e. changes.
- g. Schedule a tentative meeting for right after the board meeting in case there are changes that need to be made.
 - i. Date agreed to is April 23rd at 3:30. Brandi will let everybody know if that meeting can be cancelled upon board meeting approval of plan.

Submitted by Brandi Mcfarland- Chair

Addendum:

After the meeting concluded, Principal Dockter found out that our issued amount is actually less than we had thought. The Land Trust Council thought we'd be getting \$146,000 but it turns out we are getting \$135,272. After Principal Dockter talked with with Paul Kapp, Lt. Col. Erik Tisher, Amber Storm, Lanetta Lewis, and Brandi Mcfarland it was agreed to make the following changes to the plan:

-Cut software cost

-Cut Parent University

-Reduce salary

It is intended that they will still plan to continue these programs as discussed and keep the salary as in minutes the same, but those costs will not come out of State Land Trust Funds and will come out of another set of funds.