

Appendix A of the letter from UAD & BCGUAA

1346 East Hana Court
Draper UT 84020

August 11, 2009

Dear Members of the Utah State Board of Education:

Debra Roberts, Chair; Shelly Locke; Greg Haws; David Thomas; Kim Burningham; Michael Jensen; Leslie Castle; Janet Cannon; Denis Morrill; Laurel Brown; David Crandall; Carol Murphy; C. Mark Openshaw; and Dixie Allen

Deputy Superintendent of Public Education Dr. Martell Menlove, and
Superintendent Steven W. Noyce,

First, we want to acknowledge the State Board of Education's choice of Mr. Steven W. Noyce as the Superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB). We trust that his administration will be as supportive to Deaf education (specifically the ASL/English philosophy of Deaf education as espoused by the Jean Massieu School of the Deaf - JMS), as has been since the merger with USDB (more fully described below).

The Utah Association of the Deaf (UAD) has taken very seriously the education of deaf children in Utah and has supported JMS from its humble beginnings, through the merger with USDB and in its current status as a school within USDB. We are writing because we are concerned about the future direction of the USD ASL/English philosophy and programs under the new Superintendent due to his ample background in Oralism. We request that there are safeguards in place to counterbalance a strong career in Oralism with a strong and understanding associate superintendent who can adequately represent the use of the native language of the deaf – ASL, and the ASL/English philosophy within the administration at USDB.

Indeed, due to the Terms of Agreement (attached) which are binding on the Utah State Board of Education (USBOE), USDB, and JMS – we feel strongly the associate superintendent should have certain skills.

The legislature noted in 2005:

"It is the intent of the Legislature that substantial effort be made by the State Superintendent and the State School Board combine the services of USDB and the Jean Massieu Charter School for the deaf. This shall include instruction in American Sign Language as well as bi-lingual and bi-cultural education which will receive administrative support. Representatives from Jean Massieu shall be integrated in a meaningful way into the USDB Institutional Council. The State Superintendent shall report to the Education Interim Committee in September 2004 regarding the progress of this intent. If necessary the Education Interim Committee may make recommendations regarding continued funding of Jean Massieu until integration is complete." emphasis added

Furthermore, the terms of Agreement that was signed by USDB, USBOE, and JMS state:

"The USDB and JMS have agreed to merger for the purpose of most effectively, in both cost and program, serving deaf students. It is the intent of this merger to continue the JMS philosophical approach and maintain the integrity of the Jean Massieu Bi-Bi Program." emphasis added

Finally, the specific language of the legislative session ending this spring stated that the associate superintendent to administer the Utah School for the Deaf based on:

"(a) demonstrated competency as an expert educator of deaf person; and (b) knowledge of school management and the instruction of deaf persons." emphasis added

Based on these historical facts, we believe strong consideration should be given to our request to select an individual who possesses native ASL communications skills, who has the proven ability to manage Deaf education, and who has hands on experience with JMS' ASL/English philosophy. Otherwise we fear the progress that has been made within the founding of JMS and the work with the USBOE, USOE and with the legislature and the state will go backwards instead of forwards.

Finally, we wish to understand specifically the methodology that will be used to select the associate superintendent, the process which candidates and applicants will go through, and the timeline under which the decision will be made. We kindly request that you respond to our organization and all copied on this letter prior to making an appointment so that we can all understand and, if prudent, have input into the decision.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

The UAD Board

(Ron Nelson, President; Lorin Melander, Vice-President; Jen Byrnes, Secretary; Val Kinney, Treasurer; and Board Members Donna Melander, Abel Martinez, Stephen Ehrlich, Mistie Owens and Rob Kerr)



Signed by: Lorin Melander, Vice President, UAD; President, BCGUAA



Signed by: Rob Kerr, Board Member, UAD

Also endorsed by the Beehive Chapter of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association:
(Lorin Melander, President; Minnie Mae Wilding-Diaz, Vice-President; Bart Kern, Secretary; and Christopher Palaia, Treasurer)



Signed by: Minnie Mae Wilding-Diaz, Vice-President, BCGUAA

Signed by Christopher Palaia, Treasurer, BCGUAA



Cc: Representatives Kenneth Sumsion, Carl Wimmer, Jennifer Seelig, Gregory Hughes, and Merlynn Newbold

Senators Curtis Bramble and Howard Stephenson

Professor Dr. J. Freeman King, Utah State University

**Appendix B of Scoggins's letter to the 21st International Congress on the
Education of the Deaf**