



CHARTER CONNECTION

May 2021

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

[Table of Contents](#)

Director's Message

Happy May! In April's State Charter School Board meeting, Erik Olson officially joined the SCSB as its newest member. We invite you to learn a little bit more about him:



Erik Olson is an attorney specializing in complex commercial litigation, trials, and appeals, and is an owner of Marshall Olson & Hull, P.C., a local litigation boutique law firm. Erik has served on several nonprofit boards and as a nonpaid Salt Lake City Justice Court judge. He also continues to teach law students as an adjunct professor at the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah. As an advocate for public charter schools, Erik was a co-founder and the board chair at Canyon Rim Academy, stepping down recently after over 14 years of service, during which time Erik found opportunities to work with Granite School District, the Utah Legislature, the State Charter School Board, and other charter schools on matters of interest to Utah charter schools. Erik's children attended elementary school at Canyon Rim Academy and have attended junior high and high school in Granite School District. Erik received degrees in English and law from the University of Utah. He enjoys outdoor activities and world travel with his wife and five children.—*Jennifer*

[Director's Message](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[Dear Dr. Ed](#)

[Themes of the Month](#)

[Opportunities for Schools](#)

[Outstanding in Our Field](#)

[May \(2021\)](#)

[June \(2021\)](#)

SPOTLIGHT: ?

News outlets and education think-tanks are already preparing stories about students learning less during this school year than in any previous year. There have certainly been a lot of impediments to student growth, but it is wonderful to see that despite the challenges Utah's charter schools are still achieving great things. This is one of the reasons that we're spotlighting Legacy Preparatory Academy. Legacy Prep has seen wonderful gains in proficiency between the beginning of the year and middle of the year Acadience test administrations. They saw particularly exceptional growth among their students that are economically disadvantaged.

Because this demographic had been so affected by the loss of learning opportunities, it is great to see high levels of growth. The school has been very creative in its daily schedule. Students are in person for half the day, in which time they get rigorous math and reading instruction. Because the students are divided into an AM/PM schedule, it also means that students are getting more individualized instruction. The school saw particularly huge growth among its kindergarten students, which is a direct result of the teachers setting a collaborative goal. They saw data indicating that the earlier the student had academic setbacks the harder it was for them later. So the team made sure that every student was getting set up for success at the earliest possible moment.

This commitment is paying off! Keep up the good work Legacy Prep.

Dear Dr. Ed,

With spring in full swing, many students, families, and teachers are thinking about the end of the school year. High school seniors aren't the only ones who experience "senioritis" or the "end-of-the-school-year-blues." Students and staff at any level can begin to shut down and dial back their efforts towards the end of the school year. What are some tips I can use to help everyone continue to put forward their best effort until that last school bell rings?

Sincerely, Trying to Finish Strong

Dear Trying to Finish Strong,

I have 4 ideas that you might want to try to inspire responsible learners who don't quit and will keep working hard despite distractions.

- Gear Check

After months of hard work and lots of time spent in the classroom, many students are left with less-than-ideal supplies. Pencils no longer have erasers and crayons have been worn down to nubs. It's hard to do your best work when you don't have the right tools. Help students put forth their best effort up through the last day, by taking stock of their school supplies. A freshly sharpened pencil, a glue stick or two, and a new box of

crayons can make a world of difference.

- Lead by Example

Kids learn by example and are quick to adopt our attitude. If a student hears you talking about how you wish it was summer, or how you can't wait for school to be over, he/she is likely to adopt that mindset. Avoid speaking negatively about school, homework, etc. in front of your students. It will be harder for a student to put forth his/her best effort if he/she thinks you don't care, don't like school, etc.

- Stick to the Routine

Help your students develop responsibility and perseverance by maintaining that good learners do what they need to do until the job is done. Sunny days and a looming summer vacation can't stop motivated and eager learners! Maintaining a schedule, especially for those last few weeks will help reinforce these beliefs.

- Set 1-2 Reasonable and Reachable Goals

Goals are a great way to keep students motivated and on-task towards the end of a school year. Help students select one or two small goals to accomplish before the end of the school year. The goals should be challenging but reachable. Some ideas include things like moving up a level in reading, memorizing their multiplication facts, having a certain number of positive behavior days, etc. Work with students to determine steps to take to work towards their goals and encourage practice at home.

—*Dr. Ed U. Cation* (adopted from scholastic.com)

THEME OF THE MONTH

Charter School Directory, Enrollment and Financial Reports are now available in UCAP!

We would like to make you aware of a few tools that are now available in the Utah Charter Access Point (UCAP) website <https://ucap.schools.utah.gov/>.

Charter School Directory: We've added a contact directory for charter schools to make easier for you if you ever need to get a hold of a leader at a charter school. If you need the contact information for a Director, Board Chair, or Business Administrator at a charter school you can find it here: <https://ucap.schools.utah.gov/ContactDirectory>

Enrollment Reports: We've also added enrollment report <https://ucap.schools.utah.gov/EnrollmentPerformanceMetrics> where you can find enrollment data for charter schools categorized by year, authorizer, or grade. You can also see the percentage of English Learners, Ethnic Minority, Low Income, Special Education, Transfer Rate, Retention Rate, Enrollment Trend and ADM.

Financial Reports: With the Financial Reports tool <https://ucap.schools.utah.gov/FinancialReports>, you can create customized financial reports for all charter schools based on geographical districts, when the school opened, by authorizer etc.

All of these reports can be easily customized and exported to excel or PDF. We think you will find these tools helpful and you don't need a login to access them.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS

- Has your charter school governing board done its annual training on the Open and Public Meetings Act yet? The [Office of the State Auditor has a training for you](#)
- Pluralsight One, with USBE, is offering grant licenses to LEAs to provide course training for computer science, business, and technology. If interested, email amber.hellstrom@schools.utah.gov with the subject Pluralsight license, name of LEA, and emails of those needing license
- Work with an awesome charter school colleague at a SCSB authorized school? Nominate them for Employee of the Month at <https://forms.gle/dtEGG9EdnGkirHP7A>
- Mentoring trainings are available at <https://www.utahscsb.org/mentoring>. Contact Marie.Steffensen@schools.utah.gov for more information.



OUTSTANDING IN OUR FIELD

- Congratulations to the multi-talented Jeff Bossard of Itineris Early College High School who was awarded as April's Employee of the Month of SCSB Authorized Schools at Monday's Charter Directors meeting! Nominate your colleagues at <https://forms.gle/rrBxfWkSXraGLekb9>
- U.S. News released their Best High Schools of 2021 Rankings. A big congratulations to Beehive, InTech, Karl G. Maeser, NUAMES, APA Draper, AMES, and Itineris for their placements in the top 10 of all Utah high schools!
- Congratulations to Beehive Science & Technology Academy for winning Utah Best of State 2021 in the following four categories: 1) Best Principal, 2) Best Support Personnel, 3) Best Public School K-12, and 4) Best Charter School

May 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Directors Meeting 10	11	12	SCSB Meeting 13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	29	29	30
31						

June 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	SCSB Meeting 10	11	12	13
Directors Meeting 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				