



Charter Connection

November 2018

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

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Director's Message

The State Charter School Board Staff has hired a new employee, Stewart Okobia.



Mr. Okobia is the finance auditor for the State Charter School Board.

He was born in New Jersey but doesn't remember anything about it because his family moved to Africa when he was one. He returned to the U.S with his family when he was 13, settling in Utah. He has also lived in Texas and Colorado but has always called Utah home. Mr. Okobia is a passionate Utah Jazz fan who was fond of representing his home team by wearing their jersey when he lived in other states. During his free time, he enjoys soccer, volleyball, yoga, hiking, and travelling.

Mr. Okobia has a bachelor's degree in finance from Utah Valley University, and a Master of Business Administration from Weber State University. He has held various audit positions in the oil & gas, hospitality, and healthcare industries. Mr. Okobia brings a unique set of qualities to the State Charter School Board.

Jennifer

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School Spotlights:

The State Charter School Board recognizes Wallace Stegner Academy in Salt Lake City, Utah for their outstanding Medium Growth Percentile (MGP) score of 80 MGP in Math for the 2017-2018 school year. Wallace Stegner Academy rose from a 40 MGP in the 2016-2017 school year to an impressive 80 MGP for the 2017-2018 school year. This excellent MGP growth performance is due to Wallace Stegner Academy implementing best practices in supporting students and teachers. Some of these practices include:

- 🔑 Strong teacher development and support
- 🔑 Strong RTI program
- 🔑 Effective six-week remediation courses
- 🔑 Weekly student data analysis
- 🔑 Weekly formative assessments

Dr. Ed Speaks

I am going to break from the typical forum this month and instead of answering a reader's question, I am going to share some thoughts and articles which relate to the theme of giving thanks. I so appreciate that we take dedicated time to reflect on those things for which we are grateful. Being educated is one of the many things for which I am extremely grateful. My education has empowered me and opened many doors of opportunity. I sincerely hope you too feel grateful to be educated, and to have the privilege of educating others. Gratitude can be a powerful tool in your schools and classrooms. One [article](#) I was reading recently suggested that **gratitude is the most powerful tool for improving class culture**. The teacher, Owen Griffith wrote, "gratitude has empowered me to teach more effectively, appreciate my individual students, grow in my profession, and enjoy life." He continued, "utilizing gratitude I am able to

model one of the most important lessons in life, having a positive attitude, especially about the aspects of life that challenge me." Doesn't that sound wonderful! His article gives some tips and tricks for implementing gratitude journals in the classroom. [Dr. Kerry Howells](#) has several videos and books regarding Gratitude in Education and its relevance in gaining greater resilience, improved relationships and increased student engagement. She [wrote](#), "practice deepens our gratitude because it moves us from the sense of being grateful for something...to expressing this in an action, and doing so intentionally, authentically and consistently."

[Researchers Jeffery Froh and Giacomo Bono](#) have demonstrated that **when students are thankful they feel more connected to their schools and teachers**. They wrote, "gratitude does more than just make kids feel good; it also improves their mood, mental health, and life satisfaction, and it can jumpstart more purposeful engagement in life at a critical moment in their development, when their identity is taking shape." Their research supports the idea of a gratitude journal as a means for boosting gratitude in adults and youth alike. What's more, research shows the benefits of gratitude can spread beyond students to teachers and staff, not only improving their work but helping to prevent burnout. The message is clear: **gratitude improves all of our lives!** Let me leave you with a link to [Kid President's 25 Reasons to Be Thankful!](#) Could be a great way to introduce gratitude journals!?!

Best Wishes & Much Success (and lots of gratitude),
Dr. Ed U. Cation

Themes of the Month

In the past few years several required policies have been added or revised via state statute or USBE Rule. As we have started reviewing policy additions and revisions we found several new requirements missing. Consistently, we found three missing required policies:

- 1) [R277-530](#). A governing board shall develop policies to support for educators, educational leadership, and educational school counselors in the implementation of Effective Educator Standards.
- 2) [R277-716](#). An LEA shall have a policy to identify and serve students who qualify for ELL/LEP services, including establishing appropriate assessment protocol, communicating in the parent's preferred language, and providing staff training.
- 3) [§ 53A-11-601](#). This is a policy update to include the allowance of the administration of an opiate antagonist to a student in accordance with the [Opiate Overdose Response Act](#).

Reviewing policies should be annual item for one board meeting. For example, access to technology and internet policies should be reviewed every three years ([§ 53G-7-1003](#)). Governance board legal representation can present required policy additions or revisions at this annual review.

A current list of policies is available on the [USCSB website here](#). This document consists of two lists: required and suggested policies that governing boards should consider. If you have questions, you can contact [Rabecca Cisneros](#) or [Brett Campbell](#) at the SCSB office.

Opportunities for Schools

- Beehive Academy is organizing MathMatters 2018 for 5th and 6th graders. A great fun for Math lovers to be held on November 10th.
<http://beehiveacademy.org/news-and-events/news-feed/item/323-mathmatters2018>
- A [School Safety Seminar](#) is being held on November 8th from 8:30-2:30 at the Salt Lake Community College's Oak Room. Click the link above for more details.
- The Esther Katz Rosen Precollege Psychology Grant Program provides financial support for efforts aimed at improving the quality of education in psychological science and its application in the secondary schools for high ability students. Proposals must focus on supplying education for gifted and talented high school students. [More information can be found here.](#)
- www.Utahstatesong.com is a new resource for teaching Utah History. The website contains 1. VIDEO: State Song- "Utah This Is the Place" 2. Introductory Sheet- to "U for Utah" Student Presentation- can be downloaded and shared with others 3. Narration for the student presentation 4. 5 Utah Songs- with vocals 5. 5 Utah Songs- with accompaniment only.
- [Grant available for attending the Utah Science Teachers Association Conference in February, 2019.](#)
- Save these dates for your [regional seminar regarding special education](#) topics!
South – October 27
West – November 17
North – January 26
East – March 9



Outstanding in Our Field

- AMES' students, Isaac Bromley Dufano and Christina Novac are National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists, with Cole Taylor receiving National merit Scholarship Commended status. In addition, Isaac Bromley Dufano scored a perfect 36 on the ACT. Way to go!
- Congratulations to C.S. Lewis Academy, Dual Immersion Academy, and Mana Academy for exiting Turnaround!
- Rockwell Charter High School's Samantha Lofgren, a 12th grade student, won the [Larry Lott Award at the Utah Shakespeare Festival](#) in late September, and Rockwell's baseball team won the 2A Fall Region Title. Very cool!
- Bonneville Academy become the first school in Tooele County to have teachers, the student body and parents collectively take advantage of training designed to disarm an active shooter!

November 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			USBE Meeting 1	USBE Standing Committees/USDB Board Mtg/Study Session 2	3	4
5	6	7	SCSB Meeting 8	9	10	11
Veterans' Day 12	Charter Directors 13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	Thanksgiving Day 22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	USBE Meeting 6	USBE Steering 7	8	9
10	11	12	SCSB Meeting 13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	Christmas Day 25	26	27	28	29	30
31						