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BE Informed ²⁰²³ Empowered Engaged

UTAH PTA ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 6, 2023

JORDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT AUXILIARY OFFICES

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

UTAH PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Region 16 Director	Amanda Baldonado
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Region 18 Director	
Region 19 Director	Cheree Larson
Region 20 Director	Kim McKone
Region 21 Director	Becca Crookston
Awards Specialist	Ann Howden
Bylaws Specialist	Maresa Manzione
Digital Wellness Specialist	Tina Seastrand

Diversity & Inclusivity	
Specialist	Michelle A. Love-Day
Family Engagement Specialist	
Historian Specialist	Mindi Barker
Male Engagement Specialist	Matt Jenkins
Military Families Specialist	Kathy Allred
Reflections Specialist	Rebekah Pitts
Resolutions Specialist	Cheryl Phipps
Special Needs Specialist	Karen Conder
Technology Specialist	Jenna Smith
Trust Lands Specialist	Heather Van Leeuwen

OFFICE STAFF

Office Coordinator	Annette Yenchik
Bookkeeper	Courtnee Andrew
Graphic Designer	Julia Lloyd

VISION OF UTAH PTA

To fulfill the mission, Utah PTA will:

Advocate by speaking on behalf of all children and youth in schools, in the community, before governmental bodies, and before other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

Develop programs, resources, and leadership skills that enhance the lives of all children, youth, and their families.

Engage the public in united and equitable efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all children and youth.

PURPOSES OF THE PTA

The Purposes of the Utah PTA, in common with those of the National PTA, are:

1. To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, places of worship, and throughout the community;
2. To raise the standards of home life;
3. To advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth;
4. To promote the collaboration and engagement of families and educators in the education of children and youth;
5. To engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all children and youth; and
6. To advocate for fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding.



WELCOME FROM COREY FAIRHOLM

Welcome to the 2023 Utah PTA Advocacy Conference. It is inspiring to see the dedication and commitment of every volunteer in advocating for the potential of every child in the state. This conference will provide valuable insights and tools to further empower you in your advocacy efforts. The wide range of topics covered in this conference, community engagement, education, family life, health, individual development, safety, and student leadership highlights the comprehensive approach Utah PTA takes to support children and families.

Utah PTA is the largest child advocacy association in the state and nation. Our shared mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

A huge thank you to the Utah PTA Advocacy Team and their tireless work in collaborating with legislators, community leaders, and organizations to advocate for the children in Utah. Their dedication is instrumental in driving positive change. I encourage you to follow their advocacy efforts throughout the year on Utah PTA social media and www.utahpta.org website. You can join our Take Action Network: <https://www.votervoice.net/UTPTA/register> or email kristina@utahpta.org to receive information about the advocacy efforts.

Thank you for your attendance today, and I hope everyone shares the knowledge and insights gained from this conference with your respective PTAs. Together we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of children in our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corey Fairholm".

Corey Fairholm
Utah PTA President

UTAH PTA MISSION

To make every child's potential a reality
by engaging and empowering families and communities
to advocate for all children.

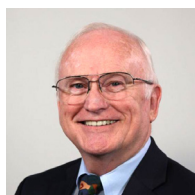
SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	On-site Registration	lobby
9:00 AM - 10:40 AM	Welcome and Keynote Speakers: Bill Cosgrove, MD, Retired Pediatrician Leadership Panel on Positive Engagement	main
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	Session 1: (Choose 1)	classrooms will be announced
	• Be Informed: Media Literacy	
	• Advocacy 101	
	• How to Talk Politics and Stay Friends	
11:35 AM - 12:15 PM	Session 2: (Choose 1)	classrooms will be announced
	• Current Mental Health Issues & Resources	
	• Advocacy in Real Life	
	• How to Advocate for Your Child	
12:20 PM - 12:35 PM	Lunch pickup	lobby
12:35 PM - 2:00 PM	Utah PTA Fall Business Meeting	main

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



BILL COSGROVE, MD, RETIRED PEDIATRICIAN

Bill Cosgrove is a retired pediatrician. Starting practice in the early eighties, he quickly realized that to improve the lives of his patients he had to learn to advocate for changes in their families, their communities, their state, and their world. He currently advocates for infant and maternal mental health, immunizations, and lessening the world scourges of AIDS, TB, and poverty.



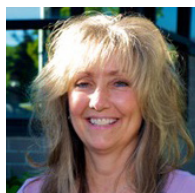
BETTINA SMITH EDMONDSON, MBA, LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL

Bettina Smith Edmondson is a native of Layton and serves as the city's only sitting Councilwoman. She is a graduate of the University of Utah and holds an MBA from Weber State University School of Business. She lives in West Layton with her husband and children. Her passion is helping others succeed, and the greatest way to do that is through education and sharing of information. Her varied experiences growing up in Layton and working in the public sector with businesses, community leaders, policy makers, and citizens throughout Utah have prepared her to work in this role. She thrives on open and honest communication, so don't hesitate to start a conversation!



ANTHONY GODFREY - ADMINISTRATOR REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Anthony Godfrey is currently the superintendent of schools for Jordan School District and is a 26-year employee of the district, with 13 of those years spent in the administrative cabinet. He has been a classroom English teacher, assistant principal, principal, and administrator of schools. Dr. Godfrey has a Master's Degree and Doctorate from the University of Utah and a bachelor of arts degree in English Teaching and French from Weber State University.



BRIGIT GERRARD - LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD

Brigit Gerrard is currently the president of the Utah School Boards Association and serves as the vice president of the Davis School Board. She is a resident of Layton.



REP. KAREN PETERSON - STATE ELECTED OFFICIAL

Karen Peterson is a member of the Utah House of Representatives. She serves on the House Education Committee and the Public Education and the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittees. She served for several years as the Trust Lands Specialist for Utah PTA. Karen is a resident of Clinton.

THANK YOU TO THE JORDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE USE OF THIS BUILDING

SESSION 1 INFORMATION

BE INFORMED: MEDIA LITERACY

*Davina Sauthoff and
Gretchen Zaitzeff*



The Problem: In today's information age, it is getting harder to separate fact from fiction. 26% of U.S. adults could correctly identify five factual statements presented to them. 96% of students surveyed failed to challenge the credibility of unreliable sources. Learn more about news and media literacy learning in order to create better informed, more engaged and more empowered individuals — and ultimately a stronger democracy. Topics include recognizing misinformation and how to debunk it, determining the credibility of a source, and how to employ lateral reading to get clarity and context.

Davina Sauthoff is the Library Media Specialist for the Utah State Board of Education where she provides support, collaboration and professional learning to K-12 school librarians. Davina is passionate about leveraging the role of school librarians and the vital role they play in elevating the lived experience of Utah students, as well as supporting their academic achievement. A current project is an eight-part webinar series centered on news and media literacy skills with the News Literacy Project. Prior to her current position, Davina was the district library coach for Granite School District, a junior high school librarian, and a classroom teacher.

Gretchen Zaitzeff has worked in school libraries for over 15 years in multiple states and at all levels. Currently, she is the District Library Media Specialist for the Canyons School District in Sandy, Utah. She has a master's in library and information science from the iSchool at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has taught School Library Management in Illinois State University's post-baccalaureate licensure program. Previously, she served as a board member at-large for Association of Illinois School Library Educators and is the current president of the Utah Educational Library Media Association. An engaging conference presenter, Gretchen connects with audiences and shares her passionate beliefs that information literacy is essential to the preservation of democracy and that the power of school libraries to provide students equitable access to the authentic stories and accurate information is both life-changing and lifesaving.

ADVOCACY 101

Amber Bonner and Julie King



Have you ever had a concern and didn't know who could help you make a change? Or wanted to reach out to a decision maker in your community but didn't know how? Where can you find their contact information? How do you know what they are working on? What is the best way to reach out to them? Advocacy 101 can help

you answer all of these questions and more! Learn how to develop a relationship with your school board, city leaders and even state legislators. All of them need your input and perspective to make the best decisions possible for your school, community and even our state, so come find out the best way to make your voice heard.

Amber Bonner is a wife and mother of seven amazing children. She is passionate about children and education and finds joy in working to improve education in our state. Amber is a former Alpine School Board Member, and has served on many school community councils, PTAs, and with other school groups. She is currently serving as the Utah PTA Education Commissioner.

Julie King is the mother of four children and a fierce advocate for learning in all its forms to meet the individual needs of each child. Julie is currently serving on three education boards, filling the role of vice president on all three - Alpine School District Board of Education, Utah County Academy of Sciences, and Mountainland Technical College.

HOW TO TALK POLITICS AND STAY FRIENDS

Alyssa May



We were taught not to talk about politics, religion, or money. Now we have an entire generation of people who don't know how to talk with each other." Let's learn how to have more civil and constructive conversations about politics. You'll learn how to have more peaceful conversations and get the opportunity to practice with each other. We want you to take this knowledge home and teach your kids how to have more productive conversations, too.

Alyssa May is a contributor to the Utah Civics Project, which brings bite-sized civics and government lessons to Utahns. The project launched in May 2023 and is on Instagram and Facebook, breaking down legislative sessions, education funding, caucus night, and much more. She's a PTA advocacy rep, school para, and was the runner up in FanX's 2022 Lip Sync Battle.

**Please complete
the 2023
Advocacy
Conference
Feedback Survey.**



SESSION 2 INFORMATION

CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES & RESOURCES

Benée Larsen



We will discuss the current mental health data for Utah children and walk through how to find the data for your area. We will share how to connect with local professionals for resources to bring to your school and community and walk through scenarios so we are up to date on current resources and evidence-based strategies.

Benée Larsen is the Director of the NAMI Utah Prevention Department and Co-Chair of the Utah Suicide Prevention Coalition. She works with and supports local coalitions throughout Utah to implement and evaluate suicide prevention and mental health promotion strategies. The National Alliance on Mental Illness is a national nonprofit whose mission is to help ensure the dignity and improve the lives of those impacted by mental illness and their families through support, education, and advocacy. Benée is a certified instructor of Mental Health First Aid, QPR (Question, Persuade, & Refer), Vital Cognition suicide prevention in the workplace, Creating Safety suicide prevention training, and Safe Messaging Training..

ADVOCACY IN REAL LIFE

Angelee Aedo



Ever wonder how to go home from these conferences and put the things you learned into action? Ever feel overwhelmed by how much work there is to do? Advocacy in real life will teach you how to still advocate amongst the busyness of life. In this class you will get tips and tricks to advocate for yourself, your children and others even when you feel like you are barely above water. Our Family Life Commissioner will teach us how to take advocacy in small, real-life bites and how to be realistic with our goals.

Angelee Aedo lives in Lehi, Utah. She is a mom to five children. She grew up in Texas and has spent most of her married life between California and Utah. She attended BYU and WGU with a mathematics education major with an emphasis in family life. Angelee has spent many hours volunteering at the schools and in her church and truly enjoys serving other people. She is kind hearted and sincere. Angelee joined the PTA when she moved to Utah because she wanted to find friends, and she found friends and so much more! In her free time, Angelee enjoys dancing, playing all types of games and decorating. She enjoys time outside and being with her family and friends.

HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD

Lindsey Cunningham



Often, families wonder if their child has a disability and what steps can be taken to help determine if their student needs special education. Some families have a recent classification and eligibility for special education but don't know the next steps. Other families have spent years working with an individualized education program (IEP) team, and parents are curious about how they can better advocate for their child. What are the rules of special education, and how can you help ensure meaningful inclusion and team participation in creating and designing the IEP? During this session, we will cover parts of the special education rules, how to engage in the IEP process, and discuss ways to help ensure your child receives a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment.

Lindsey Cunningham is the Inclusion Coordinator in the Student Support Section at the Utah State Board of Education and has worked in education for 18 years. She has taught in grades K-22, supporting students of many different abilities and is also the mom of a child with a learning disability. Lindsey is passionate about all students having access to high-quality teachers and the general education curriculum,

especially for our students with disabilities and minorities. Lindsey has had the privilege of leading out the state's Portrait of Meaningful Inclusion for Students with Disabilities work and has had the opportunity to present and share it with parents and educators this past summer during the Meaningful Inclusion for Students with Disabilities Conferences. Lindsey has presented nationally on improving student outcomes using the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Reflective Framework and partnered with stakeholders across Utah to design the framework and technical assistance documents to support this work. During her free time, Lindsey loves to spend time with her family, attend concerts, and travel.



CONFERENCE RULES

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

1. All voting delegates MUST have their membership registered on the membership list of their local PTA/ PTSA and on the books of the Treasurer of Utah PTA fourteen (14) days preceding the annual conference (Utah PTA Bylaws). All delegates are verified by Utah PTA prior to the Conference.
2. Non-voting delegates may attend all meetings of the conference, provided they register and pay a fee.
3. A badge shall be provided for in-person entrance to meetings. Badges will be required for in-person admission to all portions of the conference.
4. Workshop presenters and guests shall be provided with identification badges entitling them to admission.
5. During the general sessions, non-voting attendees will be observers only as per Utah PTA Bylaws. (ARTICLE XXII:Section 7)
6. In-person delegates are requested to be seated before the opening of each session.
7. No message is to be presented directly to the chair (the president). All messages and announcements must be given to a designated person at the floor microphone or through the virtual chat.
8. Any person disrupting the business of the conference shall be asked to leave the meeting or be removed from the webinar.
9. The minutes of the conference shall be approved by a committee appointed by the president.
10. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conference in all cases not provided for in Utah PTA Bylaws or these Conference Rules.



SPEAKING AND VOTING PROCEDURES

1. Voting delegates must be present in person or virtually to vote.
2. Delegates must be a member of a Utah PTA unit to make motions, debate, and vote.
3. No delegate may represent more than one PTA unit when voting.
4. Only voting delegates may comment or vote on a question.
5. In-person delegates must come to the microphone on the floor and be acknowledged by the chair before speaking and writing their name, the name of the unit represented, and the unit location.
6. During the business portion of the meeting the Zoom Chat feature shall be reserved for virtual delegates who wish to speak to the business.
7. Virtual delegates shall raise their hand using the Zoom raise hand feature and type their name, the name of the unit represented, the unit location, and their purpose for commenting (for, against, or question) in the Zoom Chat. Comments from virtual attendees will be taken in the order received through chat.
8. The designated person at the table will read any business received in the Zoom Chat once acknowledged by the chair.
9. Once acknowledged by the chair, the virtual attendee will be unmuted and allowed to speak.
10. Comments from all delegates are limited to two minutes at a time on any question and only twice on the same question. No delegate may comment a second time until all delegates seeking recognition have had an opportunity to speak.
11. To make a second comment, delegates must follow the same process to be acknowledged and given the ability to comment again. Delegates must observe the timer on the screen.
12. No business shall be on the floor more than 10 minutes unless debate time is extended. To extend debate time, the motion to extend debate must be adopted by a two-thirds vote. Inquiry motions or points of order do not count in the 10 minutes.
13. The chair shall recognize delegates for and against a motion in alternating order.
14. To stop debate and force the vote, a member should obtain the floor and say, "I call the previous question." This requires a second and a two-thirds vote.
15. If discussion is needed, the question on a motion should not be called until there has been a reasonable amount of discussion on both sides of the issue, at least two "FOR" and two "AGAINST".
16. A tie vote is a lost vote.
17. Hasty action may be corrected by use of the motion to reconsider. The motion may be made only by one who voted on the prevailing side.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AT A GLANCE

Motion	Second?	Vote Required	Debatable?	Amendable?	Reconsiderable?
Adjourn Meeting	Yes	Majority	No	No	No
Amend a Pending Motion	Yes	Majority	Yes, if motion to be amended is debatable	Yes	Yes
Call the Previous Question	Yes	2/3	No	No	Yes
Close Nominations	Yes	2/3	No	Yes	No
Division of Assembly	No	Any Member	No	No	No
Limit or Extend Debate	Yes	2/3	No	Yes	Yes
Main Motion	Yes	Majority	Yes	Yes	Yes
Point of Order	No	Ruled on by Chair	No	No	No
Postpone to a Definite Time	Yes	Majority	Yes	Yes	Yes
Question of Privilege	No	Majority	No	No	Yes
Recess	Yes	Majority	No	Yes	No
Reconsider	Yes	Majority	Yes, if motion to which it applied is debatable	No	No
Refer (commit)	Yes	Majority	Yes	Yes	No
Rescind	Yes	Majority with notice, 2/3 without notice	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suspension of Rules	Yes	2/3	No	No	No
Table a Motion	Yes	Majority	No	No	No
Remove Motion From Table	Yes	Majority	No	No	No
Withdrawal of Motion	No	Majority	No	No	No

THE UTAH PTA 2023-24 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



EDUCATION: Support an adequately-funded, public school system by funding an 8% WPU increase over and above growth and inflation; implement policies to increase proficiency levels by improving attendance, reducing class sizes, and supporting teachers; increase academic excellence for all Utah students; and prioritize local control to LEAs and individual schools.

HEALTH: Support legislative action that focuses on the diverse mental health needs of Utah's students and families, with a focus on promoting protective factors. This includes increasing public knowledge and understanding of mental health concerns throughout the state, access to resources, as well as providing funding for proactive prevention, timely interventions, and community-based initiatives utilizing evidence-based methods.

SAFETY: Support funding to strengthen school safety measures. This includes the improvement of school infrastructure to ensure safety and security, implementation of comprehensive safety training, adoption of evidence-based strategies for community violence intervention and means reduction, as well as the education of families and communities on school safety protocols, children's online security, and the assessment of digital threats posed to schools across Utah.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: Support policies which will increase constructive family engagement with schools and the community and promote local positive parental involvement across the State of Utah.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT: Support programs and policies that promote constructive civic engagement and citizenship, positive character development, and strengthen individual students.

PENDING RESOLUTION

Resolutions are formal statements of Utah PTA public or association policy approved by the delegates at the annual Utah PTA Advocacy Conference or the annual National PTA and Utah PTA Conventions. These statements direct the advocacy work of Utah PTA. Documentation for the following resolutions can be found at www.utahpta.org/proposed-resolutions-0.

SAF 2023-3 | IMPROVING THE EARTHQUAKE SAFETY OF UTAH SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The purposes of PTA include promoting the welfare of children and youth in schools, advocating for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth; and, engaging the public in united efforts to secure the well-being of all children and youth¹; and,

WHEREAS, Utah resides within an earthquake-prone region, carrying a 43% probability of experiencing an earthquake of magnitude 6.75 or higher along the Wasatch Front over the next 50 years; additionally, there is a 57% likelihood of encountering an earthquake of magnitude 6.0 or greater^{2,3}; and,

WHEREAS, Unreinforced Masonry (URM) buildings, are defined as old brick, stone, or concrete-block buildings that lack steel reinforcement to prevent collapse during an earthquake⁴; these buildings were built before current seismic safety building codes were in effect⁵; and,

WHEREAS, The 2020 Magna earthquake, which seriously damaged several Utah schools and could, potentially, have caused serious injuries or deaths if school had been in session, was only a magnitude 5.7 earthquake⁶ --a magnitude 6.75 earthquake would release 30 times more energy than the Magna 5.7 magnitude earthquake, and a magnitude 7 would release 90 times more energy^{7,8}; and,

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 2,750 or more Utahns could die in a major Utah quake, which would mean deaths on the order of Hurricane Katrina or 9/11 and almost 50 times the number of deaths in the largest California earthquakes of the last half-century⁹; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has identified a Utah Wasatch-Front earthquake as one of the deadliest likely disasters in the country--most of those deaths would likely occur in buildings with Unreinforced Masonry (URM)¹⁰; and,

WHEREAS, The first statewide inventory of earthquake risk to Utah's K-12 public schools (released February, 2022) found that 119 Utah school campuses have Unreinforced Masonry (URM) buildings at very serious risk of collapse in a large earthquake, and 72,126 Utah children (12% of K-12 public school students) attend school in these dangerous URM buildings^{11,12}; and,

WHEREAS, The school inventory also found that another 14 schools have buildings that are "likely URMs," another 130 have buildings that are "likely under-reinforced masonry," and a total of 326 buildings have a high risk of collapse in a seismic event¹³; and,

WHEREAS, Dangerous URM schools are found in twenty of Utah's twenty-nine counties and in thirty of Utah's forty-one school districts throughout the state¹⁴; and,

WHEREAS, Student deaths during an earthquake would be a devastating loss to Utah families and communities; additionally, the ability of schools to recover quickly after an earthquake and continue to educate and support students will be critical to students' and families' emotional, physical, and mental health¹⁵; educational continuity will also be critical to the recovery and resilience of the wider Utah community¹⁶--as the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated, parents can't return to work if students can't return to school; and,

WHEREAS, Students are required by law to attend school and spend much of their days in these vulnerable schools¹⁷; and,

WHEREAS, The Utah Division of Emergency Management (DEM), the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other community partners have identified Utah's risky schools as a top disaster priority and are currently focusing extensive time, resources, and energy on the problem^{18,19}; and,

WHEREAS, This current focus on the issue and the release of the school inventory report create a unique window of opportunity for school districts to leverage state and federal expertise and funding to bring attention to these serious risks and help resolve them²⁰; many of these risky schools will be well-positioned to apply for federal grants to help retrofit these schools if they can conduct an initial assessment of the likely costs of retrofit or replacement ²¹; and,

WHEREAS, Most Utahns, including parents and students, are not aware of the risk URMs and other seismically-unsound buildings pose to Utah's students in an earthquake, and widespread public awareness and support will be critical to help fix these vulnerable schools.²² Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies collaborate with the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, the Utah Division of Emergency Management, Envision Utah, and other community partners to educate PTA members, public officials, school board members, school district leaders, community members, teachers, school support staff, and appropriate-aged students about the risks of URM and encourage these individuals to know the earthquake-risk status of their local schools; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage and support passage of legislation that will fund the initial retrofit-or-replace cost assessments of each identified URM school building and further funds to assess other schools at lower, but still significant, risk; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage and support passage of legislation that will help school districts fund earthquake retrofit or replacement of seismically unsound school buildings (including funding local cost-shares for federal grants), particularly for districts that lack adequate bonding capacity or authority to raise necessary funds; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage the state to extend the school inventory to include all Utah schools, including public charter schools and private schools, which may not yet have been evaluated.

SAVE THE DATE

NATIONAL GUARD VETERANS DAY CONCERT

Friday, November 10, 2023
Tabernacle at Temple Square

VIRTUAL PTA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Friday, January 12, 2024

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, January 27, 2024
Indian Hills Middle School

STUDENT DAYS AT THE CAPITOL

February 8 & 13, 2024

FOUNDER'S DAY WITH THE LEGISLATURE

Friday, February 9, 2024

UTAH PTA - BATTLE OF THE BANDS

April 27, 2024

UTAH PTA REFLECTIONS AWARDS NIGHT

April 2024 (TBD) by invitation only

UTAH PTA LEADERSHIP CONVENTION

Wednesday and Thursday, May 8 & 9, 2024
Davis Conference Center, Layton, Utah

**LEARN ABOUT THE
2023-2024 DATES**



STAY CONNECTED TO UTAH PTA ALL YEAR