

URSA Board Meeting

April 28, 2017

CUES, Richfield, Utah

Present:	Scott Crane	Kodey Hughes
	JJ Grant	Sam Ray
	Dave Brotherson	Jason Strate
	Terry Shoemaker	Derek Larson
	Cheryl Cox	Ray Timothy
	Duke Mossman	Johnna Boyack

1. **Welcome by Supt. Crane, President.**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** After a brief discussion of the minutes from February 17, 2017 Kodey Hughes motioned to approve the minutes as written. Dave Brotherson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **Financial Update:** JJ Grant gave a handout and review of the current finances of the URSA account. JJ was asked to check on the status of the conference funding from USOE.
4. **USBE:** No representative was available at today's meeting. It was suggested that contact be made with USBE about having a representative at future meetings.
5. **Utah State Board of Education Update:** Scott Nielson was not present at today's meeting.
6. **UETN Update:** UETN is still working on the Teachers-Teachers contract. Workforce service says they can provide equivalent services. There is no national access with workforce service. Supt Crane shared the current site that he is using: indeed.com. Duke will send out information on the future meeting that will be held with workforce services. The current idea is to have a plan in place by the June USSA meeting. UETN spent almost 2 years putting together the category 2 RFP for E-Rate reimbursements, working with a group who has completed this project previously, but they were told by the FCC/USAC that anyone using their master contract would be denied. UETN will be returning to D.C. with the e-Rate team to meet with the USAC group in person to try and get the funding back.
7. **USSA Update:** Terry Shoemaker led a discussion with the URSA Board the repercussions of the USBE Rule R277-531.5. Performance pay for teachers will be tied to their evaluations. Terry also reviewed an article in the Deseret News regarding the issue of pay for teachers. Supt. Crane suggested that if this topic is discussed at the June USSA meeting it should be presented with a positive attitude.
8. **URSA District Help:** Supt. Ray discussed with the URSA board the possibility of the regional service centers providing assistance to the rural districts when issues are URSA wide. The burden on rural districts to handle paperwork & positions is currently overwhelming and perhaps district needs can be served on a larger scale. The districts would have to be willing to fund a person to handle these items. Some difficulties would be found in the access of data. The service center directors have been having discussions on this matter and they would like to add this item to the July agenda.
9. **2017 Rural Schools Conference Discussion:**
 - a. JJ shared with the group a spreadsheet of the past statistics of presenters. JJ also shared a list of the current presenter proposals. After a brief rundown he asked for any comments or suggestions on the presentation proposals. Terry Shoemaker asked if the board would like him to present on "How to Work with the Legislature".
 - b. Notifications should be sent to USBE, USSA, teacher groups, Utah School Board, etc. when the email to past attendees goes out.
 - c. Meals for the conference are supplied by the catering service on the SUU campus. No outside food is allowed. The registration cost for the attendees does not cover the cost of the food.

- d. Pre-Conference Session – USBE has contacted JJ about having a preconference meeting on the Digital & Blended Learning Bootcamp. July 10-11, 2017
- e. Vendors – contact companies that have submitted presentation proposals and direct them to the vendor registration site. Companies make their decisions to attend conferences a year in advance so URSA is a little late with the notification.
- f. Conference Awards – Representative Last and Senator Hillyard were suggested for this year’s award recipients. The directors will need to approach their boards about names for teacher and administrator of the year. Please send all information to SESC as soon as possible.

10. Board Dialogue:

- a. Secure Rural School Funding – Jason worked with BA’s and Superintendents to put together a letter that is being sent to Senator Hatch and the Utah delegation to let them know how the rural districts will be affected regarding funds in lieu of taxes. According to Duke the AESA has formed a delegation that will go to D.C. Dave Brotherson recommended that Duke be the member that will keep the board apprised of the current status of the Educator Call to Action. It was suggested that Duke Mossman & the current URSA president perhaps attend the September conference. Dave Brotherson motioned that Duke and the president of URSA attend the September meeting in Washington D.C. and then report back to the URSA Board on this subject. Funding will be provided by the URSA board with reauthorization yearly. Kodey Hughes made a friendly amendment that during the years that Duke is attending the meeting the URSA representative i.e. president, president elect, superintendent, should come from a different region. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. It was suggested that this activity be discussed yearly and a motion requested. Duke will monitor situation for need and bring up the subject with the board. If it becomes a financial burden for the URSA board we could approach districts on a per student level for funding.
- b. ARL/APT Program – SUU has been working on developing a program of 4 courses for use within the districts for the regions. One teacher would be chosen from each region to teach the courses. SUU is writing a syllabus to be put in the canvas system to be used by teachers:
 - i. Transitions to teaching/technology
 - ii. Creating a Learning Environment
 - iii. Curriculum Planning & Assessment
 - iv. Teaching Diverse Populations (SPED & SIOP)
- c. 2018 Legislative Funding Priorities:
 - i. Utah Futures has received no funding this year. There is no money for additional development. The superintendents need to decide if this is a program worth saving along with the Snow College Concurrent Enrollment program. Lobbying may need to be done in order to secure some future funding. Senator Okerlund has been working on a bill file for the Snow College Concurrent Enrollment program. It was suggested that discussions be made with USBE, USSA, etc. in order to see some results for both of these programs next year. The Legislature wants to see some benefit to Utah students with the Utah Futures program before additional funding will be given.
- d. Aspire: The state board addressed but made no movement on this program. Scott Jones said that money is available for this program. The districts using this program need to contact the state board and let them know how important this program is for them. Please call your board members.
- e. Roundtable:
 - i. Digital Teaching and Learning program still has some funding available. UETN is negotiating a statewide Canvas license at the rate of \$2 per student for 1 year with UETN subsidizing. After this year the cost will return to \$6-\$7 per student. Derek Larsen requested a possible 2 year agreement.
 - ii. Software Inventory - now looking at content areas that districts will need.
 - iii. Statewide Inventory – would like to be able to show before & after results for the legislature.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.