

Rural Schools Association Board Meeting

September 12, 2017

Tintic School District, Eureka, Utah

Present: Shannon Dulaney
Scott Crane
Larry Davis
Jason Strate
Edna LaMarca
Kodey Hughes
Ray Timothy
Duke Mossman
Dave Brotherson

Sam Ray
Bart Reynolds
Terry Shoemaker
Nathan Jenkins
Kenwyn Derby
Johnna Boyack
Cheryl Cox, via phone
Natalie Grange, via phone
Leilani Nautu, via phone

1. **Welcome** by Shannon Dulaney, President.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Larry Davis has requested that he be added to the mailing list for future communications. After a brief review of the minutes Kodey Hughes, Tintic motioned to approve as written. Dave Brotherson, Duchesne seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **Financial Report:** Scott Crane, SESC gave an overview of the current finances of the Utah Rural Schools Association. The board encourages leadership to speak with USBE for future conference funding. Natalie Grange asked that USBE be given a heads up on how much URSA will need for next year's conference. The approximate amount of \$20,000 was given for possible speaker expenses and a letter will be drafted to send to Superintendent Syd Dickson for 2018.
4. **USBE Report:** Natalie Grange, USBE, reported that they are working with the NESS workgroup on the funding formula. She does not anticipate any changes to the NESS funding for this legislative year.
5. **SUU:** Leilani Nautu had a presentation on Professional Development Pathways for the URSA Board. The presentation will be sent to the board via email.
6. **Utah State Board of Education Update:** no representative was available at today's meeting.
7. **UETN Update:** Ray Timothy, UETN. The legislative funding request for the upcoming session has been developed to include \$1.3 million of ongoing funding and \$700,000 in one time funding. They are adding a 100 gig backbone, from Salt Lake to St. George, for Higher Education that will also benefit K-12 schools. The UETN took a position of support for Utah Futures. UETN will be requesting funding for building upgrades, not legislative but through University of Utah. Duke suggested that they add Canvas funding to their list. Ray suggested that if the districts are interested in Canvas that they contact their State Board Member. Canvas has offered a statewide contact at \$1.8 million that would make Canvas available for all districts and charter schools. Kodey asked that the directors notify all the superintendents in their region and have them contact their State Board Member. Canvas will be holding an information reception on 9/21/2017 at their Canvas facility located at 6300 South and 3000 East in Salt Lake City and Ray will send the information to the URSA Board. October 10-13, 2017 is the SAINT Conference, which is a security conference, and scholarships are available. They will also have a leadership strand. The deadline for registration is 9/20/2017. Ray has requested that the districts

contact UEN with any networking needs for FY '18 by 9/15/2017. It is time to do a Digital Teaching and Learning inventory once again as it has been 2 years since the last survey.

8. **West Ed Survey:** Kenwyn Derby was at today's meeting to gather information from the board as to what items they would like to see in a possible report requested by the URSA Board. The information could be used for future legislative purposes. The last study was completed in 2012 by Utah Futures, the first since 1998. West Ed cannot conduct a survey, but they can assist with the creation of a survey. They can acquire data, analyze data, write reports and formulate charts and graphs that would enable discussion. It usually takes about a year to get approval for a project like this, but they can fast track the application for URSA. The board gave some suggestions as to what items they would like to see further information on, such as teacher retention, technology, professional development costs and transportation. Kodey Hughes, Tintic, motioned to move forward with West Ed and see what they can provide working through Duke Mossman as the URSA point person and if possible take the year timeline to pursue whatever can be provided. Larry Davis seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Kenwyn will work up a proposal with the information she has received to present to her director. Kenwyn estimates that there will be a 5-6 week timeline to approval. The survey can be done 2 phase with some material being presented for this year's legislative session and more in depth information for next year.
9. **USSA Update:** Terry Shoemaker reviewed with the board handouts regarding the legislative priorities, property tax revenues, board voted levy and tax rate history. Terry is asking the BA's from districts to calculate the rate of loss by figuring how much of a change has occurred due to truth in taxation. The board took this opportunity for a brief discussion regarding some legislative concerns for the coming year. Handouts will be sent to the board members not in attendance.
10. **Rural Schools Conference Discussion:** The biggest concern from the 2017 conference is the cost and quality of the meals offered at SUU by Chartwell Catering and the cost of accommodations. Jason has been in contact with the Sevier Chamber of Commerce about what perks might be available if the Rural Schools Conference was moved to Richfield. The chamber has offered to subsidize the hotel costs for the conference at the rate of \$2,500 per night. After a discussion Shannon would like the directors to research a location within their region and bring a proposal to the next URSA Board meeting.
 - a. **Keynote Speakers:** Jason has done some research on Keynote speakers for next year's conference and the speakers will need to be under contract soon.
 - i. Anthony Kim from Education Elements – The cost for the keynote & 4 workshops would be \$15,000 and a copy of Personalized and Blended Learning would be supplied to each attendee.
 - ii. Christian Moore and team from Why Try and author of Resilience Breakthrough would be approximately \$4,000 and each book would cost \$16.95.
11. **Board Vacancies:** Scott Crane, SESC, introduced Larry Davis, Emery, to the URSA Board. He has requested that Larry be allowed to fill the empty SESC slot on the Legislative Committee. Kodey Hughes, Tintic, motioned to add Larry Davis to the Legislative Committee. Dave Brotherson, Duchesne, 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Larry Davis has abstained from this vote. CUES is concerned about their teacher representative. He has not attended any URSA Board Meetings and they would like to look at replacing that person.

12. **Other:**

- a. Due to time constraints the subject of the direction of URSA will not be discussed at today's meeting. Kodey has suggested that this item be moved to the top of the agenda for the November meeting.
- b. It was suggested that a meeting be added during the month of October. The meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2017. The meeting will be held in Nephi at the Juab district office beginning at 10:00 a.m. This will be a working lunch meeting and lunch will be provided by the Juab food services. Jason will arrange the meeting venue and lunch with Juab DO.
- c. It was suggested that the topic of conference focus be discussed with the regional boards and discussed at the next URSA Board Meeting.
- d. The directors feel that there should be a committee that reviews the presentations that are submitted to determine which sessions would be the best received.
- e. It was suggested that a survey be developed asking past participants about their feelings regarding date, focus and location for the future conference. Scott has offered to develop and send out this survey.
- f. Next meeting will be focused on the 2018 Rural Schools Conference planning and survey information and the URSA Board focus/purpose. Duke Mossman will give the board a NESS workgroup update. Kodey Hughes would also like to discuss the current dynamics of the Rural Caucus meetings. Shannon will develop an agenda and it will be sent to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.