

URSA Board Meeting

November 15, 2013

Juab DO Nephi, Utah

Present:

Ray Terry, Chairman
Randy Johnson, SEDC
Bart Reynolds, SUU
Rhonda Harrison, Millard
Ken Platt, Garfield
JJ Grant, SESC
Steve Carlsen, Carbon

Patti Harrington, USSA
Barbara Corry, USBE
James Christensen, CUES
Kodey Hughes, Tintic
Duke Mossman, NUES
Kirk Sitterud, Emery
Randy Winn, Emery

- 1. Welcome by Supt. Ray Terry.** Ray Terry was contacted by the School for the Deaf & Blind. They will be in attendance at the meeting at 10:30 a.m. for a short 15 minute presentation.
 - 2. Approval of minutes:** Kodey Hughes has asked that he be added to all the mailing lists. Ken Platt motioned to approve the minutes as written. Kirk Sitterud seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - 4. State School Board Items:** Barbara Corry spoke with Syd Dixon in regards to the Core Academy held during the summer months. USOE has to have Core Academy during the summer months. Supt. Ray Terry also spoke with Syd Dixon and she has assured him that they will not hold the rural Core Academy during the scheduled time of the Rural Schools Conference. The priorities of the Utah State School Board align with the priorities of USSA and the delegate assembly.
 - 5. UEN Update:** Ray Timothy was unable to attend today's meeting and has asked to be excused. No UEN items discussed.
 - 6. 2014 Legislative Session Discussion:** 35 bills have currently been filed under education. Ray Terry read a list of the current bills and legislators or committees. The board took this opportunity for discussion concerning the upcoming bills. USOE is concerned about the upcoming data bills. USBA has asked that USSA talk with the legislative task force for feedback on the main plan about upcoming funding. Patti Harrington feels that URSA, as a body, should focus on the concurrent enrollment proposal. The Equalization Bill should be another URSA priority. Brad Last has proposed 3 goals: math proficiency by the end of middle school, reading proficiency by the end of grade 3 and increasing high school graduations. These are the same goals as the state school board. URSA would like to see the legislature fully fund education; fund increases in insurance & retirement costs separate of the WPU and be awarded one time money for buses.
- Presentation:** Guest Susan Patton, from Utah School for the Deaf & Blind-Deaf Blind Services, was on hand for a short presentation on the USDB School and the services they offer.
- 7. Rural Schools Concurrent Enrollment Proposal Update:** The proposal will designate 1 higher education institution that will commit to deliver 60 credits every 2 years for a concurrent enrollment program. Snow College has offered to develop this program and would like 1.5 million dollars for start-up costs. High School Counselors are concerned that those credits will not be accepted at other higher education institutions. Senator Okerlund has filed a bill to get the concurrent enrollment program up and running. The Board of Regents has approved this proposal.
 - 8. Rural Schools Conference:** It is time once again to begin planning for the upcoming 2014 Rural Schools Conference. James Christensen, the current interim director of CUES, was available to provide some conference information. In regards to the budget, CUES has submitted for payment an additional \$30,000. The existing balance is approximately \$20,000 and USOE has been billed for \$10,000. Ray Terry would like a breakdown of costs for the Rural Schools

Conference. The costs from the 2013 conference were: \$17,500 for keynote speakers and \$23,000 to SUU for facilities. The registration costs usually cover the cost of meals and facilities. The 2013 conference had approximately 240 attendees. The board is concerned about the dropping attendance. Previous discussions have indicated that the conference needs to be updated but should remain in Cedar City. Some suggestions include:

- Teachers want ideas they can use in their classrooms such as Make & Take items, projects they can implement in their classrooms and core subject ideas that are prepared for teaching. Consider strands on an application level.
- Classify strands on subject and grade level material.
- The lack of professional development money is probably a factor in the drop in attendance.
- An earlier announcement of the upcoming Rural Schools Conference, such as February, is perhaps one way to allow teachers time to schedule attendance at the conference.
- No keynote speaker during the lunch periods would be one way to save money. Perhaps start later in the day. Morning keynote could be held at 9:00 a.m.
- Superintendents need a sales pitch to take back to their teachers to entice them to attend.
- Surveys should be sent out to teachers asking them what they would like to see at the Rural Schools Conference. Survey Monkey would be a relatively easy way to achieve these results. JJ Grant suggested perhaps setting up a committee to explore ideas and meet to share their findings. It was suggested that a meeting be held on December 2, 2013 after the USSA meeting. The 4 regional service center directors along with Kodey Hughes can meet on that day and present their ideas to create a sample survey and finalize it for distribution.
- It was suggested that the joint committee of the 4 service centers be the guiding body and share the responsibilities of the upcoming conference.
- Suggestion for Theme: 21st Century Classroom based.
- Strand suggestions: Educator Evaluation, understanding SAGE, multiple presentations of some sessions.

Ray Terry was excused from the meeting due to a prior commitment. Kodey Hughes then took over direction of URSA Board Meeting.

9. **LEA SLO Specialists:** Ray Terry was wondering if this was something that the service centers could assist the districts with. It was determined after a discussion with Kerri Naylor that it is an individual district need. The service centers can be available for support and assistance of district personnel.

10. **SAGE and UTIPS Transition:** Kodey Hughes asked what the service centers are doing to prepare for the implementation of the SAGE program. Technology trainers are attending all SAGE meetings and trainings. They are not taking any information into the schools as of yet. It was suggested that teachers start copying all their tests in the event that the information they currently have on UTIPS is not able to be transferred. Patti Harrington suggested that John Jessie or Judy ? would be available to attend the next URSA meeting and discuss any concerns on the SAGE program.

11. **Board Dialogue:** Kodey Hughes would like to add an item to future agendas concerning great ideas or programs that are being implemented within the individual service centers or districts. Possible presentation at the end of the URSA meetings.

- Rural Schools Initiative – Online charter school initiative. Senate Bill 65
- Next Meeting Date – A request was made for a meeting prior to the start of the legislative session. The next meeting will be held on **January 17, 2014 @ 10:00 a.m.** in Nephi.