

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE
Monday, February 8, 1999, 2:00 P.M.
ROOM 303, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

Members Present: Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Nora B. Stephens, Co-Chair
Sen. Ron Allen
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Lyle Hillyard
Sen. John Valentine
Rep. Duane Bourdeaux
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
Rep. Lloyd Frandsen
Rep. David Gladwell
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Becky Lockhart
Rep. Tammy Rowan
Rep. A. Lamont Tyler
Rep. Glenn L. Way

Staff Present: R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Gary Ricks, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Shirley Smith, Secretary

Others Present: Paul Plant, Utah P.T.A.
Mora Oscarson, Dir. Child Nutrition Program, USOE
Brent Hackett, Budget Office, USOE
Barbara Lawrence, Coordinator, USOE
Ray Morgan, Principal, Canyon Crest Elem., Provo School Dist.
Dr. Lee Robinson, Supt. USDB
Lee Stephens, Budget Mgr., USDB
Con Rowley, Analyst, Governor's Office
Joe Zeidner, Inst. Council, USDB
Christine Lindsey, Legis. Coalition/People with Disabilities
Judy Bishop, Parent and Interpreter USDB
Mark Waterson, Parent
Michael Daily, Parent, Medicaid Director
Dennis Black, Parent, Pres. Utah Assoc. for the Deaf
Steven Laing, State Supt. USBOE
Laurie Chivers, Deputy Supt., USBOE
Dale Boam, Interpreter, USDB

List of others present is on file

Committee Co-Chair Sen. Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

1. Presentation Item

Paula Plant, Pres. Utah P.T.A. presented a series of slides which showed the artwork of various ages of children with a written statement from each child stating the reason why they want to be good readers. Ms. Plant identified the reasons for low reading scores in the schools and then offered the solution to solve the reading problems. Her suggestions are that teachers be given the necessary tools and time to assist students in reading. She said that children who love to learn, can learn to love to read. She made a plea for adequate funding for students and teachers.

MOTION: Rep. Stephens moved to take \$249,000 of ongoing Uniform School Funds and transfer them from Utah System of Higher Education to Public Education Applied Technology Service Regions budget. The motion passed with Sens. Stephenson, Hale, and Reps. Stephens, Buffmire, Frandsen, Gladwell, Lockhart, Rowan, Tyler, and Way voting aye. Sen. Allen voting nay. Sens. Hillyard, Valentine and Reps. Bourdeaux, King absent at the time of voting.

MOTION: Rep. Stephens moved to accept the Analyst's recommendations for the Applied Technology and Service Regions Centers base budgets. The motion passed unanimously. Sens. Hillyard, Valentine and Reps. Bourdeaux, King absent at the time of voting.

MOTION: Rep. Buffmire moved the Analyst prepare the intent language to be included in the Appropriation Act that indicated ongoing money from Strategic Planning was replaced with one-time money. The ongoing money was transferred to Custom Fit. It was the intent of the committee that every effort be made next year to replace this amount with ongoing money in the Strategic Planning budget. The motion passed with Sens. Stephenson, Allen, Hale, and Reps. Stephens, Buffmire, Frandsen, Gladwell, Lockhart, Tyler, and Way voting aye. Rep. Rowan voting nay. Sens. Hillyard, Valentine and Reps. Bourdeaux and King absent at the time of voting.

Committee Co-Chair Stephenson clarified a statement made in the previous committee meeting regarding reading specialists. He directed the attention of the committee to a article written by Pierre S. DuPont, IV, former Governor of Delaware, entitled: The Power to Choose: An Education Scholarship Plan. He then identified a quote from a brochure from the Mesa Public Schools, which he felt is a model for encouraging students and parents to participate in quality education.

2. Child Nutrition

The Analyst recommends an appropriation of \$97,661,500 for FY 2000.

Mora Oscarson, Dir. Child Nutrition Program, USBOE. Ms. Oscarson requested committee members to ask questions. Rep. Rowan, commented that school lunch programs seem to be limited to a few items. Ms. Oscarson responded that the schools are encouraged to offer many choices. She also stated the most popular school lunch programs are the ones that offer more than one choice but there are federal requirements that must be met by the districts.

3. Minimum School Program - Budget Hearings

- a. Pre-School English and
- b. Early Childhood

Michael Kjar, Analyst, said that the Pre-School English Emersion Program, as recommended, is a new funding program and information was not available from the Governor regarding his proposal for literacy and reading programs. Mr. Kjar referred the committee to research by the Rand Corporation regarding costs and benefits of early childhood intervention. The Analyst recommends new program funding of \$500,000 for Early Childhood Ready to Learn, and \$200,000 for Pre-School English.

- c. School Building Program

The Analyst's recommendation for the Capital Outlay Foundation Program is \$28,358,000. Mr. Kjar said that the amount is only part of the total School Building Programs for school districts.

- d. Experimental/Development Program

The Analyst's recommendation for Experimental/Development Program is \$7,510,691 which includes \$1,500,000 in increased dollars. He made various suggestions as to how the funds might best be used using a priority list he had prepared for members of the committee.

Con Rowley, Analyst, Governor's Office, noted that Early Childhood/Pre-School English are programs that are not included in the documents before the committee. He further stated, that the Governor had a number of initiatives but most of the funding sources will be outside the allocations to the committee. The School Building Program

recommendations are the same as the Fiscal Analyst. He then stated that the Governor's office did not recommend an increase in the Experimental/Development Program.

State Supt. Laing, introduced the English Immersion request of \$250,000, and then identified the Analyst's budget as \$200,000. Information was presented to the committee in handout form. He mentioned that both the USBOE and the Fiscal Analyst had used the same figures for their respective computations. The USBOE had included in their funding request for Early Childhood some funding to accommodate support systems that could be made available to parents to find the resources necessary to help their children be ready for school.

Laurie Chivers, Deputy Supt. USBOE, said the amount of their request for The School Building Program was a total of \$10,000,000 which includes two parts The Foundation Program and The Emergency Building Program.

State Supt. Laing, then commented on the Experimental/Development Program. The USBOE has requested, as part of the agency budget, several items which had not been included in the Fiscal Analyst's budget i.e. Summer Enrichment Sessions \$500,000; Elementary Specialists \$40,000,000; Fifth Term High Schools \$5,975,000; Critical Teacher Training Shortage \$175,500 and Fit Kids \$250,000. Supt. Laing, said that the Governor's Office had included a budget for Summer Enrichment Sessions but not for any of the other programs.

4. Utah State Office of Education

Fiscal Analyst, Michael Kjar, referred to the Financial Summary of the Utah State Office of Education with a budget of \$129,257,200 the majority of the funds are from federal funding. The budgets from the Analyst's office for the USOE were primarily base budgets with no increase in funding. Federal Funds for USOE FY 1999, was estimated at \$109,303,100.

Con Rowley, Analyst, recommended two categories for ongoing funds, Alternative Language support staff and Assessment and Evaluation Staff.

Supt. Laing, began his remarks by expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Legislature and the work of the Analyst's. Supt. Laing indicated there was an extra day in FY 2000 school year and asked if it had been funded? Mr. Kjar responded that the funds would be included in the compensation fund for the extra day. He then turned the discussion to Evaluation and Assessment Staff Cost Request.

Barbara Lawrence, Coord. of Assessment USOE. The State Office is requesting three additional staff members, two professional staff and one support staff. Sen. Stephenson asked Ms. Lawrence if there was a method in place which evaluates the academic gains made by students by particular teachers? She replied that performance tests are available which identify the improvement made by a class but the gains could not necessarily be attributed to one particular year.

5. Utah Schools For the Deaf & The Blind

Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst, read the goal of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. For the FY 2000 the Analyst recommends a budget of \$16,820,300, including two budget increases which total \$339,400. Mr. Ricks said the demand for USDB programs continue to grow along with an increase in enrollment. So, one of the major problems is the lack of sufficient interpreters for the deaf. Mr. Ricks further said, that interpreters are guaranteed under federal provision of the Rehabilitation Act 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as re-authorized in 1997. The USDB, local school districts, and other state agencies must, by law, provide these services. The Analyst also recommended an additional \$375,000 of on-going funds be provided to address the needs of the necessary programs if additional funds become available.

The Analyst recommended additional funding in the amount of \$47,400 in ongoing funds to provide for the lease agreement as well as the furnishing, building maintenance and janitorial services for the facility on Conner Street in Salt Lake County.

The Analyst recommends funding of \$9,688,000 for FY 2000 for instruction, which includes \$292,000 of ongoing funding for growth and interpreters.

The Analyst recommends funding for Support Services of \$7,132,300 this includes \$47,400 of ongoing funding. He also recommends the compensation funding when it is established.

Dr. Lee Robinson, Supt., Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, commented that there were many people in the audience who support USDB. Dr. Robinson, then identified the reason for the creation of the school which was at the same time as the creation of the state. It was recognized that serving a sensory impaired population was much more expensive than most school districts could manage on the funding allotted to them. Because of this reason, the USDB was established as a state-wide resource. He demonstrated the cost of materials for the school by showing a book which cost \$450 and a comparable text for \$40 for regular school district. Dr. Robinson, further said that each year funding for materials for sensory impaired are becoming more expensive.

Members of the audience were then invited to speak on the issues facing sensory impaired students and each person spoke of the importance of adequate funding in order for the school to provide high quality direct and indirect education services. The main focus of the remarks of the people who spoke addressed the dire need for interpreters for the sensory impaired. The request was made for \$443,000 full funding for interpreters. Many interpreters do not remain in the position because of low pay and lack of benefits.

Dr. Robinson stated that one of the goals for USDB is to keep sensory impaired students in their own school districts. If there are not funds, this goal cannot be met. He then identified many outstanding sensory impaired students in the school districts who are succeeding and making a contribution to society.

Parents of sensory impaired students then spoke of the problems which their children face in getting an education. Each person emphasized the need for full funds for interpreters which can make the difference between a successful education and an inadequate one. The statement was made that deaf people need interpreters in order to understand what is being taught and then it was demonstrated to the committee how impossible it is to learn without the aid of an interpreter. Funding needs to be found for programs and materials at USDB and especially earmarked for interpreters.

MOTION: Rep. Valentine moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The minutes were reported by Shirley Smith, Secretary

Sen. Howard Stephenson
Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Nora Stephens
Committee Co-Chair