

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2001
ROOM 129, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

Members Present: Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Marda Dillree, Co-Chair
Rep. Doug Agard
Rep. Duane Bourdeaux
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
Rep. Glenn Donnelson
Rep. James Ferrin
Rep. Tom Hatch
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Karen Morgan
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot
Rep. John Swallow
Rep. Glenn Way

Members Absent: Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Bill Hickman
Sen. John Valentine

Staff Present: R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Gary Ricks, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Nedra Duzett, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Race Davies, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Steve Laing, Supt., State Office of Education
Patrick Ogden, Associate Supt., State Office of Education

Visitor List on File

Committee Co-Chair Sen. Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

1. **Minimum School Program - Analyst** - Mike Kjar, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed the Minimum School Program.
 - a. **FACT (Families, Agencies, Communities, Together)** - The Analyst recommendation for funding FACT program from the Uniform School Fund is \$1,250,670 for FY 2002. Funds are also appropriated to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health.

FACT site-based projects operate in 20 school districts, and local interagency councils serve families in all counties in the state.

- b. Alternative Language Services** - The Analyst recommends total funding for this program in FY 2002 of \$3,328,564.

The Utah State Board of Education requested an increase in funding of \$500,000 for the Alternative Language Services program. The Governor recommended \$250,000. The Analyst recommends that if any additional funding is considered that the USOE be required to submit a plan for the use of the funding and provide performance data to support existing and new funding if made available.

The purpose of the Alternative Language Services Program is to provide a Bilingual Education program designed to help districts meet the Office of Civil Rights standards by providing for a personalized education for those students who speak a language other than English. The funding provides inservice training to teachers for implementation of bilingual instructional models that meet national and regional criteria standards.

- c. Character Education** - The Analyst recommends \$397,680 for Character Education. The FY 2001 funding is distributed to twenty-seven school districts with the greatest allocated \$43,000 and the least amount \$2,000.

Funds have been distributed based on applications from districts to the State Office of Education and based on board guidelines and funding formulas. The funding has allowed for pilot programs in schools that receive allocations.

Mr. Kjar commented that funding for this program is small when compared to other programs. The committee may consider block granting and legislative language to encourage districts to continue their Character Education programs.

- d. School Trust Program** - The amount estimated to be available from this restricted account for FY 2002 is \$6,975,000.

Passage of H.B. 350 by the 1999 Legislature provided for interest to go to each school district. Schools will receive their share of the Trust Lands money according to the provision of the bill. In order to receive the funds each school must establish a local school committee. The specifics for this committee are contained in the Budget Analysis FY 2002 book.

Supt. Steve Laing, State Office of Education, noted that the intent of the Legislature with regard to the School Trust Land program was that the money go directly to the schools. It flows to the districts, but the district does not make any determination of how the money is used. The money goes to the school, and the school and the committee submit a plan for use of the funds. The local board has the opportunity to approve the plans, but they have no further charge over the money.

Supt. Laing said not all of the interest from Trust Land money is used. Some of the money is used to protect the principal and to increase it slightly.

- e. **Local Discretionary Funding** - Mr. Kjar referred to the Budget Analysis FY 2002, spread sheet item D 22. The amount of \$1,113,100 was determined by the Public Education Appropriations committee in the last Legislative session, and is a non WPU driven block grant to school districts to use however they want. The money is distributed to districts to use on the same basis as the unrestricted local program that is WPU driven.

Rep. Dillree requested information on the Experimental Developmental programs. She specifically wanted to know if the funds from this program are being rolled into other programs, and if they have been successful.

Supt. Steve Laing, State Office of Education, responded that the Experimental Developmental money flows in two different ways. Some of the funding is formula driven and goes out to the districts for their choice. He indicated he would gather information from the districts on this program.

- f. **Voted and Board Leeway Programs** - The Analyst recommends a total Voted Leeway program of \$137,274,866. The Uniform School Fund contributes \$12,967,318 of this amount as the state match on the Voted Leeway program.

Board Leeway Program - The Analyst recommends a total Board Leeway program of \$39,631,433. The Uniform School Fund contributes \$4,389,392 of this amount with the remaining amount coming from local property tax revenues. The final appropriation amount will vary slightly based on the total Minimum School Program adopted by the Legislature. The Analyst recommended committee action that would allow adjustment based on final program adoption.

- g. **School Building Programs** - The Analyst recommended \$28,358,000 for the Capital Outlay Foundation Program. The funding recommendation is all from the Uniform School Fund for FY 2002. The emergency school building needs program by statute will end at the close of FY 2001 and the \$5,671,600 that has been allocated to it reverts to the regular Capital Outlay Foundation Program. There has been some discussion in the Interim Committee for increasing the capital outlay. The Governor's office has requested an additional \$10,000,000 be added to the program.

- h. **Guarantee Transportation Levy** - The Analyst recommends program funding of \$225,000 for the Guarantee Transportation Levy. There were twelve districts that received funds under this guarantee in FY 2000.

Rep. Hatch inquired why schools participate in athletic events that require travel from one end of the state to another.

Supt. Laing explained that two years ago, the Legislature asked that student activity miles and time out of school be reported to differentiate from those that are required and those that are optional. He reported that there has been a consistent effort by the Athletic Association to reduce travel, but some schools opt to go many places. Most of the time the students and school will use fund raisers for trips that are far away.

Rep. Hatch wondered if there should be more restrictions. Supt. Laing said it relates to the local board and the decisions they make.

3. Public Response -

Pat O'Hare, State Office of Education added that the transportation levy fund is not used for activity trips only. Hazardous busing is also funded, as well as science field trips and other academically linked trips.

Cindy Sidell, Asst. Supt. For Educational Services, Salt Lake City School District, explained the great need of funding for Alternative Language Services. Currently in Salt Lake City, 26 percent of the students are non-English speakers or English learners. Salt Lake District is one of five districts statewide that is impacted by a future demographic trend. The Governor quotes demographic trends that indicate Utah can expect 100,000 new students in the coming years and 60,000 will come speaking a home language other than English. There are 82 languages spoken in Utah schools making great demands on limited resources.

Supt. Sidell reported that the flat funding the district receives from the state is spread thinner each year. Salt Lake District sought funding from other sources, and doubled their budget with grants. Because of the tremendous need the district still needs additional state support. She requested the committee consider the funding requests from the State Office of Education and from the Governor to provide increased support of the Alternative Language program.

4. Other Business - The calendar for the coming meetings was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Nedra Duzett, Secretary