

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2001  
ROOM 129, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

Members Present: Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair  
Rep. Marda Dillree, Co-Chair  
Sen. Bill Hickman  
Sen. John Valentine  
Rep. Doug Aagard  
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

Members Excused: Sen. Karen Hale  
Rep. Glenn Way

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

Public Speakers Present: Beverly Sorenson, Founder, Art Works for Kids  
James Sorenson, Art Works for Kids  
Carol Ann Goodson, Fine Arts Specialist, USOE  
Fred Adams, Producer, Utah Shakespearean Festival  
Michael Ballam, Founder & General Director, Utah Festival Opera  
Leah MacKinnon, Outreach Coordinator, Children's Museum of Utah  
Scott Sansom, Paleontologist, Utah Museum of Natural History  
Rep. Brad Johnson  
Rep. Ron Bigelow

Visitor List on File

Committee Co-Chair Sen. Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes -**

**MOTION:** Sen. Hickman moved to approve the minutes of meetings held January 31, 2001 and February 2, 2001. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Science and Arts Budget - Analyst** - Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed the Science and Arts Budget from the Minimum School Program. This program provides funding to the Utah Symphony, Ballet West, The Utah Opera, Children's Dance Theatre, Repertory Dance Theatre, and Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. The Hansen Planetarium and the Springville Arts Museum also participate in this program. A number of other organizations participate in the request for proposal program.

Mr. Ricks referred to Legislative intent language passed in the 2000 General Session. It is the intent of the Legislature that line item funding recipients not participate in the Science and Arts Request for Proposal Process (RFP) funding administered by the Utah State Office of Education.

It is the intent of the Legislature that distribution of \$215,000 is to bring parity to line item status participants, including the Springville Arts Museum. The distribution would be determined by those having line item status.

Mr. Ricks reported that the Utah Museum of Natural History's Management Contract with the Hansen Planetarium recently lapsed. The Utah Museum chose to not renew the contract. Salt Lake County put forward a request for proposal (RFP). The Children's Museum of Utah submitted the winning bid for managing the Hansen Planetarium.

The Analyst recommended the base budget funding of \$2,687,100 for the Science and Arts program.

Mr. Ricks explained that the 1998 Legislature implemented intent language that requires the listed program groups to go through an RFP process to reestablish their participation in the program on the level indicated. The 2002 General Session will be the fourth year since the intent language was passed. The RFP process of the programs will take place during the 2001 Interim. The State Office will report its findings to the Legislature during the 2002 General Session.

The Analyst recommends that during the 2001 Interim the Legislative Auditor General perform an independent audit of state funds received and expended by the listed program groups and report its findings during the next General Session.

- a. **Art in Education** - Beverly and James Sorenson reported on their project, *Art Works for Kids*. Their goal is to get quality sequential arts back into the elementary schools through a public/private partnership with the Utah State Office of Education.

Evan Olsen gave further explanation of the *Art Works for Kids* program and distributed handouts on the program. The 2000 Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to start a five year pilot program. The \$200,000 is currently matched by private contributions. Twelve elementary schools were selected from four school districts. The first year of the program will focus on planning and preparation for implementation of the program beginning in

2001. In the second year, music, visual art, and dance instruction will take place in grades kindergarten through three and theater instruction will take place in grades four through six. Each subsequent year, the program will be expanded to eventually be at all levels from kindergarten through grade six.

Mr. Olsen requested \$1.7 million dollars for the first year of the pilot program.

- b. **POPS** - Carol Ann Goodson, Fine Arts Specialist, State Office of Education, introduced Fred Adams, Producer of the Shakespearean Festival. Kaitlen Mayer from the Morgan Academy for the Performing Arts performed a part from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mr. Adams reported that last year the Morgan Academy lost their theatre, so he invited the academy to come to the Utah Shakespearean Festival to perform. They came with their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and performed for elementary school children from five additional schools and did an entire festival of children doing Shakespeare. It came about because teachers were inspired and brought art into their classroom.

Mr. Adams pointed out that the four organizations funded through Science and Arts programs go into the classroom all over the state. He asked for parity and line item status for these entities, and said it would be the best investment of a taxpayers dollar. The amount of funding requested by Science and Arts program was \$750,000.

Scott Sansom, Paleontologist, Utah Museum of Natural History, displayed the cast of a dinosaur skull which he had found five years ago in Madagascar. He said it is the only skull of its kind in existence and one of the most complete and best preserved. As a child he was inspired by several scientists that came into the classroom and encouraged him to believe that he too could become a scientist. He said the goal of the museum is to make all children excited about science. He said that given the importance of science in our daily lives, it is imperative to bring science into the classroom.

Leah MacKinnon, Outreach Coordinator, Children's Museum of Utah, explained the chemistry outreach program for fifth graders which is taken throughout the state. It was developed to fulfill a need expressed by the State Office of Education to raise the level of testing for fifth graders in chemistry and to bring hands on science into the classroom. The program has been well received throughout the state.

Michael Ballam, Director of the Utah Festival Opera, stated he is what he is because of performers coming into the schools and showing him what he could become. Mr. Ballam presented visuals from his opera program and sang "There is a Child in Each of Us."

Ms. Goodson spoke in behalf of the four entities requesting line item status. She was pleased for the unanimity that has been achieved in making the arts and science program a viable entity. She stated that these programs have been able to leverage \$3,841,094 because of the work they do. This money would be lost if funding is changed to a block grant procedure. She noted that Legislative funding paid for 39 percent of monies spent on the programs last year.

3. **Applied Technology Budget - Minimum School Program** - The Analyst recommended \$41,028,718 for ATE district funding for FY 2002. Funding is based on total WPU's and will be adjusted accordingly by dollars and sources of funding after all WPU's are calculated. The Analyst also recommended the appropriate social security and retirement portion which is contained in the Minimum School Program calculation for social security and retirement.

The Analyst recommended \$1,983,934 for ATE Set Aside funding for FY 2002. Like the ATE district, funding is based on total WPU's and will be adjusted accordingly by dollars and sources of funding after WPU's are calculated.

4. **Bill Hearings**

Rep. Brad Johnson reviewed H.B. 78 Sales and Use Tax - Sales Relating to Schools. The bill would exempt sales tax on admission to certain school-related events and activities. Rep. Johnson said this bill would help the schools in programs that are beneficial for the children and would eliminate the effort to collect the tax. He asked for committee support in getting the bill funded.

Rep. Ron Bigelow reviewed H.B. 42 Funding for Classroom Supplies. The bill would appropriate \$4.4 million for classroom supplies. The funds go to all classroom teachers and media specialists across the state for reimbursements of expenditures in the classroom. Rep. Bigelow stated he hoped this would be more than \$4.4 million. Rep. Bigelow said the purpose for the bill is to be sure the money actually gets to the teachers.

Rep. Karen Morgan reviewed H.B. 99 Reading Skills Development Center Amendments. The bill would change the Reading Skills Development Center into a clinic to assist educators and parents of students in assessing elementary school students who do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in reading. The bill would require the clinic to provide professional development programs in reading to help educators and parents become better prepared to assist all students in becoming better readers.

Rep. Morgan explained that last year many of the higher education programs were not funded. The president of the University of Utah stepped in and provided some funding through the university to keep the reading center alive with the hope that this year the Legislature would provide on-going funding for the center. She reported that many children and parents have been turned away from receiving the help they needed. There is a long waiting list of children who need help and the center continues to receive calls on a daily/weekly basis.

Kathleen Brown, Director Reading Skills Development Center, told the committee what has been done in the past and what they are now with intervention. Last year in coordination with Granite District the Reading Center piloted and tested, through a scientific research model, an intervention program specifically for grade one students. Ms. Brown provided data showing the success of the program. This year on a skeletal budget they will continue what they are doing and pilot the next step which focuses on second through sixth graders.

Joan Arada and 10 year old daughter, Ashley, reported on the importance of early intervention for children with problems in reading. Ms. Arada told of the excellent preparation for reading that Ashley had received in the home and in preschool. Despite every good effort, Ashley fell through the cracks in the public school system and was still not reading through grade three. It was through evaluation at the reading center that she was able to receive help. This year, after having been tutored for three months, three times weekly, she has raised her reading level three grades.

Meafou Ahwong, mother of four children, said she moved here from Samoa 20 years ago. She reported on her efforts to get help for her children in the schools. She suggested the Legislature provide \$1 million for a multi-cultural center in Taylorsville.

Dean Sperry, University of Utah, commented on the success of the reading center and stated it has the potential of being a win/win program. It is a tremendous resource for children and provides multiple benefits for teachers. He commended the Legislature for their vision in establishing the center. He reported good progress was made the first year, however it was not funded for the second year. The university has maintained the visual presence of the center, but it requires continuous line funding for the college to work with parents. The fiscal note is for \$450,000 on-going funding.

Rep. Dillree will present her bill at the next meeting.

Rep. Bourdeaux moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes reported by Nedra Duzett, Secretary

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Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair

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Rep. Marda Dillree, Co-Chair