

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**
Room 445, State Capitol
February 7, 2012

Members Present: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold, Co-Chair
Rep. Ken Sumsion, House Vice Chair
Sen. Stuart Adams
Sen. Lyle Hillyard
Sen. Karen Morgan
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Daniel Thatcher
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Tim Cosgrove
Rep. Steve Eliason
Rep. Francis Gibson
Rep. Steve Handy
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Jim Nielson
Rep. Marie Poulson

Members Excused: Rep. Greg Hughes

Members Absent: Sen. Mark Madsen
Rep. Ken Ivory

Staff Present: Mr. Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Thomas Young, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Wendy Hill, Secretary

A copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov. A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the subcommittee minutes.

Co-Chair Newbold called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

1 . Utah Education Network

Mr. Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst explained Utah Education Network (UEN) is part of the Higher Education Budget but they may be changed. They provide connectivity to public schools and some content.

Mr. Eric Denna, Interim Executive Director, Utah Education Network provided two documents about UEN. He asked for \$250,00 to help fund grades K-6. Co-Chair Newbold asked for more explanation. He said schools fund their connections differently and wants

the UEN steering committee's input. Sen. Adams asked about the efficiency of UEN in providing internet connections. Mr. Denna said UEN leases from TELCOS and Century Link, it leverages purchasing power and manages a collective network. Rep. Eliason said 32 percent of UEN's budget comes from eRate a federal program. Mr. Denna said the source of eRate is the telephone universal tax, a portion of it supports education. UEN receives \$11 million from this tax. In case of a shortfall UEN has a prioritized list of services and cuts would be determined from it.

2. Utah State Board of Education - Budget Priorities

Mr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke about Utah State Office of Education (USOE) administered budget. He referred to a handout given at the February 2, 2012 meeting. Most of the \$371 million in operating costs is federal money that flows to Local Education Agencies (LEA). Less than \$10 million in state funds goes to personnel in the USOE. State funds of \$2.2 million and federal funds of \$2.1 million provide professional development to districts and charter schools. Providing data for accountability costs are over a million and half dollars. USOE administered budgets total over \$536 million which includes teacher professional fees and the school lunch program. Rep. Christensen asked the breakdown to various offices, he wanted to understand the day to day responsibilities of the USOE. He noted about a third of USOE funding is federal funds. Superintendent Shumway said the breakdown is in the brief from the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA). Co-Chair Newbold asked for a breakdown of funding with the proposed appropriation structure. Mr. Todd Hauber, Associate Superintendent for Business Services, Utah State Office of Education said the breakdown is also in the brief. Sen. Adams talked of administrative costs and pass through funds, he asked for the actual cost of the USOE. Superintendent said \$13.8 million cost to the state or total cost for administrating federal programs of \$27 million.

a. Computer Adaptive Testing & School Technology

Superintendent Shumway said this is the highest board priority. The computer adaptive testing bill has a \$6.7 million fiscal note and the technology bill has \$15 million one time funding and \$5 million ongoing. Sen. Osmond commented this should be our priority as well as Rep. Hughes bill. Rep. Nielson was concerned with the development of the content, potential questions, and review by the public. Superintendent Shumway said the content of a test is driven by the standards, any question will be in reference to the standard of the Utah core. The public may know the area of questions but probably not the actual question except if the number of questions were extremely large. Dr. Judy Park, Associate Superintendent for Student Services and Federal Programs, Utah Department of Education said there is an extensive review of questions by teachers and individuals in the community, the criteria calls for the removal of any potentially offensive questions. Rep. Cosgrove asked for clarification on testing, Common Core and costs. Superintendent Shumway said the \$6.7 million for testing is ongoing, the Common Core standard has been adopted by Utah and the state has committed to prepare students for college and career readiness.

Rep. Christensen asked about the two million dollars needed for professional development. Superintendent Shumway said in the process of upgrading curriculum, teachers need support in updating skills and past funding is no longer available. USOE applied for money from the federal government but they didn't get it. Ms. Brenda Hales, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education gave an example of English Language Arts training and other programs offered by the state. Some costs covered include travel. Co-Chair Stephenson remarked upon professional development and out of pocket expenses they incur. Superintendent Shumway said many districts give teachers credit for these activities toward relicensure, collaboration is needed with districts. Co-Chair Stephenson commented on the value of professional development and acknowledged the role of districts in the process. Co-Chair Newbold agreed. Rep. Gibson said we demand a lot from teachers and more funding should go to help them.

3. Minutes

Sen. Thatcher moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2012 and the January 26, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Madsen, Rep. Hughes and Rep. Ivory were absent for the vote.

4. Science Outreach

Mr. Leishman presented information about the science outreach program. A history was included in the brief. All organizations match or exceed state funding of two million dollars.

a. iSEE Organizations

Ms. Madlyn Runburg, Outreach Director, Museum of Natural History represented all the iSEE groups. In the past year iSEE provided over 8,000 individual education programs in support of the core curriculum. Nationally this program is unique in reaching so many children. Every elementary school receives at least one of their programs every year. They requested an increase of \$400,000 for FY2013. A handout was distributed. Sen. Stephenson commented on the preparation students receive before going on field trips to facilities. Rep. Cosgrove voiced his support for this program. Sen. Osmond agreed and encouraged more funding for iSEE. Co-Chair Newbold asked how many schools were visited. Ms. Runburg said every elementary school every year, middle and high schools receive services on a rotating basis. Rep. Eliason asked how they would use extra funding, Ms. Runburg responded extra funding would be used to develop new programs for school children, there is no admission charge for school groups. Rep. Handy asked how does an organization join iSEE. Mr. Leishman said currently there is not an application process. Rep. Poulson expressed her support for iSEE and POPS. Sen. Stephenson added science teachers are very supportive of this program.

Sen. Stephenson asked for feedback about the new facilities. Ms. Madlyn Runburg spoke of the learning labs in the new Museum of Natural History. Demand and interest has been overwhelming. Ms. Alexandra Hesse, Executive Director, The Leonardo said hosting field

trips and workshops is now possible because of the new building.

Sen. Stephenson told the committee of a final meeting to be held on February 15, 2012 at 5:00 pm.

b. Thanksgiving Point

Mr. Mike Washburn, Chief Executive Officer, Director of Thanksgiving Point Gardens, distributed handouts about school programs offered at Thanksgiving Point. He asked for \$150,000 for their educational programs. They have programs for students 1-12, targeting mostly the 3rd grade.

Sen. Stephenson mentioned UEN is trying to get more money through eRate.

Co-Chair Newbold said the committee should start prioritizing programs using the list provided by Mr. Leishman.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Adams moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 9:58 am.

Minutes were reported by Ms. Wendy Hill, Senate Secretary

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Merlynn Newbold, Co-Chair