

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**
Room 445, State Capitol
February 9, 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. Ken Ivory
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Jim Nielson
Rep. Marie Poulson

Members Excused: Rep. Greg Hughes

Members Absent: Sen. Mark Madsen

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 Stephenson called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

1. Budget Presentations

a. Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Mr. Thomas Young, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, recommended adoption of the base budget, adoption of fees, spending requests including expanding the core curriculum, restoring the Deaf Mentor program, providing assistive technology and operating low vision clinics. In FY2011 the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind overspent their budget by \$203,800.

b. Child Nutrition Programs

Mr. Young explained this program covers breakfast and lunch costs of \$136,730. He recommended an increase based on increases in federal funds and the dedicated credits .

c. Education Contracts

Mr. Young said this item covers costs of educational services for the youth center in Provo and correction institutions. He recommended the adoption of the base budget and intent language.

d. Federal Funds

The Brief contains federal fund requests for FY2012 and FY2013.

2. Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Comments

Dr. Martell Menlove, Deputy State Superintendent of Law, Legislation, and Educational Services, Utah State Office of Education explained how the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) works with the Utah State Office of Education (USOE). Mr. Steve Noyce, Superintendent, Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind said the budget for FY2012 was \$28 million. Last year they overspent by \$203,000, the problem is being rectified by eliminating and restructuring programs. Fund requests for an Expanded Core Curriculum, restoration of the Deaf Mentor program, assistive technology and low vision assessments were made. Co-Chair Newbold was concerned about overspending by the USDB for two consecutive years and the Deaf Mentor program. Mr. Michael Sears, Finance Director, Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind said the Deaf Mentor program was eliminated to make up for the debt incurred. Rep. Handy complimented the work of the USDB.

3. Student Enrollment Growth Costs

Mr. Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst said there was a calculation error in growth for Special Education. Enrollment Growth costs decreased \$7.1 million dollars with the correction. A brief was distributed with the new numbers. Rep. Gibson asked about growth in student transportation and funding for retirement contributions. Mr. Leishman said the growth adjustment for transportation was estimated at \$1,246,300 and no increase was made for retirement benefits. Mr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction said an increase of just under \$25 million is needed for retirement. Rep. Gibson was concerned if the numbers accurately depicted the funding for growth. Superintendent Shumway said after the increase in retirement contributions there would be less money for the districts. Rep. Gibson brought to the committee's attention that growth costs are not being met because of transportation and retirement costs. Co-Chair Newbold commented that costs have increased faster than revenue and increasing the Weighted Pupil Unit

(WPU) by one percent doesn't mean funding for all areas have increased by one percent. Superintendent Shumway said if the projected new students have been funded at the current WPU then growth costs have been met.

4. Utah State Office of Education Budget Detail

Mr. Young proposed the change of appropriation units for the USOE from four to thirteen as shown in organizational charts and the table on the distributed sheet.

5. Governor's Budget Priorities

Dr. Christine Kearl, Education Director, Office of the Governor distributed a handout to the committee. She explained the role of The Governor's Education Excellence Commission. She described the six education priorities of the Governor, growth, raises for teachers, Early Student Intervention, Computer Adaptive Testing, College and Career Readiness and Start-up funding for Charter Schools. Co-Chair Stephenson introduced Mr. Mike Kjar, Budget Analyst, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Rep. Eliason asked about the raises for teachers and unfunded liabilities in retirement. Dr. Kearl said the Governor intends for decisions to be made on a local level by the districts. Sen. Morgan commented on the 66 percent education goal for Utahns to obtain a certificate or degree. Dr. Kearl said this figure comes from research that analyzed the workforce of Utah and its future economic and employment needs. Sen. Morgan said higher education brings a better quality of life and Utah should have a goal of higher education for everyone. Sen. Osmond asked about the \$12 million set aside for Computer Adaptive Testing. Dr. Kearl said it is intended that six million dollars go to software and the rest toward hardware. Sen. Adams commented about large class sizes. Rep. Ivory pointed out Utah would need another \$2.2 billion to close the gap on the average national per pupil spending and another \$2.2 billion to compete with neighboring states. He asked about long range planning to find more money for education. Dr. Kearl responded a long range plan is currently being created and progress toward accomplishing the goal of 66 percent by 2020.

6. Fiscal Note Bills & Requests for Appropriation

Sen. Valentine spoke about his bill, S.B. 152 Charter School Financing. This has a fiscal note of \$3 million one-time money. This bill saves tax payers \$7 million in finance charges. Rep. Gibson spoke for the bill.

Sen. Adams spoke of intent language for K-3 learning, with a cost of \$3 million.

Co-Chair Newbold requested funds for a statewide IT Certification program providing job ready computer skills and teacher development. It has a cost of \$400,000 ongoing funds.

Co-Chair Stephenson described the iSchool program, providing iPads or Chromebooks for students, schools would apply for this program. The cost is \$3 million. He spoke of a bill

proposal called Education Technology Demonstration Grants, this proposal may be accomplished with intent language, the cost would be \$12-15 million most of it one time money. Another bill, Third Semester Pilot, S.B. 73 Extended School Calendar Incentives is for year round school. A half million dollars is needed for a school district to develop a plan. The E-Rate Matching Incentive, has a cost of \$3.6 million. School districts would supply \$400,000 dollars. This money would be used to apply for \$40 million dollars paid by Utah taxpayers in telephone tax.

Sen. Niederhauser introduced S.B.196 Software for Special Needs Children. He requested one-time money of \$3 million dollars to help develop social skills for students with autism and special needs. Jennafer Jeppsen, the mother of Crew, an autistic child spoke for this bill. Brittany Fox, Autism Specialist, spoke for the bill. Rep. Gibson spoke about the importance of addressing the autism issue. Rep. Adams spoke for the bill and distributed a letter from Susan Blackham, Autism Specialist, Davis County. Sen. Thatcher expressed his concern for autistic children.

Rep. Edwards introduced her bill, H.B.197 Grants for Math Teacher Training. This has a fiscal note of \$500,000. Besides initial training this program offers four years of continued support to teachers.

Co-Chair Stephenson introduced S.B.151 Student Opportunity Scholarships. This targets students that are low income and failing in school. The fiscal note is unknown, it may be zero or a positive fiscal note because of the cost savings to the state.

Rep. Wiley talked about H.B.279 Utah Schools Seismic Hazard Inventory. This bill has a \$500,000 fiscal note. It will require a report card on Utah Public School's seismic safety. Handouts were distributed.

Rep. Moss addressed the committee about H.B.115 Peer Assistance and Review Pilot Program. This has a fiscal note of \$300,000. In Utah 38 percent of teachers leave the work force in the first five years, this program would provide mentors, evaluation and consultation to teachers.

Rep. Nielson spoke about H.B.135 Focus on Front-line Teachers Program. This program needs \$5 million dollars ongoing funding. As LEA's put more resources in the classroom and exceed the state the average a funding incentive is awarded.

Co-Chair Stephenson said Sen. Osmond has two bills in need of funding, S.B. 217 Math Materials Access Improvement Grant for \$600,000 and S.B.216 Digital Safety for Utah Secondary Schools for \$300,000 dollars.

Co-Chair Newbold talked of a bill that would provide matching funds to schools that provide two year classroom management skills training. The cost is one million dollars.

Sen. Thatcher requested funds of \$500,000 for school libraries.

Sen. Hillyard talked about ASSERT. It provides training for parents of children with autism, teachers of autistic children and students with autism. Tami Pyfer, member of the Utah State School Board spoke for the program. He asked for a restoration of funds to total \$200,000.

Melva Sine, Utah Restaurant Association represented the Pro Start culinary arts program. It prepares students for careers in the food service industry. They requested an additional \$72,000.

Co-Chair Stephenson commented on the nationally recognized dual immersion program in the state, 22 schools want to begin the program this year.

Dr. Claudia Miner, Vice President of Development at Waterford Institute, and Cap Ferry represented UPSTART. They requested an additional \$2.5 million.

Lisa Cluff, Director, Friends of Art Works for Kids, talked about the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program. She and Beverly Taylor Sorenson requested \$4 million dollars.

Rep. McIff spoke of H.B. 171, Necessarily Existent Small School Funding Amendments. This bill has a cost of five million dollars it would provide more educational opportunities to rural schools.

7. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Gibson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Madsen absent for the vote.

Co-Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 10:04 am.

Minutes were reported by Ms. Wendy Hill, Senate Secretary