

**MINUTES OF THE  
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 445 State Capitol Building

February 7, 2014

**Members Present:** Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair  
Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair  
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Vice Chair  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
Sen. Mark B. Madsen  
Sen. Aaron Osmond  
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart  
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe  
Rep. LaVar Christensen  
Rep. Stephen G. Handy  
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy  
Rep. David E. Lifferth  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. Jim Nielson  
Rep. Kraig Powell

**Members Absent:** Sen. J. Stuart Adams  
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher  
Rep. Francis D. Gibson

**Staff Present:** Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst  
Dr. Thomas E. Young, Economist  
Ms. Wendy Hill, Secretary

**Note:** A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Last called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

**2. IT Academy**

Mr. Scott Kennedy presented information about the IT Academy. He talked about the functioning of the program in the state and its successes. "Utah IT Academy Program Update" was distributed to the subcommittee. Mr. Brandon Jacobson, Teacher, North Sanpete High School described the program at North Sanpete High School. Breanna Fowkes, Madison Clawson, Natalie Walker, Caylie Purcell and Justin Erickson, students from North Sanpete High School, spoke favorably about the program. A request for an increase of \$600,000 was made.

### **3. Electronic Elementary Reading Assessment Tool**

Mr. David Stevenson, Vice President, Amplify told the subcommittee about the K-3 diagnostic reading program that is contracted with the Utah State Office of Education (USOE). Ms. Karen Robinson, Associate Director of Curriculum, Granite School District, Mr. Tyler Howell, Principal, Neil Armstrong Academy and Mr. Eric Campbell, Director of Elementary Education, Wasatch School District talked about the advantages of the program.

Co-Chair Stephenson talked about providing an incentive for schools to buy the program for students in grades 4-6. Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst said a separate bill to include more grades would be required. Co-Chair Last stated to expand this well-liked program additional funds were needed.

### **5. University of Utah Reading Clinic**

Sen. Osmond said the clinic serves as a resource for parents and teachers by offering assessment and intervention to struggling readers and provides professional development to educators. He requested an additional \$275,000 in ongoing funds to expand the program for a total of \$500,000. Co-Chair Last asked about matching funds and data showing the effectiveness of the program. Co-Chair Stephenson asked for further details about the program. Rep. Handy spoke in favor of the program.

### **6. Student Leadership Grants**

Sen. Osmond said last year a bill was passed that allowed the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) to give grants to schools for developing or acquiring a student leadership curriculum. Grants were given to thirty-one schools that provided matching funds. He requested \$250,000 one-time money for schools to continue the program next year. Co-Chair Last asked for details. Co-Chair Stephenson expressed his approval of the program. Rep. Christensen commented on the risk of endorsing one specific program.

### **7. Peer Assistance and Review**

Rep. Moss explained the program assists struggling teachers by providing teacher mentors to improve the quality of instruction. Salt Lake City School District applied for a grant for this program and provided matching funds. The first year the program had \$300,000. Last year the funding came up short. Mr. Logan Hall, District Administrator, Salt Lake City School District talked about the success of the program. Ms. Laura Wheeler, Consulting Teacher, Salt Lake City School District and Ms. Pat Draper, Consulting Teacher, Salt Lake City School District talked about their roles in helping teachers improve. Rep. Briscoe commented about the mentor selection and the remediation process.

## **8. Financial Literacy**

Sen. Jones spoke about S.B. 40. Utah has one of the highest bankruptcy rates in the nation. The bill enhances the quality of teaching. It also measures and tracks what students are learning. She requested \$300,000 ongoing and \$200,000 one-time money. Ms. Ann House, Financial Counselor and Educator, University of Utah, Ms. Susan A. Speirs, Certified Public Accountant, Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants/Jumpstart and Al Bingham, Media Consultant/Financial Advisor addressed the committee about importance of educating young people about sound finances. Vice Chair Eliason endorsed the program. Rep. Christensen commented about the balance needed in the curriculum with other classes. Co-Chair Stephenson was concerned about unqualified teachers.

## **9. ProStart**

Ms. Melva Sine, Utah Restaurant Association presented information about the ProStart program. She distributed a packet of information about ProStart to the subcommittee. Currently 56 high schools participate in the program. A request of \$350,000 was made. Peter Hodgson, Executive Chef, University of Utah and Kelsey Hofer, Pastry Chef, University of Utah spoke favorably about the program. Sen. Osmond praised the West High School's ProStart team excellent work.

## **10. State Capitol Visits**

Vice-Chair Eliason requested \$85,000 to assist funding field trips for students to the State Capitol. Rep. Christensen suggested alternative field trips for schools located in remote areas.

## **11. Suicide Prevention**

Vice-Chair Eliason presented information about suicide prevention. Last year the Legislature funded a full time suicide specialist at USOE. Utah is fifth in the nation for youth suicide. He requested \$159,500. Funds would provide grant money for schools to select a program to help prevent suicides.

Co-Chair Last talked of the remaining items the subcommittee needs to discuss. He announced a possible evening meeting next week.

**MOTION:** Sen. Jones moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Madsen, Sen. Urquhart, and Rep. Moss absent for the vote.

Co-Chair Last adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.