

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 445 State Capitol Building

February 10, 2014

Members Present: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Vice Chair
Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy
Rep. David E. Lifferth
Rep. Jim Nielson
Rep. Kraig Powell

Members absent: Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss

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.

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Eliason called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

2. Utah State Board of Education Funding Priorities

Dr. Martell Menlove, State Superintendent, Utah Office of Education (USOE) reviewed “Utah State Board of Education Funding Priorities.” The report was distributed to the subcommittee. He talked about reductions from their original requests in legislative expectations, ongoing funding and one-time funding. Appropriation requests from the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind and the State Charter School Board were included.

3. Early Intervention Software

Senator Urquhart explained the request of \$5 million for early intervention reading software. The program currently serves students in grade K-2. The funds would expand the program to the third grade. Co-Chair Stephenson asked if this program might be combined with the 1 to 1 Device Initiatives. Sen. Urquhart agreed with the suggestion.

4. Statewide Online Education

Co-Chair Stephenson said the program started three years ago. It allows high school students to choose a provider for online courses. The appropriation request was \$500,000 ongoing and \$150,000 one-time money.

5. LEA Social Security and Retirement – Representative Briscoe

Rep. Briscoe distributed “Utah schools funding boosts don’t always filter down to the classroom” and “Public Education: Minimum School Program – Transition from the Social Security & Retirement Program to the Flexible Allocation Fund Program, Program History – FY 2004 to FY 2013” to the subcommittee. He talked about retirement and social security costs. He requested \$25 million. Rep. Nielson asked if money was put into the flexible allocation what is the source of funding. He thought districts should be responsible for funding retirement.

6. STEM Elementary Math

Sen. Urquhart spoke about improving student’s math skills. He requested \$5 million for computer adaptive math software aimed at students in grades 4-8. Co-Chair Stephenson approved the plan.

7. Poverty Interventions in Schools

Sen. Reid said the bill intends to assist children living in poverty with education. The program supports students with additional school instruction. Rep. Handy asked how much was requested. Sen. Reid said the request is \$5 million, with matching funds coming from work force services. Rep. Briscoe asked for clarifications.

8. Education Task Force Reauthorization

Sen. Reid said the bill authorizes an additional year for the task force to study education funding. Its fiscal note of \$64,000 is split between the House and the Senate.

9. School Construction Modifications

Rep. Cunningham reported a need for school construction standards. He requested \$350,000 for a study of standards that include; location, climate, student population growth, year round school

use, square footage per student, athletic facilities, cost of building materials, parking, compliance with building code and safety. Rep. Nielsen asked if the bill could be amended to involve the USOE. Sen. Madsen asked about a donation of land. The subcommittee discussed school construction.

10. Teacher Development Days

Rep. Cosgrove requested \$9.7 million for one day of teacher professional development or \$19.4 million for two days. Co-Chair Last believed school districts should show accountability for professional development funds. Rep. Lifferth and Vice-Chair Eliason added comments.

11. Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (HB 286)

Rep. Romero said the bill provides sexual abuse prevention training in elementary schools. A request of \$55,000 was made for the program. Rep. Briscoe asked for details. Dr. Menlove said currently there is not a statewide initiative addressing and identifying sexual child abuse.

12. iSEE – Integrated Student and New Facility Learning Program

Co-Chair Stephenson spoke about the funding for iSEE. iSEE matches legislative funding two to one and in some cases three to one. Ms. Ann Hannibal, Associate Director, Natural History Museum, Erika Duross, Education Manager, The Leonardo/iSEE and Jana Rae Shaw, Development Director, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium talked about student field trips at the facilities. Co-Chair Stephenson asked for \$75,000 for each organization. A teacher training program involving all the iSEE organizations needs funds of \$300,000. Jayceen Walker, Government Relations, Museum of Natural Curiosity at Thanksgiving Point mentioned their curriculums.

13. Funding Allocation Formula

Co-Chair Stephenson said currently the state pays \$85 million for the Local Replacement Program. Dr. Thomas Young, Economist, explained “[Charter School Local Replacement Options](#);” Option one: increase the contribution amount from districts by bringing every district to the 25 percent threshold, option two: cap the state subsidy at \$85 million plus \$4 million (growth) and option three: reverse the cost split - higher value districts don’t keep as much for non-attending students were discussed. Co-Chair Stephenson commented about the inequity between school districts contribution to the Local Replacement Program. Sen. Hillyard expressed concern about the impact to Rich District. Rep. Briscoe, Rep. Lifferth, Vice Chair Eliason, Sen Hillyard, Rep. Gibson asked for more explanation.

Co-Chair Stephenson talked about the growth of charter school students and the state’s contribution to local replacement. He believed the state’s contribution should be minimized. Sen. Hillyard asked about bond money.

Minutes of the Public Education Appropriations Committee
February 10, 2014
Page 4

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

Co-Chair Eliason adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair