

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 445 State Capitol Building

February 11, 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. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
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. Daniel W. Thatcher

Staff Present: Mr. Jonathan Ball, Director, Office of the Legislative 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

Co-Chair Last called the meeting to order at 8:18 a.m.

2. Utah Futures

Co-Chair Stephenson spoke about collaborative efforts between Utah Futures and Utah Data Alliance. UtahFutures.org helps students make education and career plans online. Funding is needed to keep the organizations operating.

Rep. Lifferth wanted hard copies of the information presented in the last few meetings. Co-Chair Last said it is being prepared.

Rep. Powell asked for clarification. Co-Chair Stephenson said the Utah Futures needs a dashboard and the Utah Data Alliance site needs to be more user friendly. Utah Education Network (UEN) serves as the custodian for Utah Futures and Utah Data Alliance. Co-Chair Stephenson said there is no tracking data to an individual and privacy is insured for participants. Career pathways are decided by the participant. Utah Futures serves as an informational source for participants to know the economic future of career options.

3. Roy High School Graduation Project

Mr. Alan E. Hall, Chairman, Prosperity 2020, Ms. Gina Buttars, Principal, Roy High School and Rep. Dee introduced themselves to the subcommittee. Mr. Hall requested \$250,000 for an initiative, the Roy Cone. Prosperity 2020 strives to have every student graduate and be ready for college and career. “The Roy Cone College and Career Readiness Five-year Strategic Plan” was distributed to the subcommittee. Mr. Hall said he is donating \$250,000 to the initiative. Ms. Buttars distributed “Budget Projection Summary” and further explained the plan to engage children, increase graduation rates, increase adult volunteers and add full-day kindergarten.

Rep. Briscoe supports the proposal. Sen. Jones asked about the amount of funds and the involvement of the community council. Rep. Handy spoke favorably about the proposal. Rep. Moss spoke approvingly and asked about teacher involvement. Rep. Dee commented on the need to help students graduate.

4. ASSERT & Sound Beginnings

Sen. Hillyard talked to the subcommittee regarding Sound Beginnings. “Sound Beginnings, Utah State University” was distributed. Sound Beginnings provides early education to children 0 – 5 who are deaf or hard of hearing. He requested an additional \$50,000 ongoing money for an outreach program to assist families and teachers.

The Autism Support Services: Education, Research and Training (ASSERT) program is a training and research center housed at Utah State University. ASSERT provides education and training to students, their families and educators. \$50,000 was requested for this program. Rep. Eliason ask about funding details. “ASSERT Questions and Answers” was distributed to the subcommittee.

5. Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Program

Ms. Lisa Cluff, Executive Director, Friends of Art Works for Kids, Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program (BTSALP) and Ms. Rebecca Boyle, music specialist, Santa Clara Elementary introduced themselves to the subcommittee. Ms. Cluff updated the committee on the program. A packet of material “Friends of Art Works for Kids” was distributed. She requested \$5 million in ongoing funds. She said many school districts would like to be included in the program and the additional money would allow the program to expand. This year school districts matched the program at 20 percent, next year it will be 25 percent. Ms. Rebecca Boyle,

distributed a study “Relation of Pitch Accuracy to Reading Development Action Research” to the subcommittee. The study found a correlation between reading scores and music literacy. The subcommittee voiced their support of the program and asked for specifics.

6. UPSTART

Sen. Adams and Dr. Claudia Miner, Executive Director, UPSTART presented information about UPSTART. “Executive Summary, Utah UPSTART program Evaluation, Program Impacts on Early Literacy” was distributed to the subcommittee. UPSTART is a voluntary online preschool program for in home use. The appropriation request was \$5 million. Vice-Chair Eliason was concerned about the high cost of \$1600 per child. Sen. Jones was also concerned about high price. Sen. Madsen said the program had good results. Rep. Last commented on UPSTART’s careful research and said when more students participate the cost will go down.

Rep. Moss acknowledged a delegation of leaders from Indonesia.

7. Statewide Education Modernization Act

Rep. Gibson addressed the subcommittee about the Statewide Education Modernization Act. He hoped the change would produce better scores, better graduation rates and improve technology in the classroom. He talked about the benefits of modernization. Speaker Lockhart said she respected the committee and the process of requesting for appropriations. The bill is in the course of being written and will be ready soon. She requested a large unspecified amount of money in ongoing and one-time funds. Rep. Gibson said Speaker Lockhart would like \$300 million for this project. Co-Chair Stephenson said the House and Senate are collaborating to revolutionize education in Utah with a science based method. Co-Chair Last the subcommittee can prioritize the appropriation request and make recommendations. Rep. Briscoe supported the Statewide Education Modernization Act. Sen. Jones asked why the request came late in the session.

8. Dual Immersion

Co-Chair Stephenson said one-time funding of \$450,000 is needed to include the next grade level in the Dual Immersion program and expand to other schools.

9. Quality Teaching Block Grant

Rep. Christensen asked the subcommittee to read Utah code 53A-17a-24 sub paragraph B. The code allows the State School Board to distribute Block money to teachers in recognition of exceptional teaching. He asked the subcommittee to find some funds for this purpose.

Co-Chair Last said the budget requests list, “[2014 General Session - Public Education Building Block List](#)” will be available today.

MOTION: Rep. Nielson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Adams, Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Briscoe and Rep. Gibson absent for the vote.

Co-Chair Last adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair