

**MINUTES OF THE  
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 445 State Capitol Building

February 6, 2015

**Members Present:** Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Co-Chair  
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Co-Chair  
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy, House Vice Chair  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Jani Iwamoto  
Sen. Aaron Osmond  
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher  
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart  
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe  
Rep. LaVar Christensen  
Rep. Bruce Cutler  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Justin L. Fawson  
Rep. Bradley G. Last  
Rep. David E. Lifferth  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson  
Rep. Kraig Powell  
Rep. Norm Thurston

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

**Staff Present:** Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst  
Ms. Angela Oh, Senior Statistician  
Ms. Brooke Parrish, 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/Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

**2. Program Review: Concurrent Enrollment**

Ms. Sydnee Dickson, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education (USOE) gave a brief overview of the Concurrent Enrollment (CE) program.

Ms. Moya Kessig, Early College and Gifted and Talented Specialist, USOE discussed the qualifications necessary to teach a CE course. She explained how CE credits are transferred within the Utah higher education system.

Rep. Powell asked if course names were standard for Utah public higher education institutions.

Ms. Kessig replied that the names are standard. They appear the same on a college transcript.

Rep. Briscoe asked what an individual could do if their CE credit wasn't recognized by the university. Ms. Kessig replied that the USOE could help fix the problem.

Rep. Eliason asked if there had been cases when CE credit wasn't recognized at the college. Ms. Kessig replied that this can happen if the student doesn't receive above a C grade. Rep. Eliason asked if there were cases of students not getting their credit recognized in the way that they expected. Ms. Kessig referred him to the [General Education Pathway](#) document which shows which requirements the CE class will fulfill.

Rep. Poulson asked if both rural and urban districts participate in the CE program. Ms. Kessig replied that both participate.

Rep. Thurston asked why some private institutions and out of state institutions don't accept CE credit. Ms. Kessig replied that the USOE isn't sure, but they are working to figure it out.

Ms. Kessig explained the diagram [Utah State Office of Education: Concurrent Enrollment](#).

Rep. Briscoe inquired about dual enrollment funding. Ms. Kessig replied the funding is the same as it would be for other CE courses.

Sen. Stephenson asked if dual enrollment credit is more widely accepted. Ms. Kessig replied that the CE courses offered are National Association of Concurrent Enrollment or Dual Enrollment certified. The model for CE and dual enrollment classes within the state is the same as it is across the country. Sen. Stephenson expressed his disappointment with CE classes.

Rep. Powell explained the practices for CE classes in his district. He asked for an update on the CE programs offered by Snow College. Ms. Kessig replied that increased funding has increased the number of courses offered by the college.

Mr. Rick Wheeler, Snow College talked about the new programs that have been added as a result of the funding. Rep. Powell asked if the course numbers at Snow College were identical to those across the state. Mr. Wheeler replied that they were.

Rep. Powell asked which institutions awarded the most CE credits. Ms. Kessig replied that the top three were SLCC, Weber and USU.

Rep. Briscoe explained his experience teaching CE.

Sen. Stephenson asked if the CE teacher evaluation were available to review. Ms. Dickson and Ms. Kessig explained that because they aren't in one central location it would be difficult to do.

Rep. Eliason discussed the importance of providing teachers with feedback.

### **3. Program Review: To and From School Pupil Transportation**

Mr. Bruce Williams, Associate Superintendent Business and Operations, USOE, introduced Ms. Natalie Grange, Director of School Finance, USOE and Mr. Murrell Martin, Pupil Transportation Specialist, USOE.

Mr. Williams referred the committee to [Pupil Transportation Audit Process](#). He discussed the efficiency of the bus system.

Ms. Grange referred the committee to [Pupil Transportation Audit Process](#). She explained the transportation to/from formula.

Sen. Stephenson asked for clarification on the USOE audit process. Mr. Martin explained that the districts are responsible for creating and auditing their own routes. These audits are then examined by the USOE and problem routes are identified.

Sen. Stephenson asked if changing the to/from formula would improve the system. Mr. Martin continued to explain how the current formula works and why it is an effective formula. Mr. Williams explained how the incentive for efficiency is built into the current formula. Sen. Stephenson expressed his desire to give Local Education Agencies (LEAs) control of pupil transportation funds.

Rep. Eliason asked for the average bus operating cost per mile. Mr. Williams answered that it is \$1.16/mile.

Rep. Christensen talked about allowing more children on busses. Mr. Williams explained that while bus routes are planned around the total amount of students that must be provided transportation, the number of students that actually ride varies. There is nothing that can be done to change this.

Ms. Grange referred the committee to [Pupil Transportation Funding Formula](#), page 2. She explained the actual mile costs and minute costs for LEAs.

Mr. Williams explained [Pupil Transportation Funding Formula](#), page 1. He discussed the impact of proposed budget cuts. He also discussed parent reimbursement rates.

Rep. Briscoe asked what determines the qualification for busing. Mr. Williams replied that it is set by statute. Mr. Martin added that additional stops can be added if it doesn't increase cost.

### **4. Statute Budget Request: Utah Education Association**

Ms. Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, UEA President, introduced Mr. Jay Blain, Director of Policy and Research/UniServ Coordinator, UEA, to the committee.

Ms. Gallagher-Fishbaugh referred members to the documents [UEA Issue Brief](#) and [UEA Above vs. Below-the-Line](#). She discussed the implications of moving items above the line. She shared stories from teachers in school districts across the state.

Sen. Stephenson thanked Ms. Gallagher-Fishbaugh for the stories. He discussed the proposal to increase pay for qualified math and science teachers. Ms. Gallagher-Fishbaugh responded that although the increased pay was welcome, there is concern over the extra work required to receive that money.

Rep. Briscoe shared a personal story about his teaching experiences.

Rep. Cutler talked about the STEM program.

Rep. Poulson talked about her concerns relating to standardized testing. Ms. Gallagher-Fisbaugh echoed these concerns.

#### **5. Budget Request: Fine Arts Outreach**

Ms. Hillary Hahn, Director of Government Affairs, Utah Symphony and Opera introduced Ms. Jessica Wise and Mr. Brent Haymond. She explained the role of the POPS program and referred members to the [2015 POPS Flier](#).

Mr. Haymond explained the FY 16 funding requests outlined on the [2015 POPS Flier](#).

#### **6. Budget Request: Beverly Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program**

Presentation moved to a later time.

#### **7. Budget Request: Pupil Transportation in Charter Schools**

Ms. Roberta Hardy, Pinnacle Canyon Academy, explained the history of providing to/from transportation to Pinnacle Canyon Academy. She asked the committee to consider funding transportation for her charter school.

Rep. Fawson shared his concerns with transportation funding. He stated that funding should be given as a block grant.

Sen. Stephenson discussed developing criteria to allow qualifying charter schools to receive to/from transportation funding. Rep. Briscoe asked if this would allow all charter students to receive transportation funding. Sen. Stephenson replied that it would depend on the situation.

#### **8. Budget Request: State Charter School Board**

Mr. Tim Beagley, Chair, State Charter School Board, introduced Mr. Howard Headlee, Vice

Chair, State Charter School Board and Ms. Marlies Burns, Director of Charter Schools, State Charter School Board.

Mr. Beagley referred members to the [State Charter School Board Fiscal Year 2015 Funding Requests](#).

Rep. Briscoe asked for an update on the FTEs that had been funded the previous year. Ms. Burns replied that three FTEs had been hired and they were successfully helping the charter schools. Mr. Beagley added that these FTEs were helping to determine which schools are successful.

Sen. Stephenson and Mr. Headlee discussed the various types of charter schools in operation throughout the state.

Rep. Christensen asked about federal funding for charter schools. Mr. Headlee explained that due to the uncertainty of federal funds, grants for new charter schools are important.

Chair Kennedy asked if the board had been working on anything to address the to/from transportation issue. Mr. Beagley replied that although this is a USBE issue, the board would be willing to help look for solutions.

## **9. Requests for Appropriation & Bills with Fiscal Impact**

Dr. Sharyl Smith, School Library PALS, discussed the history of funding school libraries. She referred members to [LEA Expenditures on Library Books](#). She asked for an increase in funding for the line item.

Ms. Fawn Morgan, School Library PALS, discussed the challenges of funding school libraries.

## **10. Other Business**

Vice Chair Kennedy stated that the next meeting would be held on February 10, 2015 at 7:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Osmond moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.