



MINUTES

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Friday, February 7, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. | 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard, Senate Chair
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Chair
Rep. Steve Waldrip, House Vice Chair
Sen. Ann Millner
Sen. Kathleen Riebe
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Sen. Ronald Winterton
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Craig Hall
Rep. Dan N. Johnson
Rep. Karianne Lisonbee
Rep. Jefferson Moss

Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Susan Pulsipher
Rep. V. Lowry Snow
Rep. Robert M. Spendlove

Members Absent:

Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Bradley G. Last

Staff Present:

Ben Leishman, Finance Manager
Emily Willis, Financial Analyst
Annette Sion, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Hillyard called the meeting to order at 8:03 A.M.

1 . Budget Review/Agency Response:

Emily Willis presented the budget for the Science Outreach program.

[2a. LFA - Science Outreach Budget Review](#)

[2c. USBE Funding Requests - iSEE](#)

[2b. iSEE Infographic](#)

Nikki Wayment, Executive Director, Hawkwatch International, presented the iSEE program with the assistance of "Goose," a Peregrine Falcon.

Lindsie Smith, Director, Clark Planetarium, continued the iSEE presentation.

[iSee](#)

Sen. Hillyard asked where the Hawkwatch agency is located. Nikki Wayment responded.

Rep. Poulson expressed appreciation for the program.

Rep. Moss expressed his appreciation for the enthusiasm this program generates.

Sen. Riebe expressed her appreciation for the enthusiastic and knowledgeable individuals that are dedicated to the program.

Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Board of Education (USBE) gave a presentation about other funding requests with the assistance of Dr. Jennifer Throndsen, Director of Teaching and Learning, USBE.

Scott Jones presented the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program (BTSALP), with the assistance of Cathy Jensen, Education Specialist over BTSALP, USBE, and Lisa Cluff, Director, BTSALP.

[Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program](#)

Rep. Johnson asked how many schools are impacted by the current funding. Cathy Jensen responded.

Sen. Riebe commented that she has seen growth of specialists working with the program in the schools. Cathy Jensen responded.

Ben clarified the grant amount with the assistance of Cathy Jensen.

Rep. Waldrip spoke as a sponsor of the request and in support of the program. Cathy Jensen responded.

Scott Jones presented the Teacher Salary Supplement Program (TSSP) with the assistance of Dr. Jennifer Throndsen.

Ben Leishman spoke about handling the TSSP in a similar way as the Educator Salary Adjustment Program.

Rep. Eliason asked what positions are eligible for the supplement. Jennifer Throndsen responded.

Sen. Briscoe asked about the metrics of the teacher bonuses. Jennifer Throndsen responded with the assistance of Scott Jones.

Chair Hillyard expressed appreciation for the USBE.

Rep. Lisonbee asked if there was a way to fully fund the grant if it fell short. Ben Leishman and Scott Jones responded.

Chair Hillyard spoke about the importance and difficulty of getting the numbers right for funding of the WPU.

Ben Leishman gave further clarification.

Scott Jones presented the Student Transportation Request and was assisted by Ron Litchfield, State Pupil Transportation Specialist, USBE.

Rep. Eliason asked about clean air upgrades to the school buses and if they are tracked by districts. Ron Litchfield and Scott Jones responded.

Kent Larsen, Superintendent, South Sanpete School District, spoke about the safety of the buses and the supplement costs to transportation.

Rep. Eliason talked about different methods of flexibility in funding. Superintendent Larsen responded.

Chair Hillyard requested a complete list of all appropriations requests prepared by the next meeting.

Sen. Stevenson mentioned the great responsibility of the subcommittee.

Chair Hillyard wanted to emphasize the importance of working together.

Sen. Stevenson commented on how Utah is a leader on the funding process.

Scott Jones presented the Dual Language Program and was assisted by Jennifer Throndsen and Karl Bowman, Dual Language Immersion Specialist, USBE.

Rep. Eliason asked if students in this program have concurrent enrollment with higher education. Karl Bowman responded.

2 . Approve Minutes - January 30, 2020 and February 3, 2020

MOTION: House Chair Eliason moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 7.

Yeas-12

Rep. J. Briscoe
Rep. S. Eliason
Rep. C. Hall
Sen. L. Hillyard
Rep. D. Johnson
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. Poulson
Rep. S. Pulsipher
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. S. Waldrip
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-7

Sen. L. Fillmore
Rep. F. Gibson
Rep. B. Last
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. V. Snow
Rep. R. Spendlove

[3a. LFA - Regional Service Centers Budget Review](#)

House Chair Eliason assumed the chair.

Emily Willis presented the budget overview on Regional Service Centers (RSCs).

Sen. Lyle Hillyard presented SB 79.

[3a. LFA - Regional Service Centers Budget Review](#)

Sen. Riebe spoke regarding the phenomenal work the regional service centers have done.

Scott Jones spoke regarding local funding that also supports the RSCs.

Rep. Eliason expressed how enlightening it was to have visited smaller schools to see the great job they have done with the challenges of their location and lack of access to resources.

3 . Discussion on Necessarily Existent Small Schools (NESS) and Isolated Schools

[4a. LFA - NESS & Isolated Schools](#)

Ben Leishman presented a policy brief on schools operating in remote areas of the state.

[4b. USBE Budget Request - NESS](#)

Sen. Riebe spoke regarding the connection of schools with communities.

Scott Jones presented the funding of NESS, and was assisted by Todd Hauber, Business Administrator, Utah Association of School Business Officials (UASBO) .

4 . Break

Senate Chair Hillyard resumed the chair.

Rep. Johnson recognized the participants attending Educator Day on the Hill.

5 . Update on Carryover at the State Board of Education

[6a. USBE FY2019 Carry Forward Presentation](#)

Scott Jones presented on carryover at USBE and was assisted by Laura Belnap, Board Member, USBE, and Deborah Jacobson, Finance Director, USBE.

Emily Willis clarified the breakdown of budgetary funds.

Rep. Briscoe asked for clarification on the methodology of the fund accounting. Deborah Jacobson clarified and was assisted by Scott Jones.

[6b. USBE FY2019 Carry Forward and Obligations by Line Item](#)

Chair Hillyard commented on departments deferring obligations, delaying expenditures, and the difficulty closing year end to have final figures by September. Scott Jones responded.

Ben Leishman clarified balances. Scott Jones responded.

6 . Update on District Other Post-Employment Benefits Liabilities

Rep. Eliason spoke about the importance of funding the pension obligations.

Todd Hauber gave a presentation with the assistance of Leon Wilcox, President, UASBO.

[7a. District OPEB Summary](#)

Chair Hillyard asked about the funding level. Todd Hauber responded.

Rep. Eliason spoke regarding the funding of the Actuary Required Contribution (ARC).

7 . 10:25 a.m. Student Health & Counseling Program Update

Christy Walker, Safe & Healthy Schools Team Coordinator, USBE, gave a presentation about HB 373 (2019 General Session) with the assistance of Cynthia Phillips, Executive Director, Weilenmann School, and Sarah Young, Director of Strategic Initiatives, USBE.

Rep. Briscoe asked about the allocation for the SafeUT Crisis Line. Christy Walker responded.

Rep. Eliason said that HB 373 gave clarification on funds. Sarah Young provided further clarification.

Chair Hillyard clarified, and noted that there are not enough trained psychologists.

Christy Walker continued the presentation.

Chair Hillyard asked for clarification on the number of school counselors. Christy Walker and Sarah Young responded.

Rep. Waldrip expressed concern about hiring mental health service providers out of the county health departments. Christy Walker responded.

Chair Hillyard asked if it was a unique Weber County problem or statewide. Rep Waldrip responded.

Christy Walker continued the presentation.

Rep Briscoe asked about contracting services. Christy Walker responded.

Rep. Hall asked who is able to use the SafeUT app. Rep. Eliason responded and Christy Walker gave further clarification.

Christy Walker read a short statement from the Davis School District.

Cynthia Phillips talked about school nursing and counseling services.

Chair Hillyard asked about the size of the charter school. Cynthia Phillips responded.

Rep. Eliason mentioned a bill he was preparing about School Mental Health.

Sen. Riebe expressed her thanks for the lifeline these programs provide for children and parents.

8 . SafeUT Annual Report

Rep. Eliason presented a slide about youth suicide statistics in Utah compared to the national rate. Information was clarified by Rachel Lucynski, Business Operations Administrator, University Neuropsychiatric Institution (UNI).

Rachel Lucynski presented SafeUT and spoke about the effectiveness of their integrated suite of services with the assistance of Dave Eldredge, Director of Community Crisis Services, UNI.

Chair Hillyard commented on the ages of kids that commit suicide in Cache Valley.

Sen. Riebe expressed how great the needs are and how immense the program has become. Rep. Eliason responded.

Rep. Poulson discussed the impact on her students when a student commits suicide.

Sen. Snow expressed that many students in Utah are hurting and the importance of this program. Rachel Lucynski responded.

Chair Hillyard expressed that as a society we need to come to grips with the reality that mental illness is an illness and that it needs to be treated.

MOTION: Rep. Eliason moved to adjourn.

Chair Hillyard adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.