

The purpose of Utah Rural Schools Association (URSA) is to improve instruction in rural elementary and secondary schools in Utah.

The mission of the Utah Rural Schools Association is to advocate for educational equity and adequacy in Utah's rural school districts to help them meet the educational goals and needs of their students.

Therefore, URSA holds the following specific purposes, to:

1. Help rural schools and districts identify and meet their educational goals.
2. Improve communication among rural schools, the State Office of Education, institutions of higher learning, regional education service centers, the public, and other agencies.
3. Coordinate programs and activities and to provide sharing of services, resources, and information among the members of URSA.
4. Provide a unified voice to all citizenry, local boards, elected public officials, and legislative bodies that have impact on Utah's rural schools.
5. Encourage the development of stronger pre-service and in-service training of teachers and administrators in rural schools.

URSA is governed by a Board of Directors. Board membership consists of representatives from the rural district superintendents, elementary classroom teachers and principals, secondary classroom teachers and principals, regional service center directors, Utah State Board of Education, Utah Colleges of Education, district school board members, Utah School Boards Association Executive board, Utah Education Network, an Associate Superintendent from the Utah State Office of Education and a superintendent from an urban school district

Utah Rural Schools Association By-Laws

Membership dues shall be fixed annually by action of the Board of Directors and shall cover the period July 1 through June 30.

The officers of the Association are the voting members of the Board of Directors. Appointees for officers of the Association must be members of the Association.

An appointee for both the Executive Officers and Appointed Officers will be selected from a list of qualified candidates as prepared by the Officer Nominating Committee. The Officer Nominating Committee consists of the Regional Service Center Directors and functions on the request of the Board of Directors

Executive Officers

1. Vice President Elect. The Vice President-Elect shall be a superintendent of a rural school district and will be appointed by a majority vote of a quorum of

the Board of Directors. The vice President Elect shall normally become the President elect after having served one year as Vice President Elect unless circumstances, such as health and career obstacles require a President elect to be selected outside of this rotation because not available for continued service. If so required, a President-Elect may be selected to serve by majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors.

2. President-Elect. The President-Elect shall normally become the President of the Association after having served one year as President-Elect and one year as Vice President Elect unless circumstances, such as health and career obstacles require a President to be selected outside of this rotation because not available for continued service. If so required, the Vice President may be selected by the Board of Directors to serve by majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors.
3. President. The President-Elect shall normally become the President of the Association after having served one year as President-Elect and one year as Vice President Elect unless circumstances, such as health and career obstacles require a President-Elect to be selected outside of this rotation because not available for continued service. If so required, the President-Elect may be selected by the Board of Directors to serve by majority vote of a quorum of the Board. The President's term of office shall be one year.
4. Immediate Past President. When the President is succeeded by the President-Elect, the former President shall continue to serve an additional year as Immediate Past President, for purpose of continuity.

Appointed Officers

1. The Board of Directors may request a member from each of the following:
 - a. The Utah State Board of Education
 - b. Utah colleges (and universities)
 - c. School district superintendents
 - d. Elementary classroom teachers.
 - e. Secondary classroom teachers
 - f. Elementary school principals.
 - g. Secondary school principals.
 - h. Utah School Boards Association Board of Directors.
 - i. Utah School Superintendents Association.
 - j. Utah Education Network
2. The president shall appoint a Secretary, who may or may not be a member of the Board.

Ex Officio Board Members

1. Directors of Regional Education Service Centers.
2. A Superintendent from the Utah State Office of Education.
3. The Rural Schools Specialist, Utah State Office of Education.

Place of Meeting: All meetings will take place at the site announced to Board Members in normal notice given at least 48 hours before meetings. These sites may include a school district office, a university, state legislative offices, the annual conference site, and other reasonable announced sites.

Quorum: A majority of the Board of Directors will constitute quorum for the purposes of conducting votes and making binding votes and decisions. A majority of the Board members present may vote to adjourn the meeting to another time and place pending 48 hours' notice at least to all Board Members. Board Members may not defeat quorum by leaving the meeting once present.

Emergency or Expedited Actions or Decisions: To fulfil the core mission and purposes of the organization, if the President, President-elect, Vice-President Elect and Immediate Past President unanimously agree, they can constitute themselves as a temporary Executive Committee and as such an emergency or expedited action or decision may be taken by this group, provided the reasons for the decision and the decision itself would be legal and appropriate to have been taken at a regular meeting, but circumstances make it necessary to take action or make a decision in an expedited time frame. The purposes of such a meeting and expedited or emergency decision shall be communicated within 48 hours from the decision by e-mail to Board Members and the decisions thus taken shall be submitted for a ratifying or negative vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Such vote will be determined by a majority of those present at that meeting, providing Quorum is established.

Terms of Office

Ex Officio members may serve while holding appropriate office as defined above.

President, President-elect, Vice-President Elect and Immediate Past President serve for the terms noted above. Under normal circumstances one serves for a period of four years, progressing through the offices once elected as Vice-President Elect.

Appointed Board Members serve for one year, and may be re-elected by the Board annually at a regular meeting. [This could be two years, or three years with service times staggered to preserve institutional memory.]

Voting. Except as noted for Emergency or Expedited Actions declared by the President, President-elect, Vice-President Elect and Immediate Past President, all Board Members shall have one vote.

Article VI - BY-LAWS

By-laws shall be developed by the Board of Directors as needed, and shall be effective when ratified by a majority of members present and voting at the annual Rural Schools Conference.

Article VII - AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendment to this constitution may be initiated by the Board of Directors or by petitions bearing the signatures of fifty (50) members of the Association. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Board of Directors at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual Rural Schools Conference.

Proposed amendments shall become effective when approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors, followed by approval by a majority of the members of the Association present and voting at the annual Rural Schools Conference.

Revised July 2016