

URSA Board Meeting

January 17, 2014 - Approved February 14, 2014
Juab DO Nephi, Utah

Present:

Supt. Ray Terry, President, Beaver
Supt. Kodey Hughes, Tintic
Ken Platt, Garfield
Supt. Kirk Sitterud, Emery
Randy Winn, Emery
James Christensen, CUES

Supt. Steve Carlsen, Carbon
Barbara Corry, USBE
Andrew Clark, NUES
Dennis Sampson, UEN
Troy Jessup, UEN
Johnna Boyack, SESC

1. **Welcome by Supt. Terry.** Several members of the URSA board have asked to be excused from today's meeting due to conflicts. Andrew Clark, NUES, Dennis Sampson, UEN and Troy Jessup, UEN were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ken Platt motioned to accept the minutes with the correct spelling for Kerri Naylor. Randy Winn seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **State Office Report:** There was no representative of USOE present at the meeting.
4. **State School Board Items:** Barbara Corry was present for a brief update of school board news. Senate Bill 111, the equalization bill sponsored by Senator Osmond is causing some concern. The minimum tax will be set at 2013 levels. Any funds above those levels will be funneled through trust lands to committees/community councils instead of being sent to school districts.

Supt. Hughes feels that perhaps the URSA board should go on record as having a position on future legislative bills. He feels that it would be a good idea to show support for items and not just bring attention to URSA when we are concerned about legislative bills. He feels that it would be in the best interest of the rural school districts if URSA was to help train the new superintendents and make sure they are well informed and part of the legislative process.

Supt. Sitterud feels that it would not be in the best interest of the URSA board to take positions without first consulting with several qualified business administrators. The URSA board was formed to discuss rural issues to decide how to work together with the appropriate organizations. URSA is available to prevent rural schools from being ignored by having an organization established with a voice. How will members decide which position to take when they are members of different groups. URSA needs to be aware of legislation that will have a negative impact on rural schools and then make sure that the legislators receive explanation and clarification from its members.

It is very important for the rural superintendents to be available to the legislators at the Thursday afternoon and Friday morning meetings, to provide suggestions and answer questions, during the legislative session. In the past the urban districts have really supported rural issues and it would be a great benefit to not be in conflict with these districts. The board members need to be aware of future bills that will affect the funding for rural districts and take a stand. Give explanation to the JLC and get their support and understanding.

Supt. Terry feels that it is important for URSA Board members to be in attendance at future meetings. He would like to set up a structure for future URSA meetings. January meetings could deal with legislative issues, April meetings could deal with Rural Schools Summer Conference. A possible re-clarification of the motto and purpose of the URSA would benefit the whole board. The focus should be on legislative issues and the conference as the two main subjects and then the URSA board can discuss items as they arise.

Supt. Hughes would like to add a review of the URSA bylaws to the next meeting. He is concerned about the commitment of the board members.

UEN would like to hear feedback from URSA. They can then translate/advocate these positions via Ray Timothy. Supt. Terry would appreciate a UEN representative at all future meetings.

USBA has approved world language core K-12 for rollout. Every district should review for information.

5. **UEN Update:** Dennis Sampson and Troy Jessup were in attendance at today's meeting to update the board on the [UEN funding requests](#) for the upcoming legislative session.
- Priority 1 - \$600,000 for the Elementary Connectivity project
 - Priority 2 - \$1.6 million for Capital Equipment Replacement
 - Priority 3 - \$500,000 for Security and Retention

After a brief discussion on these funding priorities **Supt. Sitterud motioned that the URSA Board support the UEN funding request. Supt. Carlsen seconded the motion with the stipulation that the support is given through the JLC. All in favor, motion carried.**

To clarify the UEN funds that are being distributed to service centers: Troy Jessup said that the funds that come from UEN are with the understanding that the funds will be used for technical support and training capabilities. The superintendents on the service center boards are given the discretion to allocate the funds as needed in their districts. UEN funds the positions, but they remain employees of the service centers.

6. **Detailed Budget Report from CUES:**

- URSA Budget – A [handout](#) was given to the board with the yearend budget and expenses for the 2013 conference. Supt. Hughes gave a brief review of the current funds available in the URSA account. James Christensen answered questions and gave a brief overview of funding for the Rural Schools Conference. Supt. Hughes suggested perhaps adopting a 3-5 year rotation of the URSA funds among the 4 service centers. Supt. Terry would like a budget update at each of the quarterly URSA meetings. With accountability Supt. Terry is okay if the URSA funds transfer to SESC.

Supt. Sitterud motioned to move item #9 discussion to the item #6 location. Ken Platt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- 2014 Rural Schools Conference Budget/Planning – A [handout](#) was given to the board with a brief overview of ideas for the upcoming 2014 conference. JJ reviewed the handout information.
 - After a brief discussion of ideas, Supt. Hughes motioned that the theme for the 2014 conference be “Creativity & Innovation: Strategies that Work”. Supt. Carlsen seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Some conference suggestions are: Change the name of the “Common Core” strand to “Utah Core”, change the “Adaptive Testing” to “SAGE/Data Management” and merge the two strands.

- Some suggested keynote speakers are: Steve Young #1, Lt. Governor Cox and new Education deputy #3, Ed Smart if he does a program on child safety, Education Speakers Agency website program “Wavelength” & “Voicemail” for the entertainment portion held on Friday and ask Ray Timothy if he has any suggestions for speakers on the cutting edge of National Technology #2.
- Begin Friday with a breakout session instead of a keynote speaker and begin lunch and entertainment to begin at 11:20 with the conference concluding at 12:30 p.m.
- To cover advertising, SESC is in the process of developing posters/flyers for distribution to all rural schools and teachers. The booklet form would change for the 2014 conference.
- Registration will begin March 1, 2014, using an online program developed by Washington SD.
- Call for presenters will go out March 1, 2014. Close request will be by April 30, 2014. Acceptance of presenters by May 15, 2014. Publication of key strand presenters should be available at the beginning of March. There will be no charge for the presenters at the 2014 conference.
- Supt. Hughes would like to know about the cost of the evening barbecue and whether this is beneficial for the conference.
- Include location questions on the conference evaluations to see if attendees are favorable to moving the conference to Canyon View High School. Iron SD has indicated that the facilities would be available for the 2015 conference.
- Discount tickets for Shakespearean Festival. Perhaps have the option to add the cost of tickets to the registration costs.
- JJ gave the board the site address of the new Utah Rural Schools Association (rsau.org) website for their review. He has asked all members for suggestions and additions. One suggestion was to add a legislative tab, perhaps to include Duke Mossman’s legislative updates and comments during the session. Supt. Hughes motioned that the service center directors decide where the website will be hosted and maintained. Supt. Carlsen seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

7. 2014 Legislative Session Discussion:

- a) Strategies – discussed previously
- b) Supt. Hughes would like a list of the standing assignments from each service center so he can see who will be in attendance at each Thursday/Friday legislative meeting.
- c) URSA Board Members Assigned?
- d) URSA position will be to continue to support the JLC. Supt. Terry will try to send out a Thursday evening summary of what legislative conversations were held. The summary will be sent to URSA board as well as the 27 rural superintendents. There is concern about Sen. Osmond’s bill to allow each district to set number of days and hours in each individual schedule.
- e) Supt. Hughes would like to have an additional URSA Board meeting during the legislative session. The board opted to have an additional meeting on Friday, February 14, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. for those able to attend. NUES Director Duke Mossman was nominated to arrange room for meeting.

8. Rural Schools Concurrent Enrollment Proposal: Snow College is ready to roll with concurrent enrollment proposal. Presidents of all Universities are in favor of this proposal. UEN assured the board that Snow College is fully equipped to handle any transmission of classes for this proposal.

9. 2014 Rural Schools Conference Planning: Item moved to #6 by motion.

10. **Board Dialogue:** none

Next Legislative Meeting will be Friday, February 14, 2014 @ 9:00 a.m. Room on Capitol Hill TBD.

Next URSA Board Meeting will be Friday, April 11, 2014 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Juab DO, Nephi.

Supt. Carlsen moved to adjourn meeting at 12:50 p.m. Supt. Hughes seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.