

## URSA Board Meeting

November 25, 2014

Juab DO, Nephi

### Present:

Kodey Hughes, Tintic  
Dave Brotherson, Duchesne  
Jason Strate, CUES  
JJ Grant, SESC  
Steve Carlsen, Carbon  
Bart Reynolds, SUU  
Jeff Egly, UEN  
Duke Mossman, NUES  
Barbara Corry, USBE

Ken Platt, USBA  
Edna LaMarca, SEDC  
Mark Atkinson, SUU  
Rhonda Harrison, Millard  
Mark Dockins, Uintah  
Shad Sorenson, South Summit  
Kent Bigelow, South Summit  
Scott Ferrin, BYU  
Kip Motta, Rich-Via IVC

1. **Welcome by Supt. Hughes.** Introduction of Dr. Mark Atkinson, SUU. Group introductions.
2. **Budget report from SESC:** JJ Grant presented the current URSA budget information to the board.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The September 24, 2014 minutes were emailed to the URSA board members. After a brief discussion Supt. Steve Carlsen motioned to approve the “awesome” minutes. Supt. Mark Dockins seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Next meeting we will have a list of the voting members.
4. **URSA Secretary Stipend:** During previous meetings the board has discussed the possibility of providing a stipend for the recording secretary so the hosting service center will not have to take responsibility for all the financial costs. The board took this opportunity to discuss the possibilities available for the appointed recording secretary. Supt. Steve Carlsen motioned that the recording secretary be given a stipend of \$1,300. Supt. Dave Brotherson added a friendly amendment that the URSA board appoint a secretary for this position from one of the service centers and they be given a \$1,500 stipend for each year. Jason Strate seconded with the friendly amendment. All in favor, motion carried.
5. **URSA Leadership Items:** Supt. Hughes feels that the URSA board needs to come together and establish a stance and focus. He would like to see a member of the URSA board sit on the JLC (Joint Legislative Committee). URSA president could be a rotating member on the JLC. The URSA board members need to reach out to district superintendents with information. Share the website information [www.rsau.org](http://www.rsau.org) with all members of the individual service center boards. URSA needs to notify all superintendents and higher education officials frequently. Perhaps a Facebook page and Twitter account should be developed. Some items to include on the URSA Facebook page are:
  - SUU would like to have a higher education presence on the URSA page.
  - All information should be sent to the rural principals.
  - Service center directors will get together & plan Facebook and Twitter presence. They will generate a list of the contact information for rural principals and teachers for a mailing list. Prepare to rollout these media items in January.
6. **State Office Report:** No representative was available from USOE for this report.

7. **Legislative Meeting:** The board took this opportunity to discuss items of concern that will be active during the 2015 legislative session. During the 2015 Legislative session board members are encouraged to attend:
  - 3:00 p.m. Thursday meeting for Rural Superintendents and Service Center Directors.
  - 4:00 p.m. Thursday meeting for Superintendents, Business Admin. & SC Directors.
  - 7:00 a.m. Friday Rural Caucus meeting for all.
  
8. **UEN Update:** Jeff Egly presented the URSA Board with information regarding the current funding requests for UEN and UTN for the 2015/2016 year. Recently broadband improvements have been made in the service center regions. UEN has also seen increases in the IVC requests from many of the school districts participating in the Snow College concurrent enrollment program.
  
9. **State School Board:** Barbara Corey spoke with the board about 4 bills on sexual abuse that Senator Ivins presented at a recent UPAC meeting. He is proposing zero tolerance for teachers and employees in schools. She has requested that superintendents forward any policies they may have to Patti Harrington. Barbara also urged superintendents to be prepared to weigh in on this issue. Responding to questions Barbara feels that an invitation, to the new state superintendent, to have a representative on the URSA Board would be very beneficial. An invitation can also be extended to School Board members to attend any board meetings.
  
10. **Board Rotation:** A recent meeting of the 4 service center directors took place with discussion on a logical board rotation schedule. Supt. Hughes feels that letters of thanks should be sent to establishments for providing the service of their members. During upcoming service center board meetings the directors will need to talk to superintendents about people to fill open URSA Board positions. Supt. Carlsen, as the current USSA chairman, will review the USSA Urban Representative position about possible members. Possible suggestions include:
  - The SC directors suggested a 4 year rotation with past-past president, past president, president, and president-elect positions.
  - Once the members have completed their service in a leadership position they will be moved to the Legislative group for 1 or 2 additional years.
  - Each region should have 2 superintendents on the board, one each in an active and advisory position.
  - The teacher/principal positions will be filled as one per each region.
  - Higher education could possibly include additional institutions. Scott Ferrin has a suggestion for USU.
  - Possibly have a representative from UASBO and UCAT. Jeff Egly will talk with them about a representative for the URSA board.
  - Possibly have a BA representative to the board.
  
11. **Snow College:** Doug Johnson was not available to discuss this item. The board took this opportunity to discuss the lack of the classes needed to acquire program specific degrees. The board is happy with the direction of this program, but there is room for improvement. Recently the colleges/universities have developed a 150% rule. The rule indicates that by the time the student receives 150% of credits

they should plan to have completed their degree. The 150% rule applies to credit taken and financial aid. Some exemptions can be made by the counselors.

12. **2015 Rural Schools Conference Planning:** The service center directors discussed the need for a division of labor for the upcoming conference. Duties are currently planned on being handled by:

- Presenters – NUES
- Registration & finances – SESC
- Keynote speakers, prizes & awards – CUES
- SUU facilities, meals, tech lounge – SEDC
- Entertainment – all centers
- College credit – NUES
- Media – SESC
- Email reminders – All Service Centers

It was suggested that State Superintendent Brad Smith be invited to be a keynote speaker at the 2015 conference. The board felt this was a good idea and an invitation should be sent. It was also suggested that SUU President Wyatt be asked to open the conference. Landon Weeks was suggested as a possible Friday lunch entertainment. Jason Strate will continue to do research on any possibilities. Any further suggestions should be passed along to the Service Center directors.

13. **Board Dialogue:** The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 26, 2015 at Juab DO in Nephi. Supt. Hughes asked if anyone was opposed to moving the meeting to Salt Lake City to facilitate the attendance of superintendents at the legislative meetings. Supt. Hughes has asked that members keep the date for the meeting open and he will send meeting site details as soon as they have been determined.

The subject of legal counsel was discussed. There is the possibility that USOE will no longer have legal representatives available and the districts are exploring the possibilities of retaining the services of legal counsel. Options are being explored that would allow several districts to be involved in a contract with legal representatives.