

**URSA Board Meeting**  
November 3, 2016  
NUES Office, Heber City, Utah

**Present:**

Scott Crane, Chairman  
Jason Strate, CUES  
Edna LaMarca, SEDC  
Steve Carlsen, Carbon  
Paulie Vogrinec, Carbon  
Duke Mossman, NUES  
Dixie Allen, USBE

Mark Dockins, Uintah  
Dave Brotherson, Duchesne  
Dennis Sampson, UETN  
Kodey Hughes, Tintic  
Johnna Boyack, SESC  
JJ Grant, SESC via IVC  
Kip Motta, Rich via IVC

1. Welcome by Supt. Crane.
2. Approval of Minutes: After a brief review of the minutes from the September 15, 2016 URSA meeting Steve Carlsen motioned to approve as written. Jason Strate seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Financial Update: The board was given a copy of the current financials from the URSA account. All of the attendance points for the conference participants have been awarded via On Track accounts.
4. USBE: No representative was available at today's meeting
5. Utah State Board of Education Update: Dixie Allen is hoping to bring the Athletic Program rule back on the table for consideration. The new rule would allow students to go to multiple schools for each sport. NWEA has emailed Dixie about the possibility of moving their company to Utah to continue their work with the testing program. She has referred them to Syd Dickson at USBE. Dixie has offered to help any of the districts with areas of concern.
6. UETN Update: Dennis Sampson was at today's meeting to give the board an update as to what is happening at UETN. The UETN board voted on the Legislative funding requests recently. UETN is asking for 7.5 million ongoing and 4.6 million one-time funding. The majority of the ongoing funding is used to sustain the network. They are hoping for additional money to cover the funding gap at UETN. Dennis has recommended that the districts work with Sabrina Scott on category 2, classroom infrastructure, E-Rate funds. Sabrina will be holding 2 seminars on E-Rate funding and the districts are encouraged to have a tech representative and business office representative in attendance. UETN is entering into cooperative purchasing agreements to take care of the RFP's and the technical evaluations for the individual districts. UETN contracts, which qualify for E-Rate funding, can be used for the wifi infrastructure for classrooms to make district dollars go farther.
7. USSA Update: No representative was available at today's meeting.
8. 2017 Rural Schools Conference Discussion: The board had a discussion about the fact that USBE has indicated that the \$30,000 in funds that they have given for past Rural Schools Conferences will no longer be available. Syd Dickson has indicated that USBE may be able to help with funds for keynote speakers and presenters. The board would like a draft of a request letter that can be taken to Syd

Dickson with a funding request that can later be presented to the state school board. Supt. Crane has offered to talk with JJ about these funds and then meet with State Superintendent Syd Dickson about money for the conference. Supt. Crane would like additional information about past funds and conference particulars. JJ will put together a conference history for Supt. Crane.

- a. Conference Direction:
- b. Rural School Themes:
- c. Rural Schools Strands:
- d. Rural School Keynote Speakers: Jason spoke with Todd Whitaker who wanted to raise his costs, due to distance, to \$18,900 plus expenses. Jason cancelled the services of Todd Whitaker for next year's conference. Jason then contacted Grace Dearborn and Solution Tree about presenters. They gave him the name of Joe Cuddemi, a Colorado State University professor, who will do the keynote presentation and 4 sessions for \$6,500. Grace Dearborn is not available during the Rural Schools Conference, but her partner Katie Anderson is available and would do a Keynote and 4 sessions for \$4,500. Supt. Brotherson suggested Dean Wilson as a possible keynote speaker. Kodey Hughes motioned that the board move forward with Solution Tree, Joe Cuddemi, on July 13, 2017 and Dean Wilson as a keynote for July 12, 2017. Mark Dockins seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Supt. Crane suggested that after the sessions time should be built in for the attendees to have a team building opportunity.
- e. Rural Schools Entertainment: Jason Strate needs suggestions for entertainment for next years conference. A suggestion was made that we start the conference with a family event and end with a family event. Friday's lunch could include family members as well. A request was made for the Supts. of Rock to open the conference again next year.
- f. Vendors: It was suggested that the board have a discussion about the possibility of vendors to help supplement the finances for next years conference. Edna offered that they had just completed the SUMS conference and that the participants like that the vendors were in attendance. SEDC has just taken the job for next years SUECON and they have vendors at this conference. Vendors pay \$500 for SUECON and the vendors feel that this is a fair price. Supt. Crane recommends that the directors meet with Richard Stowell to find out how to run a vendor conference. Perhaps it would be beneficial to offer non money booths for places such as UEN to offer resources for new teachers. Supt. Crane asked that Shannon Dulaney and Edna LaMarc talk with President Wyatt at SUU about the facilities and about a vendor option. Mark Dockins asked that a list of 3 vendors per service center be compiled and sent via email to the board.

#### 9. Board Dialogue:

- a. Teachers-Teachers Contract: Utah State Board will no longer be paying for this service. Dennis Sampson will talk to Ray Timothy about UETN paying for this service.
  - i. Math Teacher Poll: Some of the secondary math teachers in the NUES region have concerns about the integrated organization of the common core standards for the high schools. They would like to poll other math teachers in other regions on their feelings. The board felt that it would be unwise for URSA to make this commitment. They feel that this subject should be broached by another organization in the state. Dixie Allen has offered to speak with the State Superintendent regarding this subject.
- b. Technology Grants
- c. Legislative Discussion: The board has heard that there could be funding shortfalls for next year. There are already 56 education bills planned for next year.

- d. Service Center Funding Update: Supt. Crane will be meeting with Gov. Herbert today about \$2 million in funding for service centers. Perhaps also making service center funding a sub item of NESS. The Governor needs to know that USBE is still short of \$400,000 for this fiscal year & \$2 million for next year. Jason Strate feels that service center funding needs to be a separate line item, without an MOU, that passes/flows directly to our fiscal agent. The money would pass through the state office to the fiscal agent of each service center.
- e. Roundtable:
  - i. Reading Endorsement program will begin at NUES on January 18, 2017.
  - ii. Math Endorsement program will begin at SEDC in January 2017.
  - iii. ESL Endorsement program will be hosted by CUES.

Dave Brotherson motioned to adjourn at 12:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting will be February 10, 2017 at the Utah State Capitol, Salt Lake City.**