

URSA Board Meeting

February 19, 2016
Utah State Capitol

Present:

Supt. Dockins
Supt. Brotherson
Dixie Allen
JJ Grant
Supt. Sitterud
Supt. Ray
Ray Timothy
Duke Mossman

Edna LaMarca
Supt. Dalton
Supt. Carlsen
Jared Black
Doug Johnson
Mike Daniels
BA from Duchesne
Visitor

1. **Welcome by Supt. Dockins.**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** After a brief review of the notes from December 9, 2015 and the minutes from September 24, 2015, Supt. Sitterud motioned to approve as written. Supt. Brotherson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **USOE Update:** State Superintendent Syd Dickson was not in attendance.
4. **Utah State Board of Education Update:** Dixie Allen was in attendance at today's meeting for an update of current Board of Education topics. The current State Superintendent, Brad Smith, has resigned from his position due to health reasons. It was decided that Syd Dickson will be instated as interim State School Superintendent and the current accountant will stay as the Associate Deputy Superintendent and accountant through the end of the current school year. Several board members expressed frustration in regards to the superintendent selection process and thanked Dixie for her continued efforts on behalf of the rural schools.
5. **UETN Update:** Ray Timothy joined the URSA board today for an update of the current state of UETN. Ray briefed the board on the current state of funds and facilities. In 2009 it cost UEN \$13 million for connections costs or circuits to connect all the schools. After E-Rate they were paying \$3 million for circuits, in 2016 it is costing \$22 million for all the circuits. Ray Timothy has asked the board to be in support of ongoing funds when they speak with their senators.
6. **USSA Update:** Patti Harrington was not in attendance at today's meeting
7. **Snow College Concurrent Enrollment Update:** Doug Johnson & Mike Daniels were available at today's meeting to give the board an update and handout on the concurrent enrollment program. Snow College is currently traveling far and wide to make sure that high schools are informed about the concurrent enrollment program. Snow College has seen a 58% increase in the occupied IVC seats. They have 11 more high schools that they are broadcasting to this year. They have changed to Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday classes. Currently the science classes are offered with labs. IVC tutoring is also available on Fridays. They have created 'hybrid concurrent enrollment classes' to help with scheduling difficulties. The students are able to watch recorded classes as long as they

continue on the same schedule as the live IVC classes. Snow College has developed a Certificate of Completion to allow them to focus on GE required courses, approximately 36 credit hours, that can be completed while still in High School. This Certificate of Completion is accepted at all Utah public higher education institutions. Snow College will need to update all of the equipment available at many schools for this program and they are asking if the Utah Rural Schools Association would be willing to submit a letter of support for their RUS Grant request. The board is in favor of sending a letter of support on behalf of Snow College. Supt. Dockins will complete this task.

8. 2016 Rural Schools Conference Discussion:

- a. Rural Schools Conference Themes - This year's theme is "Learning-Make it Happen-Make it Matter"
- b. Rural Schools Strands –
- c. Rural Schools Keynote Suggestions – Jason is currently working on keynote speakers. Syd Dixon will be presenting one day and Francis Davis will be the keynote for the second day.
- d. Rural Schools Entertainment Suggestions – Jason is currently talking with SUU about the possibility of having a performance of The Green Show for Friday at lunch.

The finances are still basically the same. As of this today only \$125 has been expended for this year's conference to get started on the SCHED website. SUU has committed to letting the Rural Schools Conference use the facilities for free. Meals for all attendees will need to be purchased.

9. Board Dialogue:

- a. Bylaws Update – The bylaws have been handed out and according to the current bylaws any changes need to be approved at the conference. One of the changes that will be made is that any future changes can be made by the board, but this approval will have to be made by all the members at the upcoming conference. Please read over the bylaws and send suggestions for any changes.
- b. Legislative Discussion – Kay McIff's NESS bill, HB270, passed 70 to 0 yesterday. It should add another \$1 million to rural school funding.
- c. Regional Service Center Funding Proposal – At last year's Rural Schools Conference then Superintendent Brad Smith made the suggestion that additional funds could be made available to service centers to help with additional positions. The directors have been working on a group proposal for these additional funds. The directors will take a wait and see approach until a new state superintendent has been chosen.
- d. Roundtable –

Next meeting will be April 28, 2016 @ Juab DO in Nephi. Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.