

URSA Board Meeting

April 25, 2014

Juab DO, Nephi, Utah

Present:

Supt. Ray Terry, President
Supt. Kodey Hughes, Tintic
Barbara Corry, USBE
Kip Motta, Rich
Ray Timothy, UEN
Duke Mossman, NUES
Randy Johnson, SEDC
Rhonda Harrison, Millard
James Christensen, CUES

Jason Strate, CUES
Randy Winn, Emery
Ken Platt, USBA
Supt. Kirk Sitterud, Emery
JJ Grant, SESC
Supt. Dave Brotherson, Duchesne
Supt. Mark Dockins, Uintah
Mike Nielsen, K-12 Adventa Learning
Johnna Boyack, SESC

1. **Welcome by Supt. Ray Terry.**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** After a brief review of the minutes from the February 14, 2014 URSA Board meeting, Randy Johnson moved to accept as written. Supt. Hughes seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **URSA Budget Report:** Johnna gave the board a brief review of the status of the URSA account with handout. Supt. Terry asked about the charges from the Utah School Board legislative lunch contribution. Randy Johnson stated that in the past URSA has been asked, by the Utah School Board/USSA, to contribute to the fund for legislative lunches. Supt. Terry will ask at a future meeting for some clarification on this item. Kip Motta motion to accept the budget report. Supt. Hughes seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **URSA By-Laws:** Two years ago, when Supt. Carlsen was the URSA president, the board began the process of updating the by-laws for URSA. The service center directors made changes to the old by-laws and a formal motion to accept the by-laws was never taken. Supt. Hughes motioned to accept the changes to the URSA by-laws as presented. Randy Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Kip Motta brought to the attention of the board the need to have the bylaws presented at the Rural Schools Conference for a vote. Supt. Terry would like the bylaws made available at the conference and online. A vote will then be taken among the attendees.
5. **New CUES Director Introduction:** Supt. Hughes introduced Jason Strate, North Sanpete Middle School Principal, to the URSA board as the new director at CUES beginning July 1, 2014. The board then took a moment for introductions.
6. **Rural Schools Budget Report:** JJ gave the board a quick review of the budget. Supt. Terry & Supt. Hughes asked for a few additional conference posters. JJ will make those available to anyone who would like some.
7. **State Office Report, USOE Items:** Martell Menlove was unavailable for today's meeting.

8. **State School Board Items:** Barbara Corry was available to give the board a review of the State School Board Items. The board is currently working on the search for a new State Superintendent. The board is planning to put out a RFP to hire a consultant to find the new superintendent. The members of the board are concerned about the desired qualifications for the incoming superintendent. Supt. Sitterud suggested that a letter, from URSA, should go to the state school board to emphasize the need for an educational background in the applicants. Supt. Terry will draft a letter to come from the URSA Board. Supt. Terry would like a letter to come from each of the service centers as well as contacting their superintendents and encouraging them to contact the state school board about this issue. The focus of the letter should be that the state school board should consider an education background when choosing a new state superintendent. The suggestion was made that a letter should come from the Governor's office as well. Supt. Terry will contact Tami Pyfer for a conversation.
9. **UEN Update:** Ray Timothy was available to give the board an update regarding activities at UEN. During the legislative session UEN asked for the full amount for the elementary connectivity. Growth amount was \$150,000 and connectivity was \$450,000. The legislature did not cover the entire amount for connectivity, but they were given the entire growth amount. They received \$3 million dollars for equipment replacement. Ray Timothy is concerned that UEN was not aware of the plans for the Snow College concurrent enrollment bill. The bandwidth is available from UEN, but the \$200,000 bridge equipment will need some attention. UEN would like notification in the future for items of this type. The UEN service center funds will remain the same with an added 1.25% increase. Ray encouraged all of the rural districts to complete and return the distance learning survey. The results of the survey will be used to set some future direction. Supt. Sitterud is concerned that the district offices are not receiving the information needed from Snow College. Supt. Terry will forward the information that he has to JJ for forwarding.
10. **2014 Troublesome Legislative Bills:** The board took this opportunity for discussion on several new bills from the 2014 session. SB 56, building use bill. The question was raised how to follow the bill without impacting community you live in. Supt. Brotherson suggested you call Risk Management on how to decide on the fees that will be charged. He will send out his 'use permit' for the board. Child Abuse prevention bill and professional development with no additional funding.
11. **2015 Rural School District Legislative Items:** Supt. Terry asked for some clarification on how the service centers meet with their legislative representatives during the spring. He asked that if service centers meet with their legislators that they please focus on the bills that were a benefit or detriment to rural districts.
12. **2014 Rural Schools Conference Planning:** JJ gave the brief review of the plans that have been made for the upcoming Rural Schools Conference. To date 66 presentations have been submitted. Deadline for presentations is April 30, 2014. Supt. Hughes would like more SAGE, Common Core and applicable material. Registrations as of April 24, 2014 total 76, not counting presenters. Confirmed keynote speakers are Tami Pyfer for Wednesday and Ray Timothy for Thursday. In regards to the Friday entertainment the board feels that it is worth \$5,000 or more to bring the One Voice Children's Choir to the conference. JJ requested that the elected members and service center directors open the conference and present the keynote speakers. JJ asked for suggestions for this years recognitions. Suggestions were: Glen Taylor, Randy Johnson, Debra Roberts, Barry Walker, 1 principal of the year and 3 teachers of the year. The service centers will take charge of the principal and teacher of the year nominees. JJ will organize a recognition schedule and contact service centers about their choices. JJ

asked about the registration fees being waived for board members. Supt. Terry suggested that it be left to each member to decide whether to pay. Any funds paid will be used to supply prizes for drawings each day of the conference. Supt. Hughes would like SESC to contact SUU about tickets to plays to be used as prizes. Kip Motta suggested that each board member perhaps approach members of their community for donations to be used as prizes along with the registration money. Information on this years conference can be found on the URSA site at: rsau.org or ursa.k12.ut.us. Click on the link for 2014 Conference Schedule. The schedule can be accessed at ursaconference2014.sched.org. Supt. Terry requested that the link for the URSA website be added to the SCHED page. There will also be a group called Tech Talk available if anyone has questions about technology. If any of the members have people in their service area that are strong in any of the categories please encourage them to be presenters. If any board member has questions about the list of presenters please let JJ know.

13. **State Technology Initiative:** Randy Johnson addressed the board about SB 131, the technology initiative, and advised that this bill is not going away in 2015. URSA should perhaps ask for a representative on the committee. Supt. Terry will present options to USSA to alert superintendents, rural and urban, to the need for representation on this committee.
14. **Regional Service Center Funding 2015:** Randy Johnson recently had a conversation with Supt. Menlove about service center funding. Supt. Menlove has agreed to reinstate previous years funding and the service centers will receive \$384,500 next year. Members on the state board want to determine and make decisions on where the mineral lease money is being spent. There is concern about what will happen with service center funding. If possible the code should indicate that the money has to be spent where it is being generated. Another possibility is to have service center funding added as a line item. Randy Johnson is concerned about this option. Duke Mossman feels that a third option might be to approach representatives in the appropriations committees about funding. Thursday afternoon legislative meetings are very helpful and they should be continued as in the past.

Supt. Hughes is concerned about the changes of the service center directors. He would like to see a training set up, of the new directors, by the current and past directors. He would like more communication between the URSA board and service center directors regarding RESCUE meetings, etc. to prevent losing ground. Duke would like to organize a one day meeting between the 4 service center directors, each service center board chair, and the URSA leadership in July or August.
15. **URSA Board Schedule 2014/2015:** Supt. Terry is concerned that the Friday meeting dates are not working for everyone on the board and would like suggestions for future meetings. It was suggested that future meetings be held in a room with IVC capabilities. Meetings can be moved to Thursdays. Supt. Terry and Supt. Hughes will set up a possible calendar and send it out to the directors.
16. **Board Dialogue:** The question was raised about the next region in line for the president elect position. NUES will be the next region for a president. Duke was in an assessment pack meeting and they would like to know if the superintendents are interested in a uniform kindergarten test. Also people from the Dept. of Education will be in the state in August and would like to know if the superintendents are interested in doing some FERPA training. Would you like it as a regional training or one large training in SLC?

Meeting adjourned. Supt. Terry will contact the board with a future meeting date.

The following items were discussed at an impromptu meeting held by the URSA Board members attending the 2014 Utah Rural Schools Conference on July 9, 2014 @ SUU, Cedar City, Utah. There was no formal agenda and no business actions were taken. The following items were discussed:

Present:

Ray Terry, Beaver

Kodey Hughes, Tintic

Ray Timothy, UEN

Ken Platt, USBA

Dave Brotherson, Duchesne

Kirk Sitterud, Emery

Kip Motta, Rich

JJ Grant, SESC

Duke Mossman, NUES

Edna LaMarca, SEDC

Jason Strate, CUES

Scott Ferrin, BYU

Johnna Boyack, SESC Recording Sec.

Welcome by Supt. Ray Terry. A brief discussion was held on the subject of recording of meetings.

- Previously it has been discussed about the possibility of making URSA a more viable organization. URSA could benefit from better promotion. Supt. Terry has asked Tami Pyfer about having an URSA representative on the Governors Board of Education as a rural representative. Supt. Terry has asked the Cedar City newspaper to come to the conference to perhaps write an article on this year's conference. Supt. Hughes suggested that perhaps the Rural Schools Summer Conference could expand to include districts other than the 27 rural districts. He would like to open the conference to all educators across the state and perhaps refer to it as the URSA sponsored conference on educational best instructional practices.
- Supt. Terry would like to see that a "Thank You" is sent to all presenters. He would like to recognize the wonderful job that they have done at this year's conference. JJ assured the board that a thank you will go out for all the presenters. Supt. Terry feels that the conference should remain at SUU in the future. Supt. Hughes is calling President Wyatt, SUU about costs and advantages of having the conference at SUU.
- Duke Mossman asked the board to help with determining the amount of funds that the USSA Board should propose/request from the legislators for technology. After a discussion of figures, Duke will draw up the numbers using \$20 million with a 15% minimum base for distribution of the technology funds at the Superintendents conference in July.
- URSA Board Members – Currently the URSA Board is made up of 1 superintendent from each service center region, principals, service center directors and teachers. All positions have been appointed in the past. The board feels that there is value in continuity. During the upcoming year Randy Winn's position, elementary teacher, will need to be appointed. Should an invitation be sent to include a representative from Snow College on the URSA Board? There is currently no wording in the Bylaws regarding the structure of the group. The members present would like to add wording to the bylaws regarding the appointment of members and specify a 3-5 year commitment. JJ read a passage from the bylaws regarding the election of officers and the appointment of board members:

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

Elected Officers

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 become the President elect after having served one year as Vice President Elect.*
2. **President-Elect.** ~~The President-Elect shall be elected by the membership in attendance at the annual Utah Rural Schools Conference. a superintendent of a rural school district and will be appointed by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors.~~ become the President of the Association after having served one year as President-Elect ***and one year as Vice President Elect.***
3. **President.** The President-Elect shall become the President of the Association after having served one year as President-Elect ***and one year as Vice President Elect. 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 ~~shall appoint~~ ***may request*** a members 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 ~~Executive Board~~ Board of Directors
 - I. Utah School Superintendents Association.
 - J. Utah Education Network ~~(Ex officio)~~
 - K. ~~Candidates~~ ***Board members*** representing teachers and principals shall not be from the same district.
2. ~~These organizations will~~ ***may be requested to appoint a representative to the Board:***
 - A. ~~Utah School Boards Association Executive Board.~~
 - B. ~~Utah School Superintendents Association.~~
 - C. ~~Utah Education Network, (Ex officio).~~
 - D. ~~Terms of these representatives will be staggered.~~
3. ~~The president shall appoint a Secretary, who may or may not be a member of the Board.~~

During the next meeting the board will begin to formalize the appointments to the URSA Board. Members should find someone from the Universities not currently represented, Utah State University & Snow College, to be on the URSA Board.

- A president elect will need to be determined. NUES is the next region in the rotation for a president. Duke will talk with Mark Dockins about the commitment and see how he feels about being appointed president elect.
- The board opted not to approve the bylaws with the body until further changes have been made.
- Supt. Terry was concerned about the attendance at past URSA meetings. He was questioning whether a different day of the week would be a better for all the attendees. After a brief discussion it was decided that Supt. Terry and Supt. Hughes will work on the schedule and then forward the dates to the board. The following dates were chosen:
 - September 24, 2014 @ Juab DO, Nephi 10:00 a.m.
 - November 25, 2014 @ Juab DO, Nephi 10:00 a.m.
 - February 26, 2015 @ Juab DO, Nephi 10:00 a.m.
 - April 22, 2015 @ Juab DO, Nephi 10:00 a.m.
 - July 8-10, 2015 @ Rural Schools Conference

An IVC option could be used to allow board teachers to be present. Will possibly add this item to a future agenda for Principals & Teachers.
- The subject of the recording secretary was approached by Supt. Hughes. The bylaws have no information on how the secretary is chosen. Supt. Hughes would like to see continuity with the minutes and communication. Supt. Hughes feels that there should be a stipend offered by URSA to cover any costs incurred.
- Supt. Hughes would like to see the summer conference planning rotate between the service centers every 3 years. Supt. Hughes stressed that he has had nothing but positive comments on this year's conference. During future conferences he would like to see Friday's schedule a little less watered down. Supt. Brotherson did have some concerns about locking presenters in to prevent having the same difficulties as this year. Supt. Hughes would like a tabbed evaluation added to the end of the conference schedule. Scott Ferrin has stated that he would like to suggest a trick roper for future conference entertainment. Positive comments have been received about not having keynote speakers during the lunch hours.