

URSA Board Meeting

April 28, 2016

Juab DO, Nephi, Utah

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|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Present: | Mark Dockins | Sam Ray |
| | Duke Mossman | JJ Grant |
| | Dave Brotherson | Kirk Sitterud |
| | Dixie Allen | Bart Reynolds |
| | Scott Crane | Shannon Dulaney |
| | Jason Strate | Laura Hunter |
| | Edna LaMarca | Kip Motta-via IVC |
| | Steve Carlsen | Johnna Boyack |

- 1. Welcome by Supt. Dockins.**
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** After a brief review of the minutes, Supt. Sitterud motioned to approve the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Supt. Ray. All approved, motion carried.
- 3. USOE Update:** Syd Dixon was unable to make today's URSA meeting.
- 4. Utah State Board of Education Update:** Dixie Allen was available at today's meeting to give us an update of current business with the Utah State Board of Education. The board is currently busy at this time trying to put into law all of the items that came out of the 2016 legislative session. They are also searching for a new State Superintendent. The position was opened for applications last week. The state board is currently in an election bracket and six positions are up for election. Dixie encourages all the superintendents to be in attendance at board meetings in order to show support for items on the agenda.
- 5. UETN Update:** Laura Hunter was in attendance at today's meeting to give all members an update on professional development through UETN. UETN did very well during the legislative session in regards to funding. A portion of the one-time funds will be dedicated to equipment upgrades. Two million in one-time money was earmarked for the administration the Utah Futures program. Ongoing funding was primarily dedicated to growth, this will be given to student and school needs. UEN commissioned 3 studies: technology infrastructure, engineering study, and ed-tech professional learning within the state. Laura reviewed a report on Professional Learning for the group. This is part of SB22 from last year. UETN launched a fully online ed-tech endorsement program last year and as of today they have 169 teachers enrolled in the program. There are currently several openings at UETN: Professional Development specialist, Procurement Specialist.
- 6. USSA Update:** Patti Harrington was unable to attend today's meeting. Supt. Dockins did ask Dr. Bart Reynolds what the current atmosphere is regarding higher education. Secondary education has its challenges. The graduate numbers in education have dropped dramatically. For the 2016 year SUU currently has 50 students in its education program. The board is concerned regarding the drop in teacher graduations for the coming years.
- 7. 2016 Rural Schools Conference Discussion:**
 - a.** Rural Schools Status Update – JJ gave the board a copy of the URSA finances to date and answered any questions. In regards to the USOE funding, as of 4/28/16 we have not received the \$30,000 in funds. USOE has requested an accounting of funds. This report was sent and we are waiting for a response.
 - b.** JJ gave the board a copy of the presentation proposals submitted along with the current registrations. Presentation numbers for this year's conference are similar to last year. Jason Strate asked Kip Motta if he would reach out to the principal's association to see if they would be interested in presenting on subjects of interest at this year's conference.

- c. Keynotes – Jason let the board know that Sydnee Dixon will be the keynote speaker for Wednesday morning. Reverend Francis Davis will be the keynote speaker for Thursday morning and URSA will pay \$3,500 for his services. He donates his fees after the conference. The Dueling Pianos group is located in Salt Lake City. They have been scheduled for Friday at lunch and URSA dollars will be provided for their act. The presenters will give out the URSA dollars during their sessions to be used on Friday. We will also be featuring “The Superintendents of Rock” who will be performing at the Tuesday evening picnic. Jason also stressed that if URSA is interested in Grace Dearborn for a future conference she will need to be booked over a year in advance. This item will be added to the July meeting agenda.
- d. Food & Facility – Edna LaMarca updated the board about the food and facility. SUU has donated all the rooms for this year’s conference. She will send a ‘Thank You’ to President Wyatt for the wonderful donation. The meals and drinks have been ordered.
- e. Schedule – Duke Mossman will begin work on the presentation schedule after the deadline has passed.
- f. Recognitions – Suggestions for this year’s Thursday recognitions include: Supt. Kirk Sitterud, Rep. Kay McIff, Rep. Kraig Powell, and Supt. Robert Johnson. The suggestion was made that recognitions be made when the individual retires. Contact will be made by the region they are located within. Jason will contact Kay McIff. Duke will contact Kraig Powell. Edna will contact Robert Johnson. JJ will contact Kirk Sitterud. Teacher/Administrator of the year recipients will need to be designated by June 2016. Please get a picture, bio and correct name spelling for each award recipient within your region.

8. Board Dialogue:

- a. HB277 Plans – The first survey has been sent to the districts to see who will apply. The 3 year plan will be based on what districts will be funding and submit an additional plan with information on what will be done if more funding is available.
- b. Roundtable:
 - i. The board is concerned about the amount of qualifying grants that are available at USOE and how they will find the manpower to complete all of the requirements. It was suggested that a letter of concern be sent to USOE and the Utah Legislature about grant programs, with a list of examples, and the hardships that are placed on the smaller, rural districts. An informal motion was offered to have Mark Dockins and Sam Ray work together and send a draft to the board for any suggestions. Mark will try to set this letter up on Google Docs so that everyone can add their thoughts and suggestions.
 - ii. A recent survey in Duchesne SD found it has 9 teachers that are either on an alternative route to licensure or in an internship. They have all left the USU program and gone to Western Governors University because USU was unwilling to work with the teacher’s needs.
 - iii. Duke Mossman questioned the funding of the Sterling Scholar Program through Deseret News. The 4 regions do their programs differently. Previously NUES has received \$5,000 per year. This year they were given an additional \$10,000. The Deseret News representative said that they fully fund the Wasatch Front programs. Duke would like to explore this issue and perhaps work towards additional funding for all regions.
 - iv. JJ Grant, SESC, mentioned that their region will be losing 2 superintendents this year. The Emery SD replacement will be Larry Davis. The San Juan SD replacement will be Dr. Edward Lyman.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2016 in room 202 of the Education Building on the SUU Campus in Cedar City. The meeting will begin at 10:10 a.m.