

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 445 State Capitol Building

January 29, 2014

Members Present: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Vice Chair
Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy
Rep. David E. Lifferth
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Kraig Powell

Members Absent: Rep. Jim Nielson

Staff Present: Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst
Dr. Thomas E. Young, Economics
Ms. Wendy Hill, Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 8:24 a.m.

2. Base Budget Review: Minimum School Program (MSP) – Related to Basic School Program

Mr. Ben Leishman, Analyst, talked about funds in the MSP and Weighted Pupil Units (WPU)s in the programs. “<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001109.pdf>” discloses how the WPU value has changed over time.

He referred the committee to “[4a-Issue Brief - 2014 General Session - Basic School Program - Special Purpose Optional Programs](#).” He recommended a repeal found in Chapter 53, Section 52 “Special Purpose Optional Programs” of the Laws of Utah, 1992.

He discussed "[4a-Minimum School Program - Performance Measures - Special Education Programs.](#)"

Mr. Leishman next talked about "[4a-Minimum School Program Performance Measures.](#)" He used the table, "Minimum School Program: Basic School Program Measures – 2014 General Session," to summarize the report by the Utah Office of Education (USOE).

Co-Chair Stephenson asked for information on students in Special Education.

Ms. Glenna Gallo, Director of Special Education, USOE, said less than one percent of the special education students in Utah are eligible for an extended school year. There is an increase of students with disabilities receiving a diploma.

Sen. Jones asked about the Park City's Basic Levy in the MSP. Co-Chair Stephenson and Mr. Leishman responded.

3. Base Budget Review: MSP – Related to Basic School Program

Mr. Leishman said Related programs are not part of the BSP and are often referred to as below the line items. Appropriations from the Education Fund and Interest and Dividends Account, are determined by the Legislature annually. Most balances come from Charter School Funding because of over estimation of students.

Vice Chair Eliason asked about money distributed to Community Councils. Mr. Bruce Williams, Associate Superintendent of Business and Operations, USOE said there is no summary report for the state, it is reviewed by district. Co-Chair Stephenson asked how the money is distributed. Mr. Williams said the money is allocated by the district to schools. The district manages the accounting.

Rep. Lifferth asked about nonlapsing balances. Mr. Leishman said balances occur because of over estimation and unclaimed reimbursements.

Sen. Jones asked if there was any mismanagement of the School LAND Trust Funds. Mr. Williams responded no, sometimes the funds are used in other ways other than academic purposes but school community councils are asked to replace those funds.

Co-Chair Stephenson said the state has an excellent accounting system for schools.

Rep. Christensen asked for the current balance in the School LAND Trust Funds. Rep. Handy said about \$1.7 billion.

a. Program Level Budget Details

Mr. Leishman discussed “[2a-Minimum School Program - Related to Basic School Program - Interest and Dividends Account](#),” “[2-Budget Trend - Related to Basic School Program](#),” and “[2a-Minimum School Program - Performance Measures - Related to Basic School Program](#).” He mentioned the aging fleet of school buses and bus inspections.

Mr. Murrell Martin, Pupil Transportation Specialist, USOE, explained the rigorous bus inspection by the Utah Highway Patrol and daily inspections. Co-Chair Stephenson asked for specifications. Vice Chair Eliason asked about clean fuel buses and requested a copy of the report about the buses. Sen. Hillyard asked about a plan for replacing older vehicles. Mr. Martin said there was a reduction of funds in FY 2010 which has affected the fleet age. Rep. Handy commented about his bill, H.B. 41, Clean Fuel School Buses and Infrastructure. Mr. Williams said currently the bill requires a fifty/fifty match.

Mr. Leishman said there is \$69 million appropriated for Pupil Transportation. The appropriation for Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) is \$3.2 million.

Mr. Leishman discussed several other Performance metrics, Enhancement for At-Risk Students, Accelerated Students, Concurrent Enrollment, Library Books, Critical Languages and Dual Immersion.

Vice Chair Eliason asked about the current inventory of library books.

Dr. Sharyl G. Smith, former State Specialist for School Library Media and Dr. Anne R. Diekema, Assistant Professor, Utah State University addressed the committee. Dr. Diekema discussed a report about reading skills. She discussed the need for good library collections. “School Libraries Support reading and Critical thinking Skills” and “RE: School Library Books and Electronic Resources” was distributed to the subcommittee. Dr. Smith mentioned the aging collection of the books in libraries and the high cost of eBooks. Ms. Fawn B. Morgan, former Librarian, Layton High School also testified of the aging collection.

Co-Chair Stephenson, Rep. Christensen, Rep. Moss commented on the need to fund school libraries. Sen. Hillyard was conflicted about the request and felt School Boards should be responsible for designating the funds. Co-Chair Stephenson said local districts should prioritize their funds. Vice Chair Eliason asked about cost’s of eBooks. Dr. Smith said the quality of the library diminishes without trained professionals. Sen. Thatcher said all line items should come with standards and all students are assisted by their school library. Sen. Jones commented on the report about critical thinking skills and reading.

4. Incentive Compensation Programs

Mr. Leishman presented “[4-Minimum School Program - Incentive Compensation Programs](#).” He talked in detail about five programs, Public Education Job Enhancement, Educator Salary

Adjustments, Teacher Salary Supplement Program, Extended Year for Special Educators and Year-Round Math & Science.

Rep. Lifferth asked about nonlapsing balances. Mr. Leishman said he looks at all the programs every year for balances and relays his findings. Co-Chair Stephenson asked for clarification on the terminology. Sen. Madsen asked for information about the performance level of teachers and their students after teachers increased their education. Ms. Sydnee Dickson, Director, Teaching & Learning Section, USOE responded that currently data is collected on teachers and next year effectiveness could be measured. Rep. Briscoe asked how many teachers participated in the program. Ms. Dickson said the number is reported each year to Mr. Leishman. Sen. Jones said incentives are important to teachers.

Co-Chair Last asked Dr. Martell Menlove, State Superintendent, USOE to comment on the Teacher Salary Supplement program.

Dr. Menlove said the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) recommended the program be transferred to USOE. He said it would cost USOE \$80,000 to administer the program. Co-Chair Last asked Dr. Menlove if it is difficult to get teachers with advanced training throughout the state. He said at this time the critical needs have dropped. Ms. Dickson said problems with pay differences have been resolved over time. There is still a need for physical science and high level math teachers.

Sen. Madsen remarked about measurements of academic gains. Ms. Dickson said the USOE is currently determining which measurements are suitable. Sen. Madsen asked about academic demands needed to major in scientific fields. Ms. Dickson said very few individuals want to teach after receiving a science degree. Sen. Jones said the Legislature needs to invest in teachers.

Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, President, Utah Education Association (UEA) said the UEA has a \$.5 million grant from the National Education Association to help teachers in the Salt Lake School District gain an endorsement in physics. The (UEA) is not opposed to teacher bonuses. UEA is working with USOE to have high quality teachers in the classroom. Co-Chair Stephenson was appreciative of UEA's support.

Sen. Madsen asked for clarification about a physics endorsement.

Co-Chair Last commented about Extended Year for Special Educators. He asked if there was a shortage of Special Educators. Ms. Glenna Gallo, Director of Special Education, Utah State Office of Education said there is a shortage of Special Education Teachers for preschoolers and students with severe disabilities. Co-Chair Last inquired if Special Education Teachers received more compensation would more people be attracted to the field. Ms. Gallo said yes.

Rep. Christensen commented on signing bonuses and low starting pay. Co-Chair Stephenson commented about a bill that would increase teacher pay 50 percent.

5. Charter School Local Replacement

Mr. Leishman explained “[3-Issue Brief - 2014 General Session - Charter School Funding Programs](#)” and “[3-Charter School Local Replacement - State and Local Cost Sharing.](#)”

Sen. Osmond asked about the funding formula. Vice Chair Eliason commented about Charter School growth. Mr. Leishman said the Weighted Pupil Units (WPU) follow the students to either Charter Schools or district schools.

MOTION: Rep. Handy moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Adams, Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Thatcher, Sen. Urquhart, Rep. Gibson and Rep. Powell absent for the vote.

Co-Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair