

URSA Board Meeting

October 3, 2017

Juab District Office, Nephi

Present: Shannon Dulaney
Edna LaMarca
Nathan Jenkins
Larry Davis
Duke Mossman
Scott Crane
Bart Reynolds
Ray Timothy

Jason Strate
Dave Brotherson
Kodey Hughes
Scott Ferrin
Terry Shoemaker
Sam Ray
Johnna Boyack
Cheryl Cox via IVC

1. Welcome by Shannon Dulaney

2. **Approval of minutes:** Ray Timothy motioned to approve the minutes of September 12, 2017. Larry Davis seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3. **NESS Committee:** Duke Mossman updated the board on the meeting with the NESS Committee. The committee has met several times. First meeting was with state people and they felt that they were giving money to districts that no longer qualify for NESS monies. Examples include Kane district students who are attending school in Big Water and still claiming WPU for those students and San Juan elementary students from 2 separate clan schools who are in the same area. Several districts have been able to clear up any areas of confusion. The only item that will need to be fixed is that there needs to be a committee set up that can deal with any issues that arise. The committee which deals with the administration of NESS should include district folks who can address these issues. Currently the committee is made up of state people and it needs some district representation. Leave the rule and law alone, but add some district representation. Shannon Dulaney has asked that a letter be formulated to define our request to have a meeting with representatives to discuss what the committee business administrators are asking. NESS funding is on schedule to be audited next year by USBE.

4. **URSA Structure & Purpose:** URSA serves a valuable purpose and we should recognize and understand that purpose. Duke's perspective of the URSA purpose is that there are 3 main funding pots that pertain to rural districts and it is the URSA Board responsibility to defend said funding pots.

- NESS Funding
- Administrative fund for districts with less than 5000 students
- Regional Service Center Funding

A fourth funding avenue was discussed at a recent USSA meeting in the base+ funding for small rural districts. It is an URSA responsibility to educate the newer superintendents in regard to these funding formulas. It was suggested that we say the purpose of URSA is to advocate for equity and access for rural students. It was brought to the attention that URSA has bylaws, a mission statement and purpose that is found under the Board Resources section of the URSA website. It was suggested that URSA have an informational calling card for legislative meetings, etc. Scott Crane volunteered SESC to create a trifold for distribution. Jason Strate would like the service center directors to work on a quarterly URSA newsletter. It was suggested that the board highlight a rural school district on the newsletter. It was suggested that URSA have a Facebook page and we add this item to the agenda for the November meeting. Scott Ferrin motioned that the word 'adequacy' be added everywhere that the word 'equity' appears in the bylaws. Sam Ray seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. This item will be added to the November agenda for approval. Please send amended Bylaws to the URSA Board.

The question 'Is every rural district represented by a service center?' The answer is no.

Shannon has offered to work with Sam Ray to put together a document regarding the pillars, adequacy and equity of the Utah Rural Schools Association to present to the board at the November meeting for input. The

board would like to see iterations of this document before the next meeting. Kodey Hughes motioned that we formalize our positions and existence as we work towards legislative items and goals for rural education to USSA and USBA and legislature. Larry Davis seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- Meeting Structure & Frequency – after discussion it was determined that the Directors formalize 4 structured meetings and add any advantageous planning meetings. Perhaps adding an IVC option for the meetings. The board requested that the board meeting dates be sent out as a Google Invite so they will be added to calendars and be accepted. Johnna will send google invites to the Board for future meetings. A possible future meeting time would be directly after the USBA conference at Little America in January 2018.
- Board Vacancies – NUES will be adding Dale Lamborn as a legislative representative. CUES is seeking to change the 2nd teacher position.
- Legislative Session & Rural Caucus – Members of the board had some concerns regarding the protocol at the past Rural Caucus meetings during the legislative session. It was suggested that agenda should be established for these upcoming meetings using a Google Doc that can be adjusted by members and given to legislators at the Rural Caucus meeting. The URSA President should be available to conduct the Rural Caucus meetings. If the president is not available, the Vice President should conduct the meetings. Shannon will develop a draft agenda for the November 2nd meeting and suggests that members sit in the 1st 2 rows.

5. URSA Conference Discussion – Service Center Directors

- 2017 Conference Report - The keynote feedback from the 2017 conference as well as the leadership track was very positive. Some responses suggested that the sessions should be reviewed for 2018. It was suggested that the awards be given before the keynote speaker on Thursday.
 - 2017 Conference finances – The board was given a handout with the financial information from the 2017 conference. Scott Crane gave a brief review.
- Conference Survey – Duke Mossman reviewed the results of the survey that was sent out to past attendees regarding the format of future conferences.
 - i. Heber/Midway options: no incentives were offered by this area due to summer tourist traffic.
 - ii. Richfield options: (Handout) Sevier Tourism would contribute \$5,000 to the hotel room cost. Richfield High School would waive any facility charges as well as Snow College. Hotels are willing to block rooms for attendees. Meal service is possible. SVC will host an event, concert or comedian, for \$10 per person. Fremont State Park will host an after hour event for all. Other events are available.
 - iii. Price options: (Handout) The Travel Council is very willing to help in any way possible. They are willing to arrange activities and excursions for the group. Utah State University Eastern will waive all facility fees. Food service is available and USU Eastern is willing to subsidize the food costs. There are 500+ hotel rooms in the Price area and the hotels are willing to block rooms for attendees.
 - iv. Cedar City options: (Handout) Cedar City hotels will block out rooms up to 30 days before the conference. Cedar City tourism would consider \$2,500 to help with the cost of hotels. SUU has just completed work on a new housing facility and they would be willing to rent the apartments for \$30 per person per night. Chartwells, the SUU meal service, is aware of our dissatisfaction regarding last year's meals and they are working to make adjustments for the 2018 conference. SUU would also be willing to allow 5-12 food trucks that they would arrange for the conference. The Shakespearian festival would give \$10 discount tickets. The festival education would like to give small workshops on the ed programs they have available for the schools to bring arts to rural education. Any of the high school facilities can be used for activities.
- 2018 Conference Discussion:
 - i. Focus
 - ii. Funding – USBE will be approached for some assistance with the costs for the 2018 conference. Shannon is planning to request approximately \$25,000.

- iii. Keynotes/Speakers – Wednesday at 12:00 and a separate keynote Thursday morning after the award presentation. Jason has given the board links to view Christian Moore and Anthony Kim for possible keynotes. Kodey Hughes motioned that Christian Moore be scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 2018 and Anthony Kim be scheduled for the Thursday, July 12, 2018 keynote. Edna LaMarca seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- iv. Date Options – after reviewing the survey it was decided that the timing of the conference should stay the second week in July. For the 2018 conference it was decided that we would try Wednesday 1/2 day, Thursday full day, Friday 1/2 day.
- v. Place Options – The conference location will stay in Cedar City for 2018 with the possibility of a Cedar City, Richfield, Price rotation for future conferences. It will be published at the 2018 conference in order to promote the 2019 location.
- vi. Vendors/Sponsors – Scott Crane has been working with 2 sponsors that may join the conference at the higher level. He will continue to work with Waterford and Lightspeed for next year's conference.
- vii. Assignments – Shannon trusts that the service center directors are perfectly capable of handling the arrangements for the conference. The resource page needs to be revamped to reflect the conference information that Edna has presented.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.