

# URSA Board Meeting

September 24, 2014  
Juab DO, Nephi, Utah

## Present:

Kodey Hughes, President  
Ray Terry, Beaver  
JJ Grant, SESC  
Jason Strate, CUES  
Duke Mossman, NUES  
Patti Harrington, USSA  
Barbara Corry, USBE  
Kirk Sitterud, Emery  
Ken Platt, USBA

Bart Reynolds, SUU  
Dennis Sampson, UEN  
Doug Johnson, Snow College  
Scott Ferrin, BYU  
Edna LaMarca, SEDC  
Rhonda Harrison, Millard  
Mark Dockins, Uintah  
Kip Motta, Rich (Via IVC)

1. **Welcome by Supt. Terry.** In order to make the meetings more accessible to all the board members the meetings will be available through IVC.
2. **URSA President Transition:** Transition of President Position to Supt. Hughes. Supt. Dockins will accept position of President Elect.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Ken Platt moved to approve the minutes from April 25, 2014 with additional notes from July 11, 2014 meeting during Rural Schools Conference. Supt. Sitterud seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **State Office Report:** USSA legislative items include adding funding for student enrollment growth & wpu. They would also like to see full retirement to be funded as well. Patti Harrington encouraged all to spread the information about funding student enrollment growth. Bruce Williams, BA for State Office of Education, has been charged to take Board Rule R277419, Pupil Allocation of Money Rule and get the dates for Charter and Public schools in line. USSA is proposing that all students be on the October 1 date and stabilize this information with a second count on February 1. Other legislative items of concern: \$430-440 million for one on one devices, a bill coming out to do away with tenure, already some property tax equalization bills available to read online.
5. **Phoebe B. McNeally, Ph.D:** U of U Research Assistant Professor, Phoebe McNeally and Kevin Sato were present to discuss Professional Development that is available for teachers, GIS in the Classroom. ESRI ArcGIS online is free for K-12 schools. Information is available at:  
*A GIS in Education* Resource handout was given to the URSA Board. The information will also be available on the URSA Website under the resources tab. Phoebe McNeally said that she would be available to present this information at the Rural Schools Conference. A two hour session would be optimal.
6. **State School Board Items:** Barbara Corry gave the board an update of items of concern at the State School Board meetings. The State School Board is hoping to announce the new State Superintendent at their October board meeting. In regards to the SAGE assessment, school professionals should be prepared for parent feedback. Students can opt out of interim as well as summative testing. The suggestion was made about the possibility of having a rural superintendent as an advisor on the State School Board. Barbara Corry will speak with board members and let the URSA Board know how to proceed.
7. **UEN Update:** Dennis Sampson from UEN was in attendance at the URSA Board Meeting. Some items of interest are: During the summer UEN connected 25 new charter schools with 25 planned connections. UEN will request 2.5 million in ongoing funding to help with operations, UEN growth and network security. The UEN board has authorized a security assessment of their network. UEN has requested \$6.2 million in one-time funding to replace equipment out on the network. UEN has applied for RUS grant to replace high school distance learning equipment. Funding looks promising. There have been some negative E-Rate changes. UEN has submitted a petition on the rural education benefit and they are hoping for a reversal of said changes.

8. **Detailed Budget Report from SESC:** The board was given a hard copy of the financial information from Carbon SD along with a detailed report from SESC. Johnna gave the board a report on income and expenses along with a balance remaining in the URSA account. In preparation for requesting \$30,000 from USOE for the 2015 Rural Schools Conference an attempt was made to track steps that need to be taken. The board will wait for a superintendent to be appointed by the board. Letters for future funding will be drafted and brought to November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
9. **2014 Rural Schools Conference Report:** Add conference discussion to November agenda.
  - Themes, Strands, Keynotes, Dates, Etc.: Supt. Terry suggested perhaps tapping into Universities for assistance with breakouts/keynotes, etc. Prizes were well received at the conference. The choice not to have speakers during the lunch period went over very well.
  - Registration Update, Website: Timeline for the 2015 conference should occur sooner next year. All conference information is available on the URSA website at [www.rsau.org](http://www.rsau.org)
  - Budget: The board was given a printout of the financial files for the 2014 Rural Schools Conference. JJ gave the board a review of the expenses and income for the 2014 Rural Schools Conference. The 2014 Conference had 318 registered attendees: 73 presenters, 2 keynote speakers and 245 paying attendees.
  - Surveys: The surveys of the breakout sessions are now available on the URSA Website. The URSA board has asked the service center directors to talk to their superintendents about any information that was passed to them in regards to the conference.
10. **Technology Proposal:** Duke Mossman said that he will be meeting with Rep. Gibson next week on the current technology proposal.
11. **Board Dialogue:**
  - **Snow College Proposal:** Doug Johnson from Snow College was in attendance at the meeting to give the board an update on how the concurrent enrollment program is proceeding. Senate Bill 38 charged Snow College with providing a consistent two year concurrent enrollment schedule provided over IVC. They will provide a broad slate of classes so that students will have the opportunity to take enough classes and earn an associate degree. Snow College is working with Utah State University to fill any holes in the current IVC program. They will also provide academic advisory support to students. These advisors have made visits to all the schools that will be participating in the program. The credits that are earned from Snow College will be eligible for transfer to any state institution/university. The school has a rule that at least 40% of the credits earned have to be from Snow College in order to earn an associate degree from that institution. Spring schedule, 37 sections with 79 different credits, is available online and has been distributed to all schools. Add Snow College to November Agenda.
  - **URSA Board Rotation:** Supt. Hughes asked about the current rotation of spots for the URSA Board. Currently there is an elementary teacher opening, a secondary teacher opening, rural superintendent opening (assignment given by USSA), and University representation. Supt. Hughes would like JJ to supply the current available openings to the service center directors for suggestions. Supt. Terry would like to reach out to unrepresented districts. There is a need for some form of written procedure on the representation, rotation and yearly commitment required. It was requested that the service center directors meet, plan and present at the next URSA Board meeting.
  - **Legislative Priorities:** Supt. Hughes has requested that the board be aware of any items of concern for the upcoming Legislative sessions. Please bring any concerns to the attention of your service center directors for inclusion in the November 25, 2014 agenda.
  - **USOE Changes:** Supt. Hughes is concerned about the possibility of the disbanding of the legal department at USOE. He is concerned that they will be losing institutional knowledge with this action. Employment issues can also be handled by the Risk Management department.
  - **July 11, 2014 Meeting:** During the July meeting, at the Rural Schools Conference, the board decided to give Johnna Boyack a stipend for the work that she does for the URSA board. Supt. Hughes would like to add this item to the November 25, 2014 agenda for a motion. The board would like to have Johnna Boyack permanently fill this position with no service center rotation. It was requested that once the

minutes have been approved they be sent to all the rural superintendents. The management of the Rural Schools Conference will rotate every three years, but the financial responsibilities will remain with one service center. Supt. Dockins asked that Johnna submit hours that she spent working on the conference and the URSA Board meetings to Supt. Hughes, Supt. Terry and Supt. Dockins for review.

**Next board meeting will be held on November 25, 2014 at the Juab DO in Nephi. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.**

Total Meeting time 3:15.