



DRAFT MINUTES

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Friday, January 19, 2024 | 8:30 a.m. | 110 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Lincoln Fillmore, Senate Chair
Rep. Susan Pulsipher, House Chair
Rep. Norman K Thurston, House Vice Chair
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Ann Millner
Sen. Derrin R. Owens
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Steve Eliason
Rep. Matt MacPherson
Rep. Carol S. Moss
Rep. Candice B. Pierucci

Members Absent:

Sen. Keith Grover
Sen. Jerry W Stevenson
Rep. Katy Hall
Rep. Dan N. Johnson
Rep. Jefferson Moss
Rep. Robert M. Spendlove

Staff Present:

Ben Leishman, Finance Manager
Rachel Boe, Financial Analyst
Rachelle Gunderson, Financial Analyst
Nancy Skidmore, Committee 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/Approval of Minutes - October 10, 2023

Chair Fillmore called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

The committee will vote on minutes when a full quorum is present.

2. Line-Item Review: School Building Programs

[2a-Line-Item Review- School Building Programs](#)

[2b-School Building Program Distributions PDF](#)

Rachel Boe and Ben Leishman presented School Building Programs review.

3. Small District Capital Projects Fund

a. APPLICANT REVIEW/APPROVAL PROCESS - GRANTS AWARDED BY YEAR

[3a-USBE Small District Capital Projects Fund Presentation](#)

Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Utah State Board of Education, and Sam Urie, Director of School Finance, Utah State School Board presented a review of the Small District Capital Projects Fund.

Chair Fillmore commented that the Morgan Middle School East Wing replacement cost formula is wrong in the presentation. Sam Urie commented.

Chair Fillmore asked if there is a difference between approval of future projects and the counties where they are located. Sam Urie and Scott Jones responded.

Rep. Briscoe commented that the School Building Project implemented by the legislature has make a positive impact on smaller school districts in the state. Scott Jones responded.

Sen. Riebe asked if the Charter School Board is looking to implement a similar program for counties in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd class. Scott Jones responded.

Sen. Owens commented that the counties in the 4th, 5th and 6th class desperately need this program because of the counties small tax base.

Sen. Hinkins agreed with Sen. Owens comments and expressed appreciation for this program.

Chair Fillmore commented on the shortage of funds for school districts located on federally untaxable land.

4. Line-Item Review: School Building Programs

b. PROJECT UPDATES BY DISTRICT

Ben Leishman provided context on this presentation.

Curtis Whipple, Board Member, Wayne County School District, Randy Shelly, Superintendent, Wayne County School District, and Koby Willis, Superintendent, Piute County School District presented Project Updates by District.

Rep. Pulsipher assumed the chair.

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2023 and the October 10, 2023 meetings. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 11

Rep. J. Briscoe
Rep. S. Eliason
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. C. Moss
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. S. Pulsipher
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. K. Grover
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. D. Johnson
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Spendlove
Sen. J. Stevenson

5. Line-Item Review: State Charter School Board

[5b-SCSB Line-Item Review 2024 GS](#)

Rachel Boe, Cynthia Phillips, Vice Chair, State Charter School Board, and Marie Steffensen, Executive Director, State Chair School Board presented State Charter School Board Review.

Rep. Thurston asked for clarification behind the recommendation to make a significant one-time reduction in funding to charter schools. Rachel Boe and Ben Leishman responded.

Sen. Owens asked for the dollar amount of the recommended reduction. Rachel Boe responded.

Rep. Thurston asked why charter schools need four years of reserves in non-lapsing funds. Marie Steffensen and Cynthia Phillips responded.

Rep. Thurston asked how many charter schools are participating in dual language emersion and the Beverley Taylor Sorenson funding. Cynthia Phillips responded.

Rep. Thurston asked if any charter schools are participating in shared resources. Cynthia Phillips responded.

Sen. Fillmore resumed the chair.

Rep. Eliason asked how Cynthia Phillips would sum up the State Charter Schools funding request. Cynthia Phillips responded.

Sen. Millner requested a spreadsheet consisting of funding for charter school start-ups over the last five years. Cynthia Phillips responded.

Rep. Thurston asked the committee to consider moving \$3 million from the charter schools non-lapsing fund into reallocation. Sen. Fillmore responded.

6. Line-Item Review: Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

[4b-USDB FY25 PEA Presentation](#)

Rachel Boe, Carl Empey, Finance Director, Utah Schools for Deaf and Blind and Joel Coleman, Superintendent, Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind presented funding review and recommendations.

Chair Fillmore asked if the surplus for larger capital projects was planned and what is the normal carry-forward in a year. Joel Coleman responded.

Rep. Eliason asked if the schools have residential students and if so, how many. Carl Empey responded.

MOTION: Sen. Owens moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 11.

Yeas - 7

Rep. J. Briscoe
Rep. S. Eliason
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. C. Moss
Sen. D. Owens
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0

Absent - 11

Sen. K. Grover
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. D. Johnson
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. S. Pulsipher
Rep. R. Spendlove
Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. N. Thurston

Chair Fillmore adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.