



# **DRAFT MINUTES**

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Friday, February 2, 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. Katy Hall  
Rep. Dan N. Johnson  
Rep. Matt MacPherson

Rep. Carol S. Moss  
Rep. Candice B. Pierucci

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Keith Grover  
Sen. Jerry W Stevenson  
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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

### **1. Call to Order/Adoption of Minutes - Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

Chair Pulsipher called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

### **2. Final FY24 & FY25 Budget Issues**

Rachel Boe presented FY24 & FY25 budget issues.

Sen. Riebe asked if the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) funding request for an audiology van and plow truck could come out of their enrichment fund. Ben Leishman responded.

Sen. Owens asked if there is a formula in place so the USDB would not need to come to the committee for funds. Ben Leishman responded.

### **3. Requests for Appropriation**

Sen. Milner presented a RFA for High School Service Pilot Program with the assistance of Brittney Cummins, Senior Advisor of Education, Governor's Office.

[RFA - High School Service Pilot Program - Public View](#)

Sen. Riebe asked how this funding would be managed. Brittney Cummins responded.

Sen. Riebe asked if a stipend could be given to lower income kids. Sen. Milner responded.

**MOTION:** Rep. Eliason moved to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2024 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 12

Rep. J. Briscoe  
Rep. S. Eliason  
Sen. L. Fillmore  
Rep. K. Hall  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. D. Johnson  
Rep. M. MacPherson  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. S. Pulsipher  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Sen. K. Grover  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. J. Moss  
Rep. C. Pierucci  
Rep. R. Spendlove  
Sen. J. Stevenson

Sen. Fillmore presented a RFA for Anti-bullying Programs in Utah schools with the assistance of Jay Francis, chair, Utah Anti-bullying Coalition and Missy Larsen, Board Member, Utah Anti-bullying Coalition.

[RFA - Anti-bullying Programs in Utah Schools - Public View](#)

Sen. Milner, commented that these anti-bullying programs can help prevent mental health issues in children.

Sen. Fillmore presented a RFA for Long-term Educational Achievement Program SB0121 with the assistance of Elizabeth Garbe, Vice President of Public Policy, United Way of Salt Lake.

[RFA - Long-Term Educational achievement Program SB0121 - Public View](#)

Sen. Hinkins asked if this funding request is over a six year period. Sen. Fillmore responded.

Rep. Johnson asked how this money is distributed and how school district can access the funding. Sen. Fillmore and Elizabeth Garbe responded.

Rep. Eliason presented a RFA for Hope for Utah with the assistance of Dr. Greg Hudnull, Director, Hope for Utah.

[RFA - Hope for Utah - Public View](#)

[Anti-Bullying Coalition - Stand4Kind](#)

Rep. Johnson asked if this program works with already established programs in the schools. Dr. Hudnull responded.

Rep. Pierucci commented that she was on the Hope Squad in high school and has seen the positive impact this program has had on students. Dr. Hudnull responded.

Rep. Briscoe related a experience with student suicide when he was a teacher.

Dr. Hudnull made closing comments.

Sen. Fillmore assumed the chair.

Rep. Eliason presented a RFA for School Based Mental Health Screen Support.

[RFA - School Based Mental Health Screening Support - Public View](#)

Sen. Riebe asked which mental health supportive services are available to students after they are referred from the mental health screening. Rep. Eliason responded.

Rep. Pulsipher assumed the chair.

Rep. Johnson asked if funding could possibly become so diluted as it is distributed that it will eventually become ineffective in some school districts. Rep. Eliason responded.

Rep. Eliason presented a RFA for School Based Suicide Prevention Programs.

[RFA - School Based Suicide Prevention Programs - Public View](#)

Sen. Fillmore assumed the chair.

Chair Fillmore asked for clarification of the funding amount for this program. Rep. Eliason responded.

Rep. Pulsipher assumed the chair.

Sen. Fillmore presented a RFA for Research Supported Social Skill Development Program with the assistance of Andrea Johnson, CEO and founder, Teaching It Right.

[RFA - Research supported social skill development program - Public View](#)

Rep. Pierucci asked for an example of how using technology increases social skills. Andrea Johnson responded.

Rep. Briscoe asked if this is a K-6 program and how many schools use this program. Andrea Johnson responded.

Rep. Johnson asked if this program has a name and if there is data showing student attendance increases with the use of this program. Andrea Johnson responded

Sen. Fillmore assumed the chair.

Sen. Hall presented a RFA for School Readiness Grant Program with the assistance of Elizabeth Garbe, Vice President of Public Policy, United Way of Salt Lake.

[RFA - School Readiness Grant Program - Public View](#)

[3g2-School Readiness RFA Presentation](#)

Rep. Johnson asked for an explanation of the relationship between Upstart and other similar programs. Elizabeth Garbe and Sen. Hall responded.

Rep. Johnson commented that he believes that programs for kindergarten readiness are beneficial.

Rep. Watkins presented a RFA for Outdoor Education for Title I Schools, with the assistance of Michelle Jordan Johnson, Interim Executive Director, Canyonlands Field Camp and David Driggs, Advisor, Canyonland Field Camp.

[RFA - Outdoor Education for Title I Schools - Public View](#)

Rep. Thurston asked if there are districts who participate voluntarily and use their own funds to send students to the program. David Driggs responded.

Rep. Johnson asked if the curriculum is tied to state standards and if this outdoor education program partners with the environmental learning center in Monticello. Michelle Jordan Johnson responded.

Rep. Carol Moss presented a RFA for Advanced Degree Scholarship Program HB0287.

Rep. MacPherson asked if there is a retention requirement for those who receive scholarships. Rep. Carol Moss responded.

Rep. Walter presented a RFA for HB419-Charter School Funding Amendments.

[HB419 Charter School Funding Amendments](#)

Sen. Riebe asked if this funding only saves money for charter school students, how can it be prioritized over funding that saves money for all students in the state. Rep. Walter responded.

Rep. Johnson asked if this funding can be used for new construction and where does the money come from to pay for a bond. Rep. Walter responded.

Rep. Thurston presented a RFA for HB208S01-Teacher Licensure Amendments.

**4. Necessarily Existent Small Schools - Scale of Small School Operations**

Rep. Karen Peterson presented NESS - Scale of Small School Operations.

[4. A New NESS Formula Presentation](#)

[4a. A New NESS Formula - Tables & Charts](#)

Sen. Fillmore asked for a clarification of the WPU numbers. Ben Leishman and Rep. Karen Peterson responded.

Rep. Pulsipher assumed the chair.

Sen. Hinkins commented that the requested NESS formula would benefit seven of the nine counties that he represents.

**5. Requests for Appropriation**

Rep. Pierucci presented a RFA for HB432 - Master Teacher Program, with the assistance of James Moss, Board Member, Utah Board of Education.

Rep. Thurston asked if the Master Teacher Program is role-based. James Moss and Rep. Pierucci responded.

**6. Other Business**

Ben Leishman presented Public Education Appropriation Subcommittee: Ongoing Funding Item Requests.

Ben Leishman presented the Proposed Motions.

Chair Pulsipher pointed out that Duel Immersion was not taken out of the proposed budget.

**MOTION:** Rep. Thurston moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 8.



Yeas - 10

Rep. J. Briscoe  
Rep. S. Eliason  
Rep. K. Hall  
Rep. D. Johnson  
Rep. M. MacPherson  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. C. Pierucci  
Rep. S. Pulsipher  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Sen. L. Fillmore  
Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. A. Millner  
Rep. J. Moss  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. R. Spendlove  
Sen. J. Stevenson

Chair Pulsipher adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.