

Utah Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee (DRAFT 12-14-16)

November 17, 2016 – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Utah State Board of Education – Basement West Room

250 East 500 South - Salt Lake City, Utah

MINUTES

The meeting was made available by Webcast Link, and the recording of the meeting is available at:

<http://uvc.uen.net/videos/channel/78/>

Welcome was provided by facilitator, Murrell Martin – USOE Pupil Transportation Specialist

Advisory Committee in attendance: Kris Hadlock- Wasatch, Wynn Porter – Tooele, Brent Bills – Washington, David Roberts – Davis, Superintendent Rick Nielsen – Nebo, Natalie Grange – Utah State Board of Education (USBE), Murrell Martin – USBE, Jackie Hardman – USBE, Von Hortin - USBE.

Motion to approve minutes from July 20, 2016 made by Rick N. and seconded by Natalie G. The motion passed.

Item 1 Report on Standards Update 2016

Murrell Martin & Jackie Hardman

Brief updates on subcommittee progress were provided for each of the sub-committees. Appreciation expressed to the USBE Special Education section who has been a great assistance under the direction of Glenna Gallo. Also appreciation expressed to the Utah Highway Patrol who has been of great assistance. Several others from LEAs have been involved and it has been an open invitation for all who were interested in attending. It is believed that the additional coordination can be done and a first draft of the whole document sent out in the near future.

Updates on format of overall document were provided, and Murrell expressed appreciation to Jackie H. who has been handling drafting the changes from each of the sub-committees. Several issues are still being worked out in combining it with the foundation of the NCST 2015 document.

There was a discussion of possible time-frame, and it was determined that we should provide a 60-day public input period. There will then be a need to have the committees meet an additional time. The objective will be to have it in front of the state board soon after the legislative session. The overall goal will be to have it in place for a new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017. We will also plan on providing an update for the spring UAPT conference in March.

Item 2 H.B. 301 School Bus Route Grant Program

Natalie Grange & Murrell Martin

Discussion of H.B. 301 Route Grant Program that provided \$500,000 non-lapsing funding with restriction that not more than 15% or \$75,000 go to any one district. Five districts responded with application requests. A review indicated that three of the five were missing minor information. The committee decided it would be good to permit the three districts to provide the missing information. After much discussion, it was determined that subject to an additional review by USBE staff, qualified grants could be awarded, and a notice of a second round for applications could be provided.

The scoring matrix developed by USBE staff was reviewed as well as the current applications. Some expressed that they felt the rubric was too tight & that was why districts did not feel like they had time to apply. Challenges identified with cities unable to determine how soon properties would be developed, and they do not have funds to condemn properties and go to the expense of installing sidewalks to link subdivisions. Where is the balance of incentivizing cities but still being flexible enough on requirements? New developments create problems with missing links of sidewalks, and the placement of schools also creates problems for cities due to gaps in development from where a new school is placed. Ultimately property owners determine the timeframe for development of their property. It was recognized that there

can be significant differences between how cities and local boards handle the concerns. The gap in funding of about \$20 million less than the 85% identified in statute was identified as the biggest reasons local districts have difficulty funding hazardous routes. The existing grant applications only totals \$98,000 so there is over \$400,000 still available. There was a lengthy discussion about the need to set a precedence this year for the future, but also have flexibility of year by year look at priorities. It was identified that this whole process has taken a tremendous amount of time for districts as well as USBE staff, and current demands do not permit enough time to go out and conduct extensive audits just to award small grants of a few thousand dollars. A director watching the webcast emailed in that for them it was eight cities, six police departments, and 117 hazardous routes with not enough time and staff to prepare the application requests. All agreed that legislative intent was good and is appreciated. Even though it is appreciated, it was expressed that it would be a lot better support to raise the existing to and from to a higher level and let districts determine where to focus on hazardous routing.

Additional discussion about possible ways to percentage rank each category for an overall score was provided by Superintendent Nielsen. Each category of the risk factors could be assigned a weighting. The amount of funding requested, would not be part of the scoring as scoring should be focused only on risk factors. It was recognized that it also has to be flexible from year to year since a lot more could apply in future years. Some expressed concerns about part of the information supplied by Murray and Ogden school districts, and Murrell indicated he had the same concerns. It was again recognized that it would be too time consuming to go out and conduct a detailed audit for a few thousand dollars. If a request seemed unreasonable or that it did not meet the requirements, it could be denied. All districts could apply for the second round, and a denied district could reapply with better information for consideration in the second round.

It was discussed that if more funding was put in "To and From Transportation" local districts could address local concerns better and there would be not be an additional impact to USBE staff and resources.

Motion by Brent B. with a friendly amendment by Natalie G. *"Subject to additional reviews of all applications by USBE staff, the Transportation Advisory Committee recommends the Utah State Board of Education approve those who have qualified in this first round. Applications that are not qualified, may be resubmitted by districts as part of a second round of applications. Remaining districts will be encouraged to apply in the second round with a deadline at least a couple of months from now."* This motion was seconded by Rick N. and the motion passed.

Summary discussion with appreciation expressed to Rep. Standard and the legislature for bringing us to this point. There is a need to meet with him and others to express appreciation and discuss what has been learned in this valuable process. The time has not been wasted because we have learned a lot and future efforts will be less time consuming. Also the process has encouraged local districts to work with local cities more closely to address the safety risk factors. Washington and Davis reported that this has worked well for both of them. Natalie asked the committee members to be thinking about other recommendations to bring back to the committee. We will need to meet at a future date to consider the second round of applications. The application can be modified to clarify a couple of time factors. The first factor identifying immediate plans to remedy the risk factors within two years. The second factor identifying plans in the near future to remedy the risk factors within the next four years.

Additional discussion about the best solution would be to put more into the "To and From" school funding. Brent B. reviewed past history of committee and the fact that the role of the committee is to also make recommendations to the board concerning the need to bring the funding up to the 85%. It was discussed that this would have to first be discussed by the associations so that committee members came representing a position of their association. If the associations were together on a perspective, it would be easier for the state board to support that direction. This was the process

that was followed years ago when the legislature requested a funding formula study. The result of a collaborative effort involving the association was legislation placing 85% funding level in statute and an increase in funding until the economic downturn. At that time the legislature removed the bus replacement part of funding.

Item 3 Other Items for Discussion included a report on the Best Practices draft USBE staff is working with State Risk Management on putting together. It has been a very productive partnership to develop with input from districts and committee members as well. This will be a very helpful document when completed. Ideal would be to have it approved as part of standards, but if not it can still be a Best Practices document.

Item 4 Time and location of next meeting was discussed and January 5th from 9:30 to 11:00 was discussed as a possibility. This will be reviewed with Natalie G. and the future need to meet will be determined. Communication through the email list will continue. Meeting was adjourned at 3:15.