

MINUTES OF UTC PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

June 4, 2015

Co-chairs: Jonathan Johnson and Mark McBride
Held at the UTC offices

Those in attendance were Jonathan Johnson from Overstock.com, Mark McBride from LANDESK, Galen Murdock from Veracity Solutions, Senator Aaron Osmond of Certiport, Stan Lockhart from IM Flash, Tara Thue of at&t, Ron Hilton from Proximal Systems Corporation, Tom Lund from Tanner, Joyce Peters from Hill Air Force Base, Shelly Teuscher of Parsons Behle, Drew Clark from Kirton McConkie, Kelleigh Cole, Ben Hart, Kim Henrie and Vatsala Kaul from GOED, Bekah Demordaunt from U.S. Congresswoman Mia Love's office, Billy Hesterman from the Utah Taxpayers' Association, Helen Hu from Westminster College, Spencer Jenkins from USHE, Justin Jones from the Salt Lake Chamber, Ross Whitaker of the UofU School of Computing, Jeff Rogers of Paul Rogers & Associates, Richard Nelson and Judy Young of UTC.

Jonathan Johnson conducted the meeting and talked about the great participation of UTC members in the June 2 "Excite Students in the Classroom" Media/JA-in-a-Day event at Edison Elementary School involving 40 classrooms. Mark McBride moved and Helen Hu seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Rogers and Richard Nelson reviewed the accomplishments of the 2015 legislative session. Kim Henrie of GOED said that they need input on UTC's 2016 legislative priorities by the middle of August for the Governor's budget. GOED and USHE will address needs for the Engineering Initiative. The UCAT Board and USHE will consider expanding Custom Fit training and merit distribution needs.

The question was raised as to whether the high schools will be ready to accept computer science as a credit for graduation by its agreed implementation deadline of August 2015. Discussion was held on how best to approach. In addition, the wording needs to be changed from "AP Computer Science" to "Computer Science." Richard Nelson moved and Mark McBride seconded the motion for the Council to take action to get computer science accepted this school year for graduation as USOE and its Board committed with its approval June 2014. Helen Hu will draft some language. May need to do a Call to Action.

Vatsala Kaul showed GOED's new media campaign for which they will be asking funding from the Legislature this upcoming legislative session and will need industry to match the money allocated. Senator Osmond will tee it up for discussion with the Economic Committee.

Bekah explained how Congresswoman Love is working on The Student Right to Know Before You Go Act – take data from Higher Ed institutions and match with government info on website to decide where they want to go to school – a private/public partnership for upward mobility.

Senator Osmond expressed that he is grateful for legislation on dropouts. If schools don't make education happen for students then there is a third party option that can make it happen.

It was stated that calls from CEOs to legislators really do draw attention.

FIRST Robotics, which has an extremely high rate of success in keeping young people in STEM, is in dire need of funding if the program is to continue. Please let Judy Young know if you would like to help sponsor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.