



# United: For Good



March

Newsletter of the NEBO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2009



## Leadership Message:

March is a month full of political talk as legislators meet to decide on

bills. Every other year, we have the privilege and obligation to be involved in the process of deciding who those legislators will be. We want legislators that will represent their constituents and not their own agenda or those of lobbyists. It is important to communicate with your legislators and have your voice heard. They will respond more favorably than you might believe. When just a few people make their voice heard it can change a lot. Just last year I got together with some folks in my neighborhood and took them to the Caucus meeting. There we were able to elect delegates that had the same views, which in turn led to replacing the legislator we had at that time.

This year there were many bills that had to do with education. Thank you to those that took time to contact your representatives. When we unite we have a stronger voice and can make a difference and change. That is what this country was founded on and what men and women have given their lives for; that we would have a democratic system where the people have a voice.

The only ones with a right to complain are those who took the time to be involved in the process. Please get involved.

Douglas Lai  
Payson Area Representative



## With Your Rep.

- For info on local Assn. elections.
- If you're interested in attending UEA House of Delegates.

## Ask YOUR Association:

### Q: How did we fare with the Legislative Session?

A: The Utah Legislature approved a FY2010 public education budget that includes the following:

- An overall 6 percent net budget cut, 17 percent ongoing cut before one-time backfill from federal stimulus package;
- No change in the FY2009 WPU value of \$2,577;
- \$53 million to fund enrollment growth of 13,494 new students, but no funding for "below-the-line" growth of about \$20-\$30 million;
- \$148.3 million for the educator salary adjustment (same as last year) with no increase for growth;
- Elimination of \$77.6 million in Quality Teaching Block Grants (NOTE: This does not automatically mean Quality Teaching days are eliminated—Legislators stated a number of times this was merely a "cut mechanism" and whatever budget cuts occur at the local level should be shared by all employees. The association will be working to that end.);
- \$10 million for classroom supplies (same as last year);
- \$300,000 one-time for a pilot program for performance pay, taken from the math/science teacher salary program;
- Elimination of the remaining \$5 million appropriated last year for performance pay (\$15 million had previously been cut), leaving no funding for the program;
- \$580,000 for USDB salary adjustments;
- Elimination of the moratorium on charter school funding growth after 2010;
- No funding for the Singapore math pilot program;
- An increase in the basic levy rate from .00125 to .001303; and
- \$5 million of minimum school program FY2009 non-lapsing balances allocated for \$1,000 signing bonuses for new educators in FY2010.

## Legislative Session 2009



← "I never thought I'd see a six-percent cut to the public education budget and call it a "win," but that's essentially what happened," was UEA President, Kim Campbell's reaction at the end of the legislative session. For information on status of public education victories and losses, and some interesting insights into the legislation, go to:

<http://www.utea.org/politics>

If you'd like to send a word of thanks to the UEA lobbying team, you can contact them at:

[www.utea.org](http://www.utea.org)

## Say What?



During a spelling test I was trying to be funny and create amusing sentences. The word was "attractive" so I put it in the sentence of "I am very attractive". Right away one of my sweet little sixth grade boys replied, "If you were, you'd be married by now".

Allison Weathers  
Mt. Loafer Elementary

*"Knowledge is the only fountain both of the love and the principles of human liberty."*  
*Daniel Webster*

