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June 11, 2018

Rep. Norm Thurston
965 East Center Street
Provo, Utah 84606

Representative Thurston,

Thank you so much for your service to the citizens of Utah and specifically to the residents of Nebo School District during the recent legislative session. We are so grateful to have a man of your caliber representing us in the legislature, and particularly for your service in House leadership and on education committees.

We remain committed to using the resources provided by the legislature to ensure a high quality education for the students in Nebo School District and for supporting the educators who serve them. Thank you for funding growth, 2.5% on the WPU, Equalization, and all of the other funds that were allocated. These commitments are substantial and so important to us in providing a quality work environment for our employees and a world class experience for our students.

In particular, this year's funding enabled Nebo to: 1) increase the starting salary of a beginning teacher to \$42,388, plus a \$500 signing bonus, 2) give all employees a 5% salary increase, which significantly increased the salaries of our mid-career and veteran teachers, 3) improve our medical insurance benefit by reducing deductibles and maximum out-of-pocket expenses for our employees, 4) add thirty new teachers, 5) add professional development and collaboration opportunities for our teachers, 6) add additional social workers and school counselors, and a number of other initiatives to support students and staff.

We are sincerely grateful for your willingness to ask for and listen to our perspectives concerning legislation related to public education policy, funding, and governance. We recognize that you represent constituents with varying viewpoints related to education and appreciate that you respect our position as elected education officials and professional educators. We remain committed to assisting you in your important legislative work.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Rick Nielsen
& Nebo District Board of Education