

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 20, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair
Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary
Mr. Arek E. Butler, Policy Assistant

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He informed the Committee of the live audio broadcast of this meeting that will be available on the worldwide web.

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Thomas, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Hogue, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Shurtliff, and Rep. Urquhart absent for the vote.

Supt. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, provided an update of Utah's lack of progress in obtaining flexibility from the U.S. Department of Education in implementing the federal law, "No Child Left Behind."

Chair Stephenson noted that the Legislative Management Committee approved a joint meeting of the Education Interim Committee with the State Board of Education and Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.

2. Teacher Quality Report

Chair Stephenson noted that the State Board of Education and State Board of Regents are directed by statute to annually report to the Education Interim Committee on the status of teacher quality in the state.

Supt. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE, (Utah State Office of Education), presented an overview of "The Teacher Quality Report - June 2005," which was distributed in the mailing packet. He

reviewed information items and general recommendations from the report. He indicated that a study, conducted under contract with the USOE, looked at the supply and demand for Utah educators. He reviewed the findings of the study, recruitment issues, and the Terrel H. Bell loan program.

Ms. Phyllis "Teddi" Safman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and Ms. Joan Patterson, Director of Educator Quality, USOE, participated in Supt. Timothy's overview of the teacher quality report and responded to questions from the Committee.

3. Adult Education

Mr. Butler, Mr. Dean, and Mr. Larsen made a presentation on adult education in Utah. They described how adult education programs are administered and funded. A handout, "Adult Education Funding," and a copy of the slide presentation, "Utah Adult Education Program," was distributed to committee members.

Mr. John Florez, former deputy assistant secretary of labor, distributed and reviewed a written statement, "Renewing Adult Education for Today's Economy." He identified four questions to be addressed in evaluating the proper role of adult education and made recommendations regarding the mission and administration of adult education.

Supt. Christine Kearl, Associate Superintendent, USOE; Ms. Mary Shumway, Career and Technical Education Director, USOE; and Mr. Jim Andersen, Director, Salt Lake Adult Education, and Chair, Adult Education Advisory Committee, distributed and reviewed a handout, "Utah Adult Education." It was noted that the mission of adult education is to assist individuals to become self-sufficient, adaptable to change, and possessing skills to continue their personal growth.

Supt. Kearl said adult education ranks high among the priorities of the State Board of Education. Recently, they allocated in discretionary monies toward adult education.

Mr. Anderson presented a slide presentation on the economic impact and demographics of the adult education students.

Ms. Shumway said their charter from the federal level and the state level is to give adults the basic skills to be successful. She reviewed the present adult education activities and explained the gaps and linkages among adult education, DWS (Department of Workforce Services), and higher education.

Mr. Mike Richardson, DWS, briefed the Committee on how DWS relies on adult education to train and educate adults for better employment and to be more self sufficient. He noted partnerships are important, and indicated they are not perfect, but DWS is increasing its efforts to coordinate job training and education efforts, including placing more representatives in adult education facilities.

Sen. Stephenson took public comment.

Ms. Heather S. Dorrell, teacher, Granite Adult Education, commented that employers need a stable, educated workforce.

Ms. Marilyn Nunez, Education Director, Asian Association of Utah, commented on their adult education program and clarified their role working with DWS. She said they work closely with DWS and indicated that they have representatives at a DWS facility. She said it is important to work closely with DWS, but not have them be over the field of education.

Ms. Katie Jensen, English Language Center of Cache Valley, Inc., said they are a service provider for DWS and vocational rehabilitation. She said their link to USOE is invaluable.

Ms. Kate Diggins, Director of Adult Education, Guadalupe Schools, said they are a community-based organization with no ties to USOE. She said 80 percent of their students already have a job without assistance from DWS. She spoke in opposition to placing adult education under DWS.

Mr. Nate Southerland, doctoral student, University of Utah, commented that there are many jobs that require a high school diploma as an entry credential.

4. Computing Literacy Certification

Rep. Dayton noted that Certiport Inc., is a Utah based corporation that is a leader in certification in computer desktop application software and basic digital literacy. She apologized that time precludes discussion of this agenda item and asked that the presenters come back for the September meeting.

Mr. Chris Yandow, Director of State Initiatives, Certiport, Inc., briefed the Committee on what they will be discussing at the September meeting.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Buttars, Sen. Thomas, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Johnson, and Rep. Urquhart absent for the vote. Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.