

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 19, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson

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

Members Absent:

Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

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

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

1. Committee Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m. Sen. Arent was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Bigelow and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

Supt. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), updated the Committee on the "No Child Left Behind" waiver requests. He noted that the U.S. Department of Education did not approve Utah's application to use its U-PASS (Utah Performance Assessment System for Students) accountability plan as the "No Child Left Behind" accountability plan.

2. Federal College Grant Program

Rep. Dayton noted that Congress recently approved a program to award college grants to low income students who have completed a rigorous secondary school program of study established by a state or local educational agency and recognized as such by the Secretary of Education. She said Congressman Bishop is seeking to amend the program to allow a state's chief school officer, rather than the Secretary of Education, to recognize a rigorous secondary school program of study.

3. Review of Education Legislation in the 2006 General Session

Supt. Patrick Ogden, Associate Superintendent, USOE, distributed a handout, "Education Funding FY 2007," and made a presentation on education funding for the 2006-07 school year.

Mr. Mike Jerman, Utah Taxpayers Association, distributed handouts, "Utah Taxpayers Association 2006 Fast Tax" and "Utah School District Comparison 2004-2005." He reviewed the report on financial and statistical data for Utah's 40 school districts for the 2004-2005 school year. He noted that state funding for public education increased 12.8 percent for the 2006-07 school year compared to the previous school year.

Mr. Larsen and Ms. Steffen reviewed education legislation enacted in the 2006 General Session, as well as legislation that passed in one house. A list of the legislation was distributed in the mailing packet.

Sen. Buttars distributed a handout, "S.B. 56 Signed by the Governor on 3-17-06," which compares provisions of S.B. 56, "Secondary School Amendments," enacted in the 2006 General Session and proposed rules of the State Board of Education. He expressed concern that the proposed rules on acceptance of credits and grades awarded by accredited schools do not conform with S.B. 56, "Secondary School Amendments." Chair Dayton indicated that this issue would be addressed at a later time.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hale, Sen. Madsen, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Christensen, Rep. Dougall, and Rep. Ferrin absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.