

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 20, 2006 – 2:00 p.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  
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. Gregory H. Hughes

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

**Members Absent:**

Sen. David L. Thomas

**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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Arent moved to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hale, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Urquhart were absent for the vote.

Rep. Dayton distributed a letter from Mr. Lynn Stoddard written to Senator Orrin Hatch, along with Senator Hatch's written response regarding NCLB (No Child Left Behind).

Supt. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, provided an update on NCLB. She mentioned two areas of regulation: 1) testing of English Language Learners, and 2) teacher qualifications. She noted that no state's Highly Qualified Teacher Improvement Plan was acceptable, and all were required to resubmit a plan. Utah sought an extension of time for resubmission and was granted such, only to later be criticized for having missed the deadline. Utah is working on meeting an October 1, 2006 deadline, and in the meantime, is deemed by the U.S. Department of Education as "highly at risk." Nevertheless, a Utah teacher's license is acceptable in every state, and all other state licenses are acceptable in Utah.

Supt. Harrington indicated that there is mounting frustration with NCLB in every state, and several members of Congress have filed bills to provide a remedy.

Supt. Harrington distributed a handout, "Utah's Position on Dismantling Language in No Child Left Behind." She explained that the draft position statement assumes NCLB will be reauthorized but calls for revisions to restore control of public education to the states and to correct deficiencies in the law.

Rep. Hogue suggested using the word "revise" instead of the word "dismantle."

Chair Stephenson reminded the Committee of the joint meeting of the Education Interim Committee, Public and Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittees, State Board of Education, and State Board of Regents on September 21, 2006 at Salt Lake Community College.

## **2. Reports**

Chair Stephenson noted that the State Board of Education and State Board of Regents are required by law to annually submit a report to the Committee on the status of teacher quality, and the state treasurer is required to annually submit a report on the State School Fund.

Mr. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), and Ms. Phyllis "Teddi" Safman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, reported on teacher quality. Mr. Timothy distributed and reviewed two documents, "Professional Excellence - Utah Educator Quality" and "Teaching at Risk: Progress and Potholes." He discussed the challenges of meeting the demand for teachers and provided recommendations on improving teacher quality.

Mr. Edward T. Alter, State Treasurer, distributed and reviewed the report, "State School Fund Report - Fiscal Year 2006." He reported on the assets and earnings of the State School Fund and indicated that the fund continues to grow both through the efficient investment of the fund and the management and sale of lands by State Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

Mr. Robert Kirk, State Treasurer's Office, was available to respond to questions.

## **3. State Board of Education Nominating and Recruiting Committee**

Chair Stephenson noted that Utah law provides for the creation of a State Board of Education Nominating and Recruiting Committee to recruit and nominate candidates for the State Board of Education.

Ms. Christine Kearn, Education Deputy, Governor's Office, discussed the status of and addressed issues relating to the State Board of Education Nominating and Recruiting Committee. She identified certain areas that can be improved and pointed out concerns with the current code.

## **4. Early College High Schools**

The chair was turned over to Rep. Gowans.

Mr. Mark Cluff, State Board of Education, distributed a handout, "Utah's Early College High Schools Progress At-A-Glance," and briefed the Committee on the status of the early college high schools. He noted that the Legislature provided funding for the establishment of six charter high schools that partner with higher education institutions to offer a college level curriculum in the junior and senior years. He identified the current early college high schools as: AMES (Academy for Math, Engineering, and Science) - Salt Lake City; Itineris Early College High School - West Jordan; Nuames (Northern Utah Academy for

Math, Engineering, and Science) - Kaysville; UCAS (Utah County Academy of Sciences) - Orem; InTech Collegiate High School - North Logan; and Success Academy - Cedar City.

Mr. Stephen Jolley, Principal, Itineris Early College High School, and Mr. Al Church, Principal, AMES, briefed the Committee on the curriculum, academic progress, and successes of the early college high schools.

#### **5. Careers.utah.gov**

Ms. Mary Shumway, Utah State Office of Education, Mr. Gary Wixom, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and Mr. Lynn Purdin, Department of Workforce Services, distributed a handout, "www.careers.utah.gov," and presented a slide presentation and overview on the Careers.utah.gov website which provides information and assessments to assist students, parents, and guidance counselors in career selection. The site also provides links to postsecondary education and training programs and labor market and job information.

#### **6. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Holdaway moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Stephenson, Sen. Arent, Sen. Buttars, Sen. Hale, Sen. Madsen, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Christensen, Rep. Ferrin, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

Chair Gowans adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.