

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 16, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton, Senate Vice Chair
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Sylvia S. Andersen
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss

Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Rep. Patrick L. Painter
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

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 Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. Rep. Urquhart was excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Madsen, and Rep. Shurtliff were absent for the vote.

Ms. Steffen distributed a survey for legislators to complete, "Legislator Survey - May 16, 2007, Potential Topics for Bagels and Briefings."

2. Report of the K-16 Alliance's Special Task Force on Teacher Shortages

Chair Hughes noted that the K-16 Alliance appointed a task force to provide recommendations to address teacher shortages in the state.

Dr. David J. Sperry, Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy and former Dean of the College of Education, University of Utah, and Mr. Lyle Cox, Human Resource Manager, Washington School District, reviewed the report, "An Education Initiative for the State of Utah," which was distributed in the mailing packet. Dr. Sperry explained that the Task Force generated five sets of recommendations: (1) maximize the use of existing K-12 professional human resources (teachers) and capital facilities, (2) maintain market competitiveness, (3) increase scholarships and loans for those preparing to teach, (4) enhance the training capacity of public colleges of education, and (5) provide greater flexibility in licensing and hiring.

Mr. Cox presented a slide presentation, "Trimester Proposal," and explained the efficiency model that was recommended by the K-16 Alliance Special Task Force on Teacher Shortages.

Sen. Stephenson asked Mr. Cox to develop other break-even scenarios using different class size numbers.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to ask the Legislative Management Committee to approve forming a subcommittee to study teacher shortages, teacher quality, and teacher compensation. The subcommittee would hold six to eight meetings. He recommended that three members of the Senate and six members of the House of Representatives be appointed and compensated. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Madsen, and Rep. Shurtliff absent for the vote.

3. Teacher Quality Report

Chair Hughes noted that Utah law requires the State Board of Education to make an annual report to the Committee on teacher quality.

In the absence of Mr. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), who was unable to attend the meeting, Supt. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, introduced Mr. Larry Shumway, Director, Educator Quality Services, USOE, who was asked to present the report on teacher quality.

Mr. Shumway reviewed the report, "Report on Teacher Quality with Recommendations" that was distributed in the mailing packet. The report described quality indicators of the Utah teacher workforce and efforts currently underway to ensure continued improvement in the teacher workforce. The report described the increasing demand for teachers in Utah schools and data was reviewed on the supply of qualified teachers. It also described efforts in the past year to improve the means by which individuals are recruited to the teaching profession as well as efforts made to provide for induction and retention. Mr. Shumway gave an overview of the recommendations.

Sen. Stephenson distributed a letter sent to Mr. Kim R. Burningham, Utah State Board of Education, from Mr. Mark L. Shurtliff, Utah Attorney General, for the committee to review. The letter was in regard to the implementation of 2007 General Session, H.B. 174, "Education Voucher Amendments."

Supt. Harrington responded to questions about the letter.

Sen. Dayton suggested that the issue of H.B. 174, "Education Voucher Amendments" be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

4. School Facility Funding

Sen. Stephenson explained that school facilities are generally funded from property taxes, with some state funds also available. He reviewed the handouts that staff prepared and distributed, "Funding of School Capital Outlay Costs - Potential Policy Considerations" and "2005 School District Property Tax Levy Rates and Revenues." He discussed various issues related to school facility funding and noted that legislation will be prepared and brought back to the Committee for review.

5. Elementary Mathematics Curriculum

Chair Hughes noted that in 2006 the Education Interim Committee received testimony from mathematicians and math educators on the need to revise Utah's mathematics curriculum. The State Board of Education initiated a plan to revise the elementary mathematics curriculum, and the Education Interim Committee adopted a resolution endorsing that plan. A group of mathematicians, mathematics teachers, university mathematics educators, and USOE specialists developed a revised elementary mathematics curriculum and held public hearings throughout the state in April and May 2007 on the revised curriculum.

Supt. Harrington introduced the presenters for this agenda item.

Ms. Nicole Paulson, Elementary Mathematics Specialist, USOE, gave an update on the process for revising the elementary mathematics curriculum and major changes to the curriculum.

Dr. Russell Thompson, Department Head, Mathematics and Statistics Department, Utah State University, described the makeup of the groups that were involved in the process and explained the objectives for the meetings to revise the mathematics core curriculum.

Dr. David Wright, Department of Mathematics, Brigham Young University, commented on the proposed document and thanked Supt. Harrington for her efforts and others who were involved in revising the elementary mathematics curriculum. He noted the document has good standards and that improvements were made to the elementary mathematics curriculum.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Frank moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Madsen, Rep. Dee, Rep. Gowans, and Rep. Holdaway absent for the vote.

Chair Hughes adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.