

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE AND LOCAL ISSUES TASK FORCE**

Tuesday, August 14, 2007 – 2:00 p.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. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Rep. Sylvia S. Andersen
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Patrick L. Painter
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Present:

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Senate Chair
Rep. Aaron Tilton, House Chair
Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Todd E. Kiser

Members Absent:

Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
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

Members Absent:

Rep. John Dougall
Rep. Karen W. Morgan

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Angie Oakes, Associate General Counsel

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

Sen. Walker called the meeting to order at 2:26 p.m. Rep. Frank, Rep. Gowans, Rep. Last, Rep. Dougall, and Rep. Morgan were excused from attending the meeting.

Sen. Walker explained that motions will be made, and votes taken, separately for the Education Interim Committee and the Local Issues Task Force.

2. School Building Equalization

Mr. Dean provided background information on school building funding. He distributed and discussed handouts, "2005 School District Property Tax Levy Rates and Revenues," and "Property Tax Base Per Student."

Mr. Dean discussed draft legislation, "School Capital Outlay Equalization." He distributed and discussed handouts, "County Equalization Proposal," and "First Class County Equalization Option - August 14, 2007."

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Ms. Oakes reviewed draft legislation, "School Capital Outlay Equalization." She noted the bill equalizes school capital outlay funding in counties of the first class.

Rep. Hughes discussed the bill and responded to committee and task force members' questions.

Sen. Stephenson discussed draft legislation, "School District Facility Funding Equalization." He noted that the bill enacts various changes related to school capital outlay funding.

Mr. Dean distributed and discussed handouts, "Statewide Equalization Proposal," and "Statewide Equalization Option - August 14, 2007."

Ms. Oakes reviewed draft legislation, "School District Facility Funding Equalization."

Sen. Stephenson responded to committee and task force members' questions on the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson, member of the Education Interim Committee and Local Issues Task Force, moved to amend the bill as follows:

Page 1, Line 23: Delete "2008" and insert "2009".

Page 6, Line 156: Delete "2008" and insert "2009".

The motion was passed unanimously by both the Education Interim Committee and the Local Issues Task Force.

Mr. David Cox, former legislator, spoke in support of school building equalization and distributed copies of his comments.

Mr. Ken Smith, Mount Olympus Community Council, spoke in support of school building equalization and splitting Granite School District.

Mr. Greg Schulz, citizen, Magna, proposed that the state take over responsibility for school buildings.

Ms. Laura Pinnock, citizen, Holladay, spoke in support of school building equalization and the smaller school district initiative.

Ms. Becky English, citizen, Holladay, spoke in support of statewide school building equalization. She noted smaller school districts allow more local and parental control of education.

Ms. Kristi Ellis, citizen, Sandy, spoke in support of splitting school districts.

Ms. Betsy VanDenBerghe, citizen, Holladay, spoke in support of smaller school districts. She noted smaller school districts are more responsive to parents.

Ms. Janet Cannon, citizen, Holladay, spoke in support of the equalization proposal and splitting Granite School District.

Mr. McKell Withers, Superintendent, Salt Lake City School District, said Salt Lake City School District will have to replace the revenues it will lose. He advocated equalization using state funds.

Ms. Sandy Thackeray, educator, spoke in support of small school districts. She noted on a national level that the best schools are in smaller school districts.

Mr. Kelvyn Cullimore, Mayor, Cottonwood Heights, spoke in support of school building equalization and splitting Jordan School District. He said that many have criticized the eastside for wanting to split from Jordan School District to avoid the cost of building new westside schools. He said this is not the motivation for a split with Jordan School District but rather better education of the students.

MOTION: Rep. Hughes, member of the Education Interim Committee and Local Issues Task Force, moved to pass with a favorable recommendation the statewide equalization plan and the countywide equalization plan, with the statewide proposal being the ultimate goal and the countywide proposal being a backup if the statewide proposal is not widely received. The motion was passed by both the Education Interim Committee and the Local Issues Task Force with Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Holdaway, and Rep. Shurtliff, members of the Education Interim Committee, and Rep. Janice Fisher, member of the Local Issues Task Force, voting in opposition.

3. New School District Creation

Sen. Walker referred to Rep. Dougall's draft legislation, "Creation of New School District Amendments," that was distributed in the mailing packet. Sen. Walker explained the bill was modified since it was approved by the Education Interim Committee in July. She discussed the changes and noted the bill modifies provisions related to the creation of a new school district.

Mr. Rees responded to committee and task force members' questions regarding the draft bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard, member of the Education Interim Committee, moved to further amend the bill as follows: Page 3, Line 75: After "five" insert "business".
The motion was passed by the Education Interim Committee with Rep. Holdaway voting in opposition.

MOTION: Sen. McCoy, member of the Local Issues Task Force, moved to amend the bill as follows: Page 3, Line 75: After "five" insert "business".
The motion was passed unanimously by the Local Issues Task Force.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson, member of the Education Interim Committee and Local Issues Task Force, moved to amend the bill as follows:
Page 10, Line 283: Delete "five" and insert "six".

Mr. Craig Shuler, citizen, Sandy, commented on the bill.

The motion was passed by the Education Interim Committee and the Local Issues Task Force with Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Lockhart, and Rep. Sumsion, members of the Education Interim Committee, voting in opposition, and Sen. McCoy, member of the Local Issues Task Force, voting in opposition.

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MOTION: Sen. Dayton, member of the Education Interim Committee, moved to adopt the bill as amended. The motion was passed by the Education Interim Committee with Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Holdaway, and Rep. Shurtliff voting in opposition.

MOTION: Rep. Hughes, member of the Local Issues Task Force, moved to adopt the bill as amended. The motion was passed by the Local Issues Task Force with Rep. Janice Fisher voting in opposition.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Bramble moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.