

**MINUTES OF THE  
LOCAL ISSUES TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, August 1, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W110 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Co-chair  
Rep. Aaron Tilton, Co-chair  
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson  
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes  
Rep. Todd E. Kiser  
Rep. Karen W. Morgan

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Scott D. McCoy  
Rep. John Dougall  
Rep. Janice M. Fisher  
Rep. Julie Fisher

**Staff Present:**

Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst  
Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst  
Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel  
Angela D. Oakes, Associate General Counsel  
Wendy Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

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

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**2. School Building Finance - Discuss Equalization Proposals**

Sen. Walker explained that the governor has agreed to call a special session if this Task Force is able to present a consensus bill. She said in order to do that, the Task Force will need to postpone consideration of the forms of municipal government issue until the funding equalization issue has been resolved.

Mr. Phil Dean, Policy Analyst, explained "Initial Equalization Option - Statewide" and the draft legislation, "School District Facility Funding Equalization." He noted recent changes made to the draft. He emphasized that in this proposal, there is no net reduction to school district funding.

Mr. Dean reviewed three other proposals for equalization options referring to, "Revised Statewide Equalization Concept 1" and "Sum of all Tax Rates Related to Capital Outlay and Debt Service," which equalizes more of the property tax rates, but does not include charter schools. "Concept 2, Part 2 does include charter schools. Concept 3 also included charter schools for growth through an increase of the property tax rate.

Sen. Stephenson explained the pros and cons of the options. He recommended keeping the resolution as simple as possible by funding growth only, either by taking the money off the table or equalizing the taxes.

Task force discussion followed.

Chair Tilton recommended limiting the discussion to what is right for equalization and not address the county problems at this time.

Sen. Stephenson stated that since Utah has a statewide education program, it makes sense to fund the capital outlay statewide. He proposed sending the growth formula equalization proposal to the legislative body, with two options for funding it. He recommended two separate bills.

**MOTION:** Rep. Morgan moved to ask the Office of Fiscal Analyst to supply information to the task force as to what percentage of each district's property tax will be equalized on a statewide basis to fund the growth component and the dollar amount impact. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stephenson moved to request leadership and the governor to call a special session to consider funding equalization for growth with two options available: (1) income tax and (2) equalized property tax. Also, to consider the bill regarding the Suncrest issue. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stephenson moved that if a special session is approved, a request be made for a joint meeting of the Education Interim Committee and the Local Issues Task Force for the purpose of holding a public hearing, after which a recommendation will be made to the Legislature during the special session. The motion passed unanimously.

The date discussed for the meeting was Tuesday, August 14, 2007.

Chair Walker summarized that there will be two bills for the task force members to study before a special session, in addition to the consensus bill. She encouraged the members to educate other members of the Legislature on the subject as they associate with them at NCSL (National Conference of State Legislators) next week.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, business administrator for South Summit School District, expressed concern that taking a percentage of the property tax would tend to make it less stable.

### **3. Other Items / Adjourn**

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

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.