

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 19, 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. 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. Brad L. Dee  
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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Shurtliff moved to approve the minutes of the July 18 and August 14, 2007 meetings. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Madsen, and Rep. Last were absent for the vote.

**2. Mathematics Curriculum Standards**

Sen. Stephenson commented on the mathematics curriculum standards recently adopted by the State Board of Education.

Sen. Dayton distributed a handout, "Math Problem, A Primer on Utah's Math Standards Issue with Appendix," which provides an update on the current state of mathematics in Utah and urges support of the goal for Utah to have world class math standards.

Dr. David Wright, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Brigham Young University, gave background information on the makeup and functioning of the steering committee involved in developing new math standards. He noted that the committee was not able to define what are world class math standards.

Sen. Dayton requested a copy of Dr. Wright's written comments.

Sen. Stephenson suggested proposing legislation for the creation of a task force to study mathematics curriculum standards.

Dr. James Milgram, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics, Stanford University, who participated by phone, emailed a graph for distribution to the Committee to emphasize the importance of

the math standards issue. The graph, "Ages NASA Scientists and Engineers," shows the ages of the NASA science and technology workforce. He explained that NASA can only hire U.S. citizens and is having difficulty finding qualified candidates to replace retiring employees.

Dr. Milgram commented that there are numerous mathematical errors in the revised math standards. He said the California standards are clear, but they are still not world class.

Ms. Carolyn Hamilton, Chair, Department of Mathematics, Utah Valley State College, stated that two-thirds of all students entering Utah Valley State College require remediation. Ms. Hamilton gave examples of how the state core does not align with higher education math courses. She expressed the need for an overhaul of math standards.

State Superintendent Patti Harrington, and Ms. Brenda Hales, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Board of Education, distributed two handouts, "Math Revision Calendar and Decisions" and "Steering Committee Members." Supt. Harrington stated the State Board of Education is seeking direction from the Legislature on where to go on the math standards issue.

Ms. Hales introduced the members of the steering committee that developed the revised math standards. She noted that the committee included mathematicians, mathematics educators, district leaders, and Utah State Office of Education curriculum specialists. She indicated that creation of a math task force to better align K-12 and college math courses would be a good idea.

Dr. Russell Thompson, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Utah State University, and steering committee chair, discussed the activities of the steering committee.

Rep. Lockhart requested Dr. Milgram to provide the Committee with Hung-Hsi Wu's response to Nicole Paulson regarding the follow-up to Utah's Core Curriculum. Staff distributed the email to committee members at the meeting.

Dr. Gina Post, University of Utah, and member of the steering committee, stated the committee looked at curriculum standards of other states whose standards are highly rated.

Mr. Aaron Bertram, Chair, Department of Mathematics, University of Utah, stressed the importance of factors other than math standards in developing students' math competency.

Chair Hughes noted this issue will be discussed further at the October Education Interim Committee meeting.

### **3. Criterion Referenced Tests**

Supt. Harrington distributed handouts, "Draft - Does the Test Provide Diagnostic Help?" "Restructuring U-PASS to Emphasize Formative Assessment," "ACT Educational Planning and Assessment System," and "Assessment Through." She discussed how criterion referenced tests may be enhanced to assess a student's skills across a broad range of skill levels if the tests are administered online. She asked that the Committee give its approval to move forward with the concept.

Dr. Judy Park, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Board of Education, responded to committee members' questions regarding online assessments.

**4. Instructional Technology Funding**

This agenda item was not discussed.

**5. Textbook Correlation with Utah Curriculum Standards**

This agenda item was not discussed.

**6. Public School Extracurricular Activities - Participation by Charter School Students**

This agenda item was not discussed.

**7. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Frank and Rep. Gowans absent for the vote.

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