

**MINUTES OF THE EQUALIZATION TASK FORCE**  
Monday, December 3, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W135 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dan R. Eastman, Senate Chair  
Rep. David Clark, House Chair  
Sen. Chris D. Buttars  
Sen. Scott D. McCoy  
Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson  
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. Brad L. Dee  
Rep. James R. Gowans

Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold  
Rep. LaWanna Lou Shurtliff  
Rep. Aaron Tilton  
Rep. Carl Wimmer

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Angela D. Oakes, Associate General Counsel  
Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst  
Ms. Chelsea Barrett, 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. Task Force Business**

Chair Eastman called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Brown moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, October 29, and November 16, 2007 meetings. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard was absent for the vote.

**2. Additional Background Information**

Mr. Dean distributed "Corrected 2007 Property Tax Information." He explained that the information in the packet included corrected data from the property tax information distributed during the last meeting. He noted that Grand and Granite District's values have been corrected.

**3. Statewide Equalization Proposals and Draft Legislation**

Mr. Dean distributed "Summary of Equalization Proposals Considered by the Equalization Task Force." He explained that the chart includes a summary of all equalization proposals introduced through the November 19, 2007 meeting.

Sen. Buttars requested that Chair Eastman introduce his equalization proposal prior to Sen. Buttars presenting his proposal.

Chair Eastman distributed draft legislation entitled "Equalization of School Capital Outlay Funding" and a handout "Sen. Eastman Proposal - Increase Capital Outlay Foundation Program Funding." Chair Eastman noted that the main concept is to equalize capital outlay by increasing funding for the state capital outlay foundation program and increasing the full funding threshold rate from .0024 to .0030.

Mr. Dean described the chart and bill passed out to the Task Force. He answered questions from the Task Force.

Chair Eastman invited the public to speak on the proposal.

Mr. Ben Alleman, Mayor, South Jordan Youth Council, commented on the recent split in the Jordan School District. He asked the Task Force to consider these changes and ensure a valuable educational opportunity for the students in those areas.

Mr. Mark Cluff, State Board of Education, noted that the state board supports the concept of equalization. He further explained concerns involving income tax used in the equalization funding formula.

Mr. Bruce Williams, School Business Administrator, Davis School District, explained that Chair Eastman's draft legislation is similar to a proposal by the business administrators' association. He explained that he expected support from his association for this proposal.

Rep. Mascaro, State Legislature, recommended that the Task Force allocate a certain percentage of surplus education funds to equalization and suggested increasing the amount allowed to go back into the equalization fund.

Sen. Bramble, State Legislature, commented on the base equalization amounts appropriated each year and how this will affect continuing years.

Mr. Doug Day, citizen, South Jordan, questioned the Task Force whether the east and west portions of the Jordan School District split will help each other. Chair Eastman noted that there will be equal participation among districts in capital projects.

Sen. Buttars distributed draft legislation entitled "New School District Amendments" and "State Capital Facility Board - Creation and Oversight." After discussion, Sen. Buttars suggested an amendment to his draft legislation "New School District Amendments" as follows:

Line 152: "provide increased ongoing funding from appropriations made for fiscal year 2007-2008 at least \$(blank) million statewide for school district capital projects"

**MOTION:** Rep. Wimmer moved this amendment with finalization of the dollar amount at another time. After discussion, Rep. Wimmer withdrew his motion.

**MOTION:** Sen. Waddoups moved to include \$100 million in the amendment previously discussed, with the understanding that this amount may be adjusted later.

Chair Clark stated that unrealistic expectations may come along with \$100 million.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Chair Clark moved to address the bill and amendment at the end of the meeting. The motion failed with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. McCoy, Sen. Stephenson, Rep. Brown, and Rep. Tilton voting for the motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Wimmer moved to put \$28.5 million in the amendment language. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Buttars moved to pass out the amended "New School District Amendments" bill favorably. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard and Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

Rep. Tilton distributed and presented "Statewide Capital Outlay Equalization" and "Additional Memo." He noted the changes in the draft legislation, including allowing school districts who have an extreme need for equalization to receive more funding. Rep. Tilton also distributed "Equalize Tax EFFORT, NEED - Growth, NEED - Ongoing Capital Expenses."

The Task Force discussed the draft legislation.

Rep. Newbold distributed and briefly explained draft legislation entitled "Financing Public Education" and "Minimum School Program - Basic School Program."

Sen. Walker, State Legislature, thanked the Task Force for their efforts on equalization. She recommended prioritizing one bill that comes from the Task Force and spoke in support of Chair Eastman's bill. She concluded by suggesting that too many bills sent out by the Task Force may give validity to none of them.

Mr. Mack Oetting, Garfield County School Districts, raised concerns with Rep. Tilton's proposal.

**MOTION:** Sen. McCoy moved to pass out Chair Eastman's proposal "Equalization of School Capital Outlay Funding" with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed with Chair Clark and Rep. Tilton voting against the motion and Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

Rep. Wimmer suggested having Rep. Newbold's and Rep. Tilton's proposals voted upon for favorable recommendation as well.

Sen. Hillyard suggested voting on all the proposals separately.

**MOTION:** Rep. Wimmer moved to pass out Rep. Tilton's proposal on equalization entitled, "Statewide Capital Outlay Equalization" with favorable recommendation. The motion failed with Rep. Wimmer, Sen. Stephenson, Rep. Tilton, Sen. Dmitrich, Sen Buttars, and Rep. Newbold voting for the motion. Rep. Dee was absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Wimmer moved to pass out Rep. Newbold's proposal on equalization entitled, "Financing Public Education" with favorable recommendation. The motion failed with Rep. Wimmer, Sen. Waddoups, Sen. Stephenson, Rep. Tilton, Rep. Newbold, and Sen. Buttars voting for the motion. Rep. Dee was absent for the vote.

#### **4. Other Items / Adjourn**

Mr. Robert Bailey, citizen, South Jordan, spoke about concerns of increasing taxes.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

Chair Eastman adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

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