

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 21, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – Room C445 State Capitol

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
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. Ronda Rudd Menlove

Rep. Michael T. Morley
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Amanda K. Majers, 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 2:20 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Menlove moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Rep. Dee, Rep. Holdaway, and Rep. Shurtliff absent for the vote.

Supt. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, invited the Committee to attend a presentation on Singapore Math on June 12, 2008 and distributed information pertaining to the event.

2. Civic and Character Education

Mr. LaVar Christensen distributed and discussed a booklet that has been distributed to Utah schools, "Civic and Character Education in Utah: A Connection to History and the Continuing Stewardship of All Citizens and Public Officials."

Lt. Governor Gary R. Herbert, Chair of the Commission on Civic and Character Education, discussed the purpose and duties of the Commission, its membership, and the programs it has initiated. Specifically, he described the Commission's campaign to motivate the 18 to 25-year-old age group to vote and noted that, as a part of the campaign, on a person's 18th birthday the person receives a birthday card from the Lt. Governor's Office containing a voter registration form.

Ms. Shelley Day, Legislative Information Liaison, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, presented "America's Legislators Back to School Program," a video that teaches students about the legislative process. She further mentioned that Utah legislators rank third in the nation in participation in the Legislators Back to School Program.

3. International Baccalaureate Program

Sen. Dayton expressed concern over the governance of International Baccalaureate programs, and inquired whether the Committee wishes to discuss the issue of governance during the interim. Sen. Dayton noted that Utah's Enabling Act states that schools shall remain in the exclusive control of the state. Considering this provision of the Enabling Act, she pointed out that high schools participating in the International Baccalaureate Program enter into international contractual arrangements without the oversight of the State Board of Education.

Sen. Hillyard suggested that staff request that the Attorney General's Office research and report back to the Committee whether it is a violation of the constitution for schools to enter into contractual agreements without the oversight of the State Board of Education.

4. Class-size Reduction

Ms. Leslie Marks, Lead Auditor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, reviewed the audit of class-size reduction funds.

Mr. Darin Underwood, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, answered the Committee's questions regarding the class-size reduction audit.

Mr. Larsen discussed 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Class Size Reduction Amendments," which was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. Sen. Stephenson stated that it is the chair's intent to have the committee consider whether the draft legislation should be adopted as a committee bill.

Committee discussion followed. Issues and options raised include: 1) eliminating the class size reduction program and diverting the funds to increase the value of the weighted pupil unit (WPU); 2) targeting class size reduction money to school districts that have large class sizes; 3) requiring school districts to meet class size standards as a condition of receiving class size reduction money; and 4) removing restrictions that class size reduction money be targeted to certain grades.

5. Sunset Review of a Grant Program for Licensed Teachers

Rep. Kory M. Holdaway gave a history of a program that provides grants to licensed teachers to minimize out-of-pocket expenses for tests to meet highly qualified teaching standards and to obtain certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Ms. Sydnee Dickson, Educator Quality and Licensing Director, Utah State Office of Education, distributed and discussed "Appropriation for Highly Qualified Teachers: Report to Education Interim Committee May 21, 2008." She recommended that the Committee reauthorize the funding for the grant program.

MOTION: Rep. Holdaway moved to allow himself to work with Sen. Madsen to prepare draft legislation to reauthorize the grant program. Sen. Hillyard asked to amend the motion to have the draft legislation prepared by the June interim meeting, if possible. Rep. Holdaway agreed to include the amendment. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Rep. Dee, Rep. Last, and Rep. Morley absent for the vote.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Rep. Dee, Rep. Last, and Rep. Morley absent for the vote.

Chair Hughes adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.