

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 – 2:34 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. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Sylvia S. Andersen
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Michael T. Morley
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff

Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove

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.

1. Committee Business

Sen. Dayton called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Urquhart moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Madsen, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Urquhart moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Madsen, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

2. UBSCT (Utah Basic Skills Competency Test)

Dr. Judy Park, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, distributed handouts, "2008 Utah Basic Skills Competency Test (UBSCT)," "Class of '08 Improves on Utah Basic Skills Test," and "Utah Basic Skills Competency Test 2007-2008." She gave an overview of student performance on the UBSCT and reviewed the percent of students not passing UBSCT by subgroup. She noted the purpose of the UBSCT is to measure basic skills competency in reading, writing, and mathematics. In order to achieve UBSCT completed status, a student must successfully pass all three subtests.

After the overview of UBSCT, Dr. Park, Dr. Larry Shumway, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, and Superintendent Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, responded to committee members' questions and comments regarding: 1) the reasons for students not passing the UBSCT; 2) the process for remediation that is available to students who do not pass the UBSCT; and 3) the higher education opportunities for students who do not pass the UBSCT or do not receive a diploma.

Sen. Stephenson suggested that at a future meeting the Committee study legislation requiring passage of UBSCT to receive a diploma.

3. Mathematics Education

Sen. Dayton turned the chair over to Rep. Last.

Sen. Dayton noted that although proposed legislation to establish a legislative task force to study mathematics, science, and technology education did not pass in the 2008 General Session, a coalition of legislators and state and local education representatives has been meeting to study issues relating to mathematics education. She indicated that a letter with the coalition's recommendations will be provided to the Committee upon completion.

Mr. Oak Norton, resident of Highland, Utah and representative on the math coalition, expressed concern with the current math curriculum in the Alpine School District. He noted that the coalition will make recommendations on: 1) standards; 2) end-of-level tests; and 3) curriculum.

Ms. Brenda Hales, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, updated the committee on the activities of the coalition. She distributed and reviewed a packet of information, "Singapore Math Summary," and briefed the Committee on Singapore Math and the Singapore education system.

Ms. Hales reported that a math educator from Singapore made a presentation on the Singapore Math curriculum to school district representatives and members of the Utah State Board of Education and the Legislature. Singapore students are top performers on internationally administered math tests.

Rep. Last turned the chair over to Rep. Holdaway.

After committee members' comments and questions on the Singapore Math curriculum, Rep. Holdaway turned the chair over to Sen. Dayton.

4. USTAR (Utah Science and Technology Research Initiative)

Mr. Devin Thorpe, Managing Director, USTAR Technology Outreach Program, distributed a copy of his slide presentation, "USTAR Overview." He gave a progress report on USTAR, which provides funding to recruit researchers and establish research facilities at the University of Utah and Utah State University to create novel technologies that are subsequently commercialized through new business ventures.

5. Comparison of Education Spending and Services

Mr. Stephen Kroes, President, Utah Foundation, distributed a handout, "Utah Foundation Research Report- What Can \$3,702 Buy? How Utah Compares in Education Spending and Services." He reviewed the research report that showed how Utah compares to other states in education spending and services. He noted that Utah spends less than other states on administration and guidance counseling.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Holdaway, Rep. Last, Rep. Lockhart, Rep. Moss, and Rep. Urquhart absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.