

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 17, 2008 – 2:16 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. 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

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble  
Rep. Brad L. Dee

**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**

Sen. Dayton called the meeting to order at 2:49 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Frank moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2008 and August 21, 2008 meetings. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Madsen, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Last, Rep. Lockhart, Rep. Menlove, Rep. Morley, and Rep. Urquhart were absent for the vote.

**2. Interactive On-line Learning**

Mr. Shandon Gubler, Agilix, discussed advances in on-line, interactive instruction. He stated that Agilix is a company that supports on-line learning and discussed features of its on-line learning product. The company is based in Utah and provides services in numerous countries worldwide.

**3. Property Tax and School Funding in Utah**

Mr. Dean distributed a copy and gave a slide presentation on, "Property Tax and School Funding in Utah." He reviewed school funding in Utah with a focus on the property tax component. He noted that property tax is a major school funding source.

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

Ms. Kathryn Paulsen, small business owner, discussed the burden of property taxes and suggested a perpetual education fund as an alternative method of raising money for education.

#### **4. NASA Math Initiative**

Mr. Oak Norton, parent, assisted by Dr. David Wright, Professor of Math, Brigham Young University, distributed a copy and gave a slide presentation on, "Utah NASA Math - It's Rocket Science." Mr. Norton and Dr. Wright are members of a group of legislators, educators, and parents who are studying math education. Their presentation addressed the group's findings and proposals on math education.

#### **5. Performance-based Compensation**

Ms. Debbie White, president, AFT Utah, introduced Mr. Rob Weil, Deputy Director, Educational Issues, American Federation of Teachers, who presented on performance-based compensation.

Mr. Weil distributed a copy and gave a slide presentation on, "Professional Compensation - The Basics of Performance-based Compensation." He noted that base salary, along with benefits, are the most important parts of any compensation system and that base pay must continue to recognize the value of teaching experience.

#### **6. Preliminary Findings of the Utah State Board of Education Differentiated Compensation Work Group**

Dr. Larry Shumway, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, introduced the members of the Utah State Board of Education Differentiated Compensation Work Group.

Ms. Debra Roberts, State Board of Education, discussed the focus of the work group and said it intends to find a way to measure the instructional quality of teachers in the classroom. She described the work group's communications strategy which includes holding focus groups and stakeholder meetings.

Mr. John Zurbuchen, Principal, Holt Elementary, Davis School District, stated that test score data does not exist to reliably and validly measure teacher performance at the classroom level.

Ms. Rachel Thompson, teacher, Alpine School District, said multiple measures of teacher performance are needed and that test scores cannot reflect the success of a teacher.

#### **7. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Frank moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Madsen, Sen. Romero, Rep. Andersen, Rep. Lockhart, Rep. Menlove, and Rep. Urquhart absent for the vote.

Chair Hughes adjourned the meeting at 5:31p.m.