

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Thursday, November 20, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – Room C445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton, Senate Vice Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Brad L. Dee
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. Sylvia S. Andersen
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, 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. Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He excused Rep. Hughes from attending the meeting.

2. Performance Compensation for Teachers

Mr. Derek Monson, Sutherland Institute, distributed and reviewed the handout, "Sutherland Policy Proposal, Incentive-Pay Program for Teachers." He gave a presentation on its research findings and policy recommendations regarding performance compensation for teachers.

3. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Teacher Quality Measures"

Sen. Stephenson introduced 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Teacher Quality Amendments." He noted Rep. Hughes asked to sponsor the bill beginning in the House. Sen. Stephenson requested Ms. Steffen to give an overview of the bill.

Ms. Steffen explained that the bill creates a grant program to pilot the development and implementation of performance pay for elementary school teachers and modifies reporting requirements for certain student achievement tests.

4. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Amendments"

Rep. Kenneth Sumsion distributed and introduced 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Amendments." He noted the bill addresses the governance and administration of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) and student eligibility to attend USDB.

Mr. Karl Wilson, State Director of Title I Programs, State Board of Education, discussed the process with interested parties in preparing for draft legislation on USDB. He indicated that a workgroup was organized in 2007 that looked at state statute and began to research ways to provide quality service to students who are deaf or blind.

Rep. Jennifer Seelig reviewed sections of the draft legislation and spoke in support of the bill.

Rep. Sumsion in closing remarks asked the Committee for feedback and recommendations on the proposed legislation.

5. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Student-centric Learning Centers"

Sen. Stephenson distributed 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Student-Centric Learning Centers." He noted the bill provides funds for technology to create and manage courses that are offered online and can be tailored for individual student needs. He said that because of the current economy the bill will not be discussed at this time.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

Chair Stephenson asked for an update on the recent response of the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Assessment pilot project.

Dr. Judy Park, Associate Superintendent, State Board of Education, shared the contents of a letter from the U.S. Department of Education informing Superintendent Patti Harrington that Utah does not have permission to exempt Sevier and Juab School Districts from participation in the criterion-referenced tests required by No Child Left Behind. She said this is a disappointment as this exemption has been approved by Governor Huntsman, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education. The U.S. Department of Education is requiring that the new assessment system go through a peer review process. She noted that the previous peer review process took two years to complete and that Utah will request the exemption again when the new administration is in place in January.

Sen. Stephenson and Sen. Dayton recognized and thanked the legislators who served on the Committee and would not be returning to the Legislature next year. Other committee members and staff were also thanked for their efforts on the Committee.

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

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.