

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 – 8:30 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Laura Black
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Kraig Powell

Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion
Rep. Christine F. Watkins
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent:

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Rep. Wayne A. Harper

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, 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

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He asked the committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

MOTION: Sen. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2008 and November 20, 2008 meetings. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Bramble and Rep. Wimmer were absent for the vote.

Ms. Steffen gave an overview of the Open and Public Meetings Act. A summary of the statute, "Open and Public Meetings Act," was distributed in the committee mailing packet.

Ms. Steffen noted that documents showing Master Study Resolution items and sunset reviews assigned to the Education Interim Committee were included in the committee mailing packet.

Chair Stephenson asked the committee members to prioritize their top ten study items from the Master Study Resolution.

2. Elementary Class Size Audit

Ms. Maria Stahla, Audit Supervisor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, gave a slide presentation and overview of an audit report "A Performance Audit of Elementary School Class Size," which was distributed in the committee mailing packet. She discussed the findings and recommendations of the audit on elementary school class size and reported that the State Board of Education is not reporting teacher pupil ratio or adult pupil ratio by grade as required by law.

Mr. Rick Coleman, Deputy Auditor General, and Mr. Tim Bereece, Senior Performance Auditor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, contributed to Ms. Stahla's presentation and responded to committee members' questions.

Dr. Judy Park, Associate Superintendent, State Board of Education, distributed a handout "Class Size Average, Student/Teacher Ratio, Student/Adult Ratio" and gave a slide presentation. She responded to the proposed changes in the audit and requested a modification in the law.

Dr. Larry Shumway, Deputy Superintendent, State Board of Education, responded to questions regarding the reporting of teacher pupil ratio and adult pupil ratio by grade.

3. Public School Employees' Criminal Background Check Procedures Audit

Mr. Darin Underwood, Audit Manager, and Mr. Brian Dean, Audit Supervisor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, distributed and gave a slide presentation of the audit report "A Performance Audit of Public Education Employees' Criminal Background Check Procedures." Mr. Dean discussed the findings and recommendations of the audit and identified deficiencies in criminal background check procedures for public school employees.

Dr. Shumway outlined the priorities of the State Board of Education and indicated the board did not have any differences with the results of the audit. He noted that rules will be enacted to address public school employees' criminal background check procedures.

Ms. Nicole Shepard, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, explained the process of notification to school districts when criminal activity is discovered.

4. Internet Access Restrictions in Public Schools

Mr. Jim Stewart, Director of Technical Services, Utah Education Network (UEN), distributed a handout "UEN - The Status of Internet Filtering," along with a packet of information on Internet safety. Mr. Stewart, with the assistance of Mr. Troy Jessup, Security Department Manager, and Mr. Wes Furgason, Network Operations Engineer, UEN, explained how Internet access is restricted in public schools. UEN supplies the filtering program, but public schools determine which features of the filtering program to use.

Mr. Todd Smith, Direct Sales Manager, and Mr. Clayton Ostler, Sales Engineer, Content Watch, spoke in support of UEN's efforts to enhance the success of Internet filtering systems. Mr. Smith noted that new technology is available to make filtering systems more efficient, but indicated that funding could be an issue for this technology.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble and Rep. Sumsion absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.