

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 – 9:00 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. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Karen W. Morgan  
Rep. Laura Black  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Wayne A. Harper  
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway  
Rep. Don L. Ipson  
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:**

Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Angela Oaks Stallings, 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**

Chair Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. He recognized and thanked Mr. Larsen for staffing the Committee as Associate General Counsel and explained that he will be leaving the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel. Rep. Lockhart was excused from attending the meeting.

**MOTION:** Sen. Dayton moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Morgan, and Rep. Oda were absent for the vote.

**2. Annual Reports**

**A. State School Fund**

Mr. Richard Ellis, Utah State Treasurer, distributed and gave an overview of the report "State School Fund Report Fiscal Year 2009," which shows the investment results of the monies in the State School Fund. As of June 30, 2009, the market value of the State School Fund was \$795,412,274 and the one year internal rate of return was -17.79 percent. The interest and dividends from the State School Fund are distributed to schools through the School LAND Trust Program. For Fiscal Year 2009, the total distributed to schools was \$24,754,900.

**B. Teacher Quality**

Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Educator Quality and Licensing Director, Utah State Office of Education, distributed and gave an overview of the report "Annual Teacher Quality Report." The report gives statistics on entering and exiting teachers and summarizes the results of initiatives to increase the supply and quality of teachers, including the Returning Educator Initiative, Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship, and Alternative Routes to Licensure.

Dr. Phyllis "Teddy" Safman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Utah System of Higher Education, discussed two research studies being conducted at the higher education level: (1) a longitudinal study on novice teachers, being conducted by Dr. John Bennion, examining the impact of higher education teacher training programs on teacher effectiveness; and (2) a research study being conducted at Brigham Young University on teachers' reported conclusions about their performance.

Dr. Dickson, Dr. Safman, and Dr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, responded to committee questions regarding the report.

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

### **3. Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS)**

Chair Stephenson noted that the Legislature authorized a pilot program of an assessment system incorporating computer adaptive testing, online writing assessments, and college readiness assessments in certain grades.

Ms. Debra Roberts, Chair, State Board of Education, and Dr. Shumway provided an introduction to a review of the pilot program on computer adaptive testing.

Dr. Paul Koehler, Policy Center Director, WestEd, and Dr. Stanley Rabinowitz, Director of Assessment and Standards Development Services, WestEd, gave a presentation on an evaluation of the pilot program. The qualitative results include: (1) the computer adaptive testing provides immediate, valuable student information facilitating individualized instruction; (2) the online writing test was effective as a writing tutorial, but inappropriate for assessment purposes; and (3) the Explore/Plan/ACT assessments offered useful feedback to teachers and parents.

Dr. Rabinowitz reported that the computer adaptive tests were generally aligned 40 to 60 percent with Utah core curriculum standards. He and Dr. Shumway commented that the test developer is working to develop a blended test that will be better aligned with the Utah core curriculum standards.

Dr. Brent Thorne and Mr. Myron Michelsen, Sevier School District, gave a presentation on the use of computer adaptive testing in Sevier School District and distributed a handout, "Creating Optimal Conditions for Learning: Identifying and Meeting the Learning Needs of Each Student Best Practices of Sevier County School District."

Dr. Kirk Wright, Superintendent, Juab School District, stated that Juab School District has been giving the computer adaptive test for the last year. He noted that teachers and parents have viewed computer adaptive testing as very positive and would like to continue using it in evaluating student progress and growth.

Mr. David Thomas, Member, State Board of Education, distributed and discussed "Utah Code Section 53A-1-603 Duties of State Board of Education," with proposed changes in the law regarding the state assessment system. He noted the State Board of Education needs flexibility to move to a computer adaptive testing system that is aligned with the state curriculum standards.

Chair Stephenson stated that the Committee will have the proposed legislation drafted for the next legislative session.

#### **4. School-Based Funding and Management**

Dr. Koehler reviewed a handout "Memorandum - School-based Budgeting and Management" that was distributed to committee members in the mailing packet, discussing: (1) what is school-based budgeting and management; (2) what impacts or effects have been seen in this reform approach; (3) what important implementation considerations are involved with such an approach; and (4) what are some examples of places that have implemented such reforms.

Ms. Nancy Waymack, Director of Policy, San Francisco Unified School District, gave a presentation on the use of site-based budgeting in San Francisco Unified School District. She noted that School Site Councils develop academic plans, budgets, and staffing plans tailored to their school's specific academic needs. The School Site Councils have discretion over the unrestricted general funds as well as state categorical funds. A weighted student formula is used to distribute unrestricted resources to schools.

#### **5. Criminal Background Check Procedures for School Personnel**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed.

#### **6. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Newbold moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Morgan, Rep. Harper, Rep. Ipson, Rep. Sumsion, Rep. Watkins, and Rep. Wimmer absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.