

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Johnny Anderson
Rep. Laura Black
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Kraig Powell

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

Members Absent:

Sen. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Staff Present:

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

1. Committee Business

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m. Sen. Dayton and Rep. Poulson were excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Black moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Anderson, Rep. Harper, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Wheatley were absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson asked committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

Ms. Stallings reviewed key provisions of "Open and Public Meetings Act - 2010 Training" that was distributed in the mailing packet.

2. Study Items and Sunset Reviews Assigned to Committee

Chair Stephenson asked committee members to prioritize study items from a handout that was distributed "2010 Master Study Resolution Items Assigned to Education Interim Committee," to assist the chairs in determining agenda items for the interim period.

Rep. Powell distributed handouts as reference for a possible study item, 2010 General Session H.J.R. 25, "Joint Resolution Regarding School Fees and Supplies," "Utah School Construction and 2008 Audit," and "A Performance Audit of School Building Construction."

3. Athletic Eligibility for Transfer Students

Chair Stephenson briefly reviewed a current Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) by-law related to a transfer student attaining eligibility at a new school, and the proposed change to the by-law.

Ms. Nicholson distributed and reviewed "Athletic Eligibility for High School Transfer Students." She gave an overview on current and proposed policies affecting eligibility of high school athletes when they transfer schools, and gave examples of policies in other states.

Mr. Bart Thompson, Assistant Director, UHSAA, gave background information on UHSAA, explained its function and the process for changing its bylaws, and discussed the proposed changes to the transfer policy. He noted that 89 percent of UHSAA members voted in favor of adopting the new transfer policy.

Mr. Mark Van Wagoner, Legal Counsel, UHSAA, responded to committee members' questions on eligibility qualifications and recruiting. He gave a history of the transfer policy in Utah and explained the difficulty in determining the intent of a student when the student transfers schools.

Mr. Craig Hammer, Washington County School District, Chair of the UHSAA Executive Committee, discussed the impact that transfers can have on small schools and gave a school's perspective on the transfer policy.

Mr. Matthew Piccolo, Policy Analyst, Sutherland Institute, distributed a copy of his comments and recommendation, "Email Re: Athletic Eligibility for Transfer Students." He encouraged the Committee to review the new transfer policy and suggested that the Committee consider passing a bill that would implement the Sutherland Institute's recommendation for a transfer policy.

Dr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, commented on the changes that have taken place in athletics over the past years and cautioned the Committee on leaving athletic policies up to the UHSAA.

4. School Funding and Equalization

Ms. Steffen distributed a copy of her power point presentation, "Equalizing Educational Opportunities for Students and Taxpayer Effort." She gave an overview on how Utah's current school funding system equalizes funding for schools and reviewed various proposals that address enhanced equalization across the state, including a weighted student funding formula, also known as "backpack" funding. She also distributed and reviewed "Details of Weighted Student Formula Tentative Allocation Calculation based on FY2010-11 Preliminary Appropriation."

5. Post-Secondary Education and Career Planning

This agenda item was not discussed.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Lockhart moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Black, Rep. Harper, Rep. Watkins, and Rep. Wimmer absent for the vote.

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