

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 23, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair  
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair  
Sen. Margaret Dayton  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Karen W. Morgan  
Rep. Laura Black  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Don L. Ipson  
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
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. Curtis S. Bramble  
Rep. Johnny Anderson  
Rep. Wayne A. Harper

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:19 p.m. Rep. Anderson was excused from attending the meeting.

**MOTION:** Rep. Black moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

**2. Post-Secondary Education and Career Planning**

Dr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, introduced a new website tool, [www.utahfutures.org](http://www.utahfutures.org), which is designed for education and career planning.

Dr. William Sederburg, Commissioner of Higher Education, said representatives from public and higher education and the Department of Workforce Services collaborated in putting together the new website, tool, [www.utahfutures.org](http://www.utahfutures.org). He noted that users will be able to build a planning tool on the website that travels with them from elementary school through college and their careers.

Ms. Dawn Stevenson, Coordinator, Student Services, Utah State Office of Education (USOE), distributed a handout, "UtahFutures.org - Career Information System." She demonstrated the features of the website which include: 1) online assessments to help clients identify interests and aptitudes, 2) education and training requirements for occupations, and 3) job openings.

Mr. Michael Nemelka, Associate Executive Director, Business Development, Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, noted the website is currently receiving approximately 1,000,000 hits per month.

### **3. Athletic Eligibility for Transfer Students**

Chair Stephenson noted that at the May meeting the Committee was informed about a proposed change in the bylaws of the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) regarding the athletic eligibility of transfer students. He stated that staff was asked to prepare draft legislation to prohibit a waiting period before a transfer student is eligible to participate in interscholastic sports. He said no action will be taken on the draft legislation.

Ms. Stallings distributed and gave an overview of the proposed 2011 General Session draft legislation, "Eligibility for Interscholastic Activities in Secondary Schools" (2011FL-0090/010). The bill provides that a student may not be prohibited from participating in an interscholastic activity based on the student's transfer to a new school.

Mr. Mark Van Wagoner, Legal Counsel, UHSAA, asserted that the draft legislation will ruin competition and is unfair to 99 percent of the students in the state.

Mr. Bart Thompson, Assistant Director, UHSAA, clarified that the new rule adopted by the UHSAA allows a student to participate in interscholastic activities if the transfer is due to a bona fide change in residence.

Mr. Craig Hammer, Chair, UHSAA Executive Committee, and Executive Director, Secondary Schools, Washington County School District, said the UHSAA is trying to make athletic eligibility transfers fair for all students, not just for some students. He emphasized that the UHSAA is about participation and the experience students gain from playing high school sports.

Mr. Todd Quarnberg, Past President, Utah Association of Secondary School Principals, and Principal, Copper Hills High School, spoke in support of the UHSAA. He expressed concern with setting rules in place that are subject to interpretation. He recommended a clear policy regarding the eligibility of transfer students to participate in interscholastic sports.

Mr. Dale Hamborn, Superintendent, Rich School District, suggested that there would be significant unintended consequences of the proposed legislation. He commented on the UHSAA processes in making changes to its rule. He noted that there was not a perfect rule, but was in support of the UHSAA rule.

Mr. Matthew Piccolo, Sutherland Institute, commented on the proposed legislation and suggested that any rule created should err on the side of freedom instead of restriction. He said the proposed bill moves in the direction of freedom and choice for parents. He proposed that students who transfer in the summer be able to participate in interscholastic activities.

### **4. Sunset Review of the State Instructional Materials Commission**

Ms. Steffen noted that the State Instructional Materials Commission is created to evaluate instructional materials for recommendation by the State Board of Education. Unless reauthorized by the Legislature, the State Instructional Materials Commission will terminate on July 1, 2011.

Dr. Martell L. Menlove, Deputy Superintendent, State Board of Education, referred to the report, "State Instructional Materials Commission," which was distributed in the mailing packet. He reviewed the report and noted that the State Instructional Materials Commission continues to provide critical services valued by educators in Utah's school districts and charter schools. He stated that it was the recommendation of the USOE that the repeal date for the State Instructional Materials Commission be removed and that the Commission continue to function without a repeal date.

Chair Stephenson noted that the Committee will consider the reauthorization of the State Instructional Materials Commission after the State Board of Education makes recommendations on the reauthorization.

#### **5. Instruction in American History, Government, and Civics**

Chair Stephenson explained that many people have expressed concern with citizens' deficient knowledge of civics and government and have urged legislators to assure that instruction in American history, government, and civics is strengthened.

Dr. Shumway discussed the instructional requirements for American history, government, and civics. He stated he would provide a document for the Committee that shows USOE compliance with Utah Code provisions regarding education in American history, government, and civics.

Mr. Ruel Haymond, American Heritage Academy, distributed a handout, "Advocating Constitutionally-Based Textbooks and Original Source Documents Usage in Utah's Schools." He noted the positive effects that come from learning American history and focused on what needs to be taught in the core curriculum. He recommended that original source documents be used in instruction in American history, government, and civics and that history be related to today's issues.

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

**MOTION:** Rep. Black moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Edwards, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Ipson, Rep. Lockhart, Rep. Sumsion, and Rep. Wimmer were absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.