

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair  
Rep. Francis D. Gibson, House Chair  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Karen W. Morgan  
Sen. Aaron Osmond  
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher  
Rep. Johnny Anderson  
Rep. Patrice M. Arent  
Rep. LaVar Christensen  
Rep. Kay L. McIff  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold  
Rep. Jim Nielson  
Rep. Val L. Peterson  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson  
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser  
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson  
Rep. Steven Eliason  
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Bill Wright

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Angela Oakes Stallings, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Debra Hale, 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 Gibson called the meeting to order at 2:27 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Nielson moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2012, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Rep. McIff, and Rep. Sumsion were absent for the vote.

Dr. David Pershing, President, University of Utah, introduced himself to the committee and described his goals for the university as its newly appointed president, including 1) counseling, internships, and job placements; 2) one deep engagement experience for each student; 3) affordable and accessible education; 4) a continuing focus on research; and 5) an increase in private fundraising.

**2. Draft Legislation "Voted and Board Levy Program Amendments"**

Rep. Stephen Handy introduced draft legislation "Voted and Board Levy Program Amendments" (2013FL-0315/010), which requires the full amount of the state contribution appropriated for the Voted and Board Levy Programs to be distributed each year, and requires the State Board of Education to increase the value of the state guarantee per weighted pupil unit sufficient to fully distribute the legislative appropriation. The committee continued its discussion and consideration of the bill from the October meeting.

Dr. Martell Menlove, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education (USOE), spoke in support of the draft legislation.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stephenson moved that "Voted and Board Levy Program Amendments" be favorably recommended as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Rep. McIff, and Rep. Sumsion were absent for the vote.

### **3. School Reporting**

#### **A. Consider draft legislation "School Performance Report Amendments"**

Ms. Steffen distributed draft legislation "School Performance Report Amendments" (2013FL-0435/005). She explained the bill and the process by which members of the committee and others developed the draft language.

Dr. Menlove stated that the state's current assessment system does not provide student growth scores, but the new assessment system will provide student growth scores for the 2014-15 school year. He suggested that the bill not require reporting of average daily attendance by every period in secondary schools.

Dr. Judy Park, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, distributed "Additional Information Report for High School," which showed the data elements that will be included in an upcoming school performance report.

Ms. Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, President, Utah Education Association, discussed new teacher evaluation systems and said that she believes reporting certain teacher-level data could potentially put student privacy at risk and hurt teacher morale.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stephenson moved to amend the bill as follows:

- on line 105, delete the ","
- on line 106, delete "including every period in secondary schools"
- on line 122, after (a) delete "A" and insert "Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, a"

The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard and Rep. McIff were absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Morgan moved that the committee proceed to the next item on the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. McIff was absent for the vote.

#### **B. Discuss proposals regarding reporting of online course enrollment and completion**

Sen. Stephenson indicated that he believes there is not enough information on online courses taught in Utah to adequately understand how the program is really working. He would like to see additional reporting from districts indicating from what providers students are taking the online courses. Sen. Stephenson informed the committee that he would like to develop a bill that would address the issue, and stressed the importance of involving the Utah State Office of Education and school districts to assist with the drafting of the bill to ensure that it is easy for districts to report any required information.

#### **C. Discuss proposals for reporting school financial information**

Sen. Thatcher discussed the way that school districts report financial information and whether or not the Legislature should require districts to standardize the reporting of financial data.

Mr. Jonathan C. Ball, Director, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, discussed issues that have occurred in the past related to financial reporting. He discussed options to standardize financial reporting, including purchasing a central accounting system, or instituting common definitions and charts of accounts, which Rhode Island has done, as Mr. Ball illustrated with a handout "News Release" from the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Department of Education. Mr. Ball discussed varying levels of detail and reporting methods on the Utah Public Finance Website ([transparent.utah.gov](http://transparent.utah.gov)).

#### **4. Charter Schools**

##### **A. Establishing Specific Charter Schools**

Sen. Stephenson distributed a handout "Proposal to Establish Specific Types of Charter Schools" and encouraged committee members to be included, if desired, in drafting legislation on this agenda item.

##### **B. Charter Schools established by Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) Regional Campuses**

Sen. Stephenson discussed two charter schools that have recently been proposed by institutions of higher education. He proposed that the Legislature consider whether or not any changes should be made to the authorizing power currently held by the UCAT Board of Trustees, and in general, how UCAT is funded to provide career and technical education to high school students.

#### **5. Report: Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB)**

Mr. Steven W. Noyce, Superintendent, Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, reported information on student enrollment, participation in assessments, financial status, and student achievement. He commented that the USDB is involved with the community and with advocacy groups, and that the USDB is able to identify sensory problems at birth and provide parents with information, tools, and resources for their sensory-impaired children.

#### **6. Report: Proposed Legislation on Public Lands**

Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Director, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, discussed two reports: "Report on Utah's Transfer of Public Lands Act - H.B. 148" and "Toward a Balanced Public Lands Policy - A Case Statement for the H.B. 148: Utah's Transfer of Public Lands Act," which were developed by the Constitutional Defense Council regarding its study of public land management required by 2012 General Session H.B. 148, "Transfer of Public Lands Act and Related Study." Ms. Clarke stated that there is much more to be studied and recommended investing more money to further study and implement H.B. 148, and how a transfer of public lands from federal control to state control could be implemented. She mentioned that there is draft legislation addressing this issue, which may create a special task force or committee.

Mr. Anthony L. Rampton, Assistant Attorney General, Public Lands Section, Natural Resources Division, Office of the Attorney General, stressed that the issues are complex and addressed committee members' questions regarding legal issues.

#### **7. Report: Differences in Reported Language Arts Scores**

Sen. Stephenson distributed and reviewed three handouts: 1) "2011 NAEP Grade 4 Reading Report," 2) "2011 NAEP Grade 8 Reading Report," and 3) "National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) versus States' Reported Percentage of Proficient Readers at Gr 4 - 2011 Data."

Dr. Park presented a USOE report "Utah Achievement Growth in CRT and NAEP" that explains why reading proficiency test scores on a state test are higher than the test scores on a national test. She said the report also indicates that the two tests were designed for different purposes, and the national test sets a higher standard for proficiency. She also distributed the "2012 Utah State Literacy Improvement Report," which indicates that the state has successfully implemented a variety of efforts to ensure literacy for all students and illustrates a few of those efforts.

## **8. Student-Centered Learning Model Pilot**

Sen. Stephenson invited any committee members interested in participating in the drafting of legislation to be considered in the 2013 General Session to create a pilot program for a charter school and a school district to create a full-time, student-centered learning model, which would be voluntary for students and teachers.

## **9. Reports**

### **A. Online School Survey System Pilot**

Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Director, Teaching and Learning, Utah State Office of Education, distributed "USOE Report on Online Education Survey - H.B. 149," which describes the background and implementation of the Online Education Survey. She indicated that through a request for proposals process, the USOE has selected the Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah to help develop the survey. She said that survey items will be tested before being administered to pilot sites in January 2013 and again at the end of that year.

### **B. K-3 Reading Program Expenditures (not discussed)**

### **C. Career and Technical Education in Public Schools (not discussed)**

### **D. Engineering and Computer Science Initiative**

Mr. Spencer Jenkins, Assistant Commissioner, Public Affairs, Utah System of Higher Education, introduced Mr. John Sutherland, Chair, Technology Initiative Advisory Board. Mr. Sutherland informed the committee that the Technology Initiative Advisory Board recommended to the State Board of Regents how funds for the initiative be allocated, which is included in the annual report. He said that the initiative is still working to continue to increase the number of engineering and computer science graduates.

## **10. Other Items/Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Arent moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Morgan, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Christensen, Rep. Peterson, Rep. Poulson, and Rep. Sumsion were absent for the vote.

Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.