

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 – 2:30 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Stuart C. Reid, Senate Chair  
Rep. Francis D. Gibson, House Chair  
Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
Sen. Mark B. Madsen  
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson  
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart  
Rep. Patrice M. Arent  
Rep. Rich Cunningham  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Steve Eliason  
Rep. Bradley G. Last  
Rep. David E. Lifferth  
Rep. Daniel McCay  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. Jim Nielson  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Rep. Dean Sanpei  
Rep. V. Lowry Snow  
Rep. Keven J. Stratton

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson  
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes  
Rep. Val L. Peterson

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Tiffany A. Stanley, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Allyson R. Goldstein, 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 2:42 p.m. Rep. Peterson was excused from the meeting.

**MOTION:** Rep. McCay moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Jones, Sen. Madsen, Sen. Urquhart, Rep. Eliason, Rep. Last, and Rep. Stratton were absent for the vote.

Chair Gibson welcomed students from the American Preparatory Academy, who came to learn about the interim committee and how the Utah State Legislature works.

**2. Draft Legislation "Math Teacher Training Program Amendments"**

Rep. Edwards distributed draft legislation "Math Teacher Training Program Amendments" (2015FL-0211/003) and explained that it expands a grant program for teacher training in math by allowing a grant to be used to provide a stipend, professional development, and leadership opportunities to an experienced math teacher to assist the teacher in becoming a teacher leader. She introduced Dr. Herb Clemens, Associate Director, Center for Science and Mathematics Education, University of Utah, who she said has been involved with this grant program from the beginning.

Dr. Clemens explained that the program has been productive and that the amendments are needed to nurture a leadership community among math teachers participating in the program.

Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, expressed her appreciation for the work that has been done so far in this area and expressed her support for the amendments outlined in the legislation.

**MOTION:** Rep. Arent moved to adopt draft legislation "Math Teacher Training Program Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Urquhart, Rep. Eliason, Rep. Nielson, and Rep. Stratton were absent for the vote.

### **3. Introduction of the Newly Appointed State Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Mr. C. Mark Openshaw, member, Utah State Board of Education, introduced Mr. Brad C. Smith, the newly appointed State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Superintendent Smith made three main points:

- 1) He believes in partnering with the Legislature, the business community, the Utah State Board of Education (USB E), and the local education agencies to improve educational outcomes for students. He emphasized the importance of engagement and trust to resolve important educational issues;
- 2) He is urgent for change, because kids don't get a do-over;
- 3) He feels a special sense of opportunity because the governor, Legislature, business community, and USB E members are anxious to engage in the process of making needed critical changes.

### **4. School Grading**

Dr. Judy Park, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, gave an update on school grading for the 2013-14 school year and the methodology for calculating grades in future years. She explained that because the state transitioned to a new student achievement testing system in the 2013-14 school year, the USB E was given certain flexibility in calculating school grades for that school year. She stated that after conferring with legislative leaders and submitting a proposal to the Executive Appropriations Committee in accordance with statute, the USB E decided to adjust the ranges so that the distribution of letter grades is approximately the same as the distribution of letter grades in the 2012-13 school year. She also suggested that the 2013-14 school year be considered a baseline for establishing school grades in future years and that consideration be given in how to establish school grades in the future.

Supt. Smith said that it is important to keep the purpose of school grading in mind. He said that while public transparency and accountability are important, the most important question is whether school grading will result in a change in the classroom. He stated that change occurs when teachers are able to track the results of their teaching and adjust their methods, as needed.

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

Mr. Joel Coleman, Superintendent, Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, introduced school officials who would present the "Annual Report – October 2014 – Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind," a written report required by statute.

Ms. Carolyn Lasater, Associate Superintendent for the Blind, Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Ms. Michelle Tanner, Educational Director, Jean Massieu School of the Deaf, reviewed the report's information on the schools' student enrollment, participation in assessments, and achievement.

### **6. Utah State Board of Education Membership and Elections**

Ms. Stallings gave a visual presentation, "State Board of Education Qualifications for Election," on a recent federal court decision related to the constitutionality of Utah's method of selecting USB E members.

Ms. Goldstein gave a visual presentation, "Selection of State Board of Education Members," on a state-by-state comparison of methods for selecting board of education members. Ms. Goldstein also distributed a chart, "Methods for Selecting State Board of Education Members," which illustrated school board selection processes for each U.S. state.

Legislators reviewed the following proposals to change the way members of the state board are selected.

- Rep. Brian M. Greene stated that his proposal would provide for partisan elections.
- Chair Gibson spoke on behalf of Rep. McCay, who has a proposal to provide for appointment by the governor with a legislative confirmation process, which is similar to the way State Board of Regents members are selected. Chair Gibson said this proposal requires a constitutional amendment.
- Chair Gibson also reviewed his proposal that would provide for: 1) nonpartisan elections with a petition requirement to obtain placement on the ballot (2,000 signatures with a minimum of 300 signatures from each local education agency the candidate would represent); 2) a removal of exofficio, nonvoting state board members; and 3) an eventual reduction in the number of USBE members that would occur during the redistricting process.

## 7. Statutorily Required Reports

The following statutorily required reports were included in the meeting packet and representatives of the authoring agencies were available to respond to questions:

- School Safety Tip Line
  - School Safety Tip Line Commission
- Early Intervention Program
  - Utah State Board of Education
- Implementation of a Parent Seminar on Youth Protection and Suicide Prevention Programs
  - Utah State Board of Education
- Impact of Class Size Reduction Money
  - Utah State Board of Education
- Online School Survey System
  - Utah State Board of Education
- College Credits to Veterans
  - Utah State Board of Regents
- Foreign Gifts to Higher Education Institutions
  - Utah State Board of Regents
- Career and Technical Education
  - Utah State Board of Education
  - Utah State Board of Regents
  - Utah College of Applied Technology

## 8. Other Items/Adjourn

Chair Gibson recognized the service of outgoing legislators Sen. Jones, Sen. Reid, and Rep. Nielson, and committee policy analyst, Ms. Connie Steffen.

**MOTION:** Rep. Eliason moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Urquhart, Rep. McCay, and Rep. Snow were absent for the vote.

Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.