

**MINUTES OF THE
NATIVE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**
Thursday, November 10, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – Room 20 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Chair
Rep. Jack R. Draxler, Chair
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Rep. Angela Romero
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Mark A Wheatley
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers

Members Absent:

Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Michael E. Noel

Staff Present:

Mr. Bryant R. Howe, Deputy Director
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Joshua M. Weber, Legislative Assistant

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 Draxler called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Van Tassell moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Escamilla and Rep. Sagers were absent for the vote.

2. Indian Health Report

Ms. Melissa Zito, American Indian-Alaskan Native Health Liaison, Utah Department of Health, and Dr. Joseph Miner, Executive Director, Utah Department of Health, presented and discussed "Indian Health Report." Ms. Zito and Dr. Miner responded to questions from the committee.

3. Uintah Base Revitalization Fund and Navajo Revitalization Fund

Mr. Keith Heaton, Community Development Director, Utah Department of Workforce Services, presented "Uintah Base Revitalization Fund" and "Navajo Revitalization Fund." Mr. Heaton responded to questions from the committee.

4. Report of Division of Indian Affairs

Ms. Shirlee Silversmith, Director, Utah Division of Indian Affairs and Mr. James Toledo, Program Manager, Utah Division of Indian Affairs, presented "Utah Department of Heritage and Arts – 2015 Annual Report." Ms. Silversmith responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Van Tassell moved to encourage the members of the committee to allow Native American students to shadow members of the committee on Native American Caucus Day during the 2016 General Session. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Report on Native American Teacher Attraction

Ms. Melinda Boulter, Research Assistant, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, presented "Native American Teacher Training Programs" and "American Indian Teacher Training Programs." She responded to questions from the committee.

6. Proposed Education Plan

Ms. Owen reviewed 2015 General Session H.B. 33 "American Indian-Alaskan Native Education Amendments" and draft legislation "Concurrent Resolution Supporting American Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan" (2016FL-0574/006). Ms. Owen, along with Ms. Ann White, Federal Programs Director, Utah State Office of Education, and Mr. Chuck Foster, American Indian Education Specialist, Utah State Board of Education, responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Escamilla moved the following amendment:

Page 2, Line 49: After "community support" insert "and participation"

MOTION: Sen. Escamilla moved to recommend "Concurrent Resolution Supporting American Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan" as a committee resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Owen reviewed draft legislation "American Indian and Alaskan Native Amendments" (2016FL-0491/014).

MOTION: Sen. Van Tassell moved the following amendment:

Page 4, Line 115: After line 115 insert: "(5) The grant money is intended to supplement and not replace existing money supporting American Indian and Alaskan Native concentrated schools.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hinkins absent for the vote.

The public was invited to comment.

Mr. Calvin White, Department of Education, expressed his thanks to the committee for the proposed legislation.

MOTION: Rep. Poulson moved to recommend draft legislation "American Indian-Alaskan Native Education Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Navajo Trust Fund

Mr. Tony Dayish, Administrator, Department of Administrative Services, Division of Finance, and Mr. Lynn Stevens, member, Utah Navajo Trust Fund Board, presented "Utah Navajo Trust Fund." Mr. Dayish and Mr. Stevens responded to questions from the committee.

8. Other Items/Adjourn

Sen. Van Tassell discussed challenges facing young Native Americans seeking to attend college. He said that more needs to be done to improve the availability of information regarding scholarships and other supportive services.

Ms. Silversmith discussed how her division's website offers some resources related to those described by Sen. Van Tassell. Sen. Van Tassell suggested that information from the Department of Workforce Services and the Utah State Office of Education should also be included.

Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Draxler adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.