

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**
Thursday, October 16, 2003 – 1:00 p.m. – Room 129 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Hatch, Senate Chair
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, House Chair
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Parley G. Hellewell
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Lawanna "Lou" Shurtliff

Members Absent:

Sen. Ron Allen
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Gordon E. Snow

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://le.utah.gov> or by contacting the committee secretary, Glenda Whitney, at 538-1032.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Hatch called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Sen. Allen was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Shurtliff moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for Monday, November 10 at 9:00 a.m.

2. State Board of Education Proposal on Competency-Measured Education

Supt. Steven O. Laing, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, reported on the progress of the State Board of Education in developing the "Performance Plus" proposal. He indicated the Board met October 14 to review input received from 34 public hearings and 5 summits. He outlined the changes made to the proposal and identified major issues that need further study.

Mr. Tim Beagley, State Board of Education, said the Board's budget proposal for the upcoming legislative session specifically requests the Legislature to provide money for growth and inflation before funding other proposed programs.

3. Impact of Education Reforms

Supt. McKell Withers, Superintendent, and Dr. Charles Hausman, Assistant Superintendent, Salt Lake City School District, made a presentation that demonstrates how a school accountability plan for Utah required by "No Child Left Behind" could result in identifying many schools as failing to make adequate yearly progress. Their presentation also showed that a significant number of students would fail to meet graduation requirements as outlined in the State Board of Education's "Performance Plus" proposal. A copy of the presentation, "Utah's Approved AYP Plan for No Child Left Behind and Performance Plus Proposal," was distributed to Task Force members.

Dr. Louise Moulding, Utah State Office of Education, commented that Utah students are clearly outperforming the nation. Utah's SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement pass rates all indicate that Utah's educational system is working.

4. Task Force Report

Rep. Hatch stated that one of the duties of the Task Force is to report and make recommendations to the Education Interim Committee on the information it has learned related to "No Child Left Behind," S.B. 154, "Public Education Amendments," and the "Performance Plus" proposal.

The Task Force discussed many issues including:

- the possibility of not implementing the No Child Left Behind program and the potential loss of federal funds, current programs that would be effected, and legal ramifications of that action;
- eliminating the 10th grade basic skills competency test;
- putting more emphasis on grades K-3;
- focusing on students being able to read well and comprehend;
- reducing class sizes; and
- addressing the needs of those in junior high school.

Sen. Hatch asked members to submit their specific proposals and recommendations to the chairs or Ms. Steffen as soon as possible, so they can be included in the report to the Education Interim Committee.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Shurtliff moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Hatch adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.