

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, November 19, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. – Room 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair
Sen. Chris Buttars
Sen. David L. Gladwell
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Dana C. Love
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, 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. Committee Business

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Moss moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2003. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Gladwell, Sen. Hale, Sen. Wright, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Shurtliff absent for the vote.

Rep. Newbold distributed to the Committee a handout she requested of Jordan School District showing fee collections for fiscal year 2002-2003.

Ms. Carolyn Sharette, Principal, American Preparatory Academy, refuted comments made at a previous meeting about the school's lack of cooperation in providing information to the Jordan School Board regarding their building costs.

2. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Values Education in Schools"

Rep. LaVar Christensen distributed a memorandum, "100 Ways to Promote Character Education," and presented an overview of the draft legislation, "Civic and Character Education in Schools." He explained that the bill provides legislative recognition that Civic and Character Education are fundamental elements of the public education system's core mission and a constitutional responsibility and are required to be included in the curriculum of the public education system.

MOTION: Sen. Buttars moved to adopt the draft legislation, "Civic and Character Education in Schools," as a committee bill.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Dayton moved to adopt draft legislation, "Civic and Character Education in Schools," as a committee bill with the following amendments:

Line 159: Delete "and"

Line 163: Delete "." and insert "; and (e) the primary responsibility for the education of children within the state resides with their parents or guardians and that the role of state and local governments is to support and assist parents in fulfilling that responsibility."

The motion passed, with Rep. Newbold voting in opposition. Rep. Harper and Rep. Johnson were absent for the vote.

3. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Refurbished Computers in Schools Program"

Chair Stephenson indicated that the proposed legislation terminates a pilot program for the acquisition and refurbishing of donated computers to be used in the state's public schools.

Mr. David Gomez, Utah Correctional Industries, spoke in support of the draft legislation.

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved to adopt draft legislation, "Refurbished Computers in Schools Program," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Harper and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

4. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Repeal of Education Mandates"

Chair Stephenson indicated that the proposed legislation eliminates requirements of the State Board of Education to design and implement a statewide plan to provide an adequate supply of textbooks and to make rules governing school building utilization.

Mr. Patrick Ogden, Associate Superintendent, and Mr. Larry Newton, Director of Finance and Statistics, Utah State Office of Education, commented on the mandates placed on schools and spoke in support of the draft legislation.

Supt. Steven O. Laing, State Supt. of Public Instruction, Utah State Office of Education, discussed the difficulty of reporting on the adequacy of textbooks at the state level.

MOTION: Rep. Dayton moved to adopt draft legislation, "Repeal of Education Mandates," as a committee bill. The motion passed, with Rep. Christensen voting in opposition. Sen. Buttars, Sen. Gladwell, Rep. Hogue, and Rep. Johnson were absent for the vote.

5. Public Education Legislative Task Force Report

Sen. Thomas Hatch and Rep. Kory Holdaway, Chairs, Public Education Legislative Task Force, reported on the activities of the Task Force during the 2003 interim. The Task Force did not recommend any proposed legislation.

6. State Board of Education Report

Sen. Stephenson noted that S.B. 154, "Public Education Amendments," directs the State Board of Education to study various issues over the next three years and to report their findings to the Committee.

Supt. Laing distributed a memorandum, "First Annual Report: Utah State Board of Education, 2003," for the Committee to review.

Mr. Kim R. Burningham, Chair, Utah State Board of Education, presented an overview of the report.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m. Sen. Buttars, Sen. Gladwell, Rep. Dougall, and Rep. Johnson were absent for the vote.