

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 17, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Laura Black
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Rep. Kraig Powell
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion
Rep. Christine F. Watkins
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent:

Sen. Margaret Dayton

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, 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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Sen. Dayton was excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Bramble, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Harper, Rep. Newbold, Rep. Oda, and Rep. Wimmer were absent for the vote.

2. Introduction of the New State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Ms. Dixie Allen, Vice Chair, State Board of Education (Board), introduced Larry Shumway, the newly appointed State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Chair Stephenson expressed appreciation to the Board for its work, and noted Dr. Shumway's accomplishments, including his time as Principal of North Sevier High School and Superintendent of Tooele School District.

Dr. Shumway, Deputy Superintendent, State Board of Education, commented on his new appointment and noted the great task to follow Superintendent Patti Harrington's leadership. Dr. Shumway discussed his background in education and expressed the importance of quality instruction in every classroom.

3. Placing Educational Resources in the Public Domain

Dr. David Wiley, Associate Professor, Instructional Psychology and Technology, Brigham Young University, distributed and discussed a handout, "Placing Educational Resources in the Public Domain."

He explained that open educational resources (OER) are copyrighted educational resources that are licensed with an open license. Open licenses give the public permission to freely use, reuse, adopt and recombine materials at no cost. Dr. Wiley noted that teachers and principals in Utah are unclear whether or not they are allowed to apply an open license to their original materials and recommended that the State Board of Education amend a rule to clarify that teachers and school districts have that authority. He distributed a copy of a State Board of Education rule, "R227-115. Copyrighting Material Developed with Funds that Flow Through the Board," with his recommendations for an amendment to clarify that open licensing is permitted and encouraged.

Ms. Linda Mariotti, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Granite School District, discussed the arrangements school districts make to share software, educational materials, and other resources created by teachers and school districts and spoke in support of being able to charge a nominal fee to help offset the cost of creating and updating materials. She encouraged creating a clear policy for school districts to facilitate sharing materials.

Mr. Bruce Williams, Business Administrator, Davis School District, discussed an online curriculum being developed at Davis School District. He commented on joint development agreements and sharing the costs with other parties who are interested in developing and using resources. He discussed prioritization of resources and would like the ability to share costs for educational resources.

4. Engineering Education in Utah

Senator John L. Valentine introduced the issue and discussed the goals of the Engineering Initiative and the limited resources available in the state.

Dr. William A. Sederburg, Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education, gave a slide presentation on the impact of engineering education on Utah's economy and the engineering and technology programs provided by Utah System of Higher Education institutions.

Mr. John Sutherland, Chair, Technology Initiative Advisory Board, continued with Dr. Sederburg's slide presentation and reviewed the funding history on the Utah Engineering and Computer Science Initiative since 2000.

Ms. Marilyn Davies, University of Utah, answered committee members' questions related to capacity for additional students in engineering programs at the University of Utah.

5. National Common Standards

Dr. Shumway discussed an effort initiated of 46 states to develop voluntary, common curriculum standards for English/language arts and mathematics. He noted that the Utah State Board of Education is participating in the development process, but has not committed to adopt the standards.

Rep. Holdaway distributed a handout, "National Conference of State Legislatures - Official Policy, National Standards," for committee members to review.

Mr. David Cox, educator, discussed curriculum development and his experiences in creating curriculum and different standards. He spoke against national curriculum standards for the state.

Mr. David Thomas, member, State Board of Education, explained that he believes the current federal administration would like national curriculum standards. He spoke in support of standards that originate from governors and state school officials, instead of signing onto national standards that originate from the federal government.

6. Education Reports

Ms. Steffen referred the Committee to a table listing education-related reports, which was distributed in the mailing packet, and gave an overview on education-related reports required by statute and the State Board of Education rules. She noted that in the past the Legislature has reviewed and eliminated various mandatory reports. The state superintendent will be asked to review the list of education-related reports and make recommendations on whether reporting requirements should be eliminated or modified.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble, Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Harper, Rep. Ipson, Rep. Lockhart, Rep. Oda, Rep. Sumsion, Rep. Watkins, and Rep. Wimmer absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.