

**MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006  
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Members Present:            Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair  
                                 Rep. Gordon E. Snow, Co-Chair  
                                 Sen. Beverly Evans  
                                 Sen. Karen Hale  
                                 Rep. J. Stuart Adams  
                                 Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux  
                                 Rep. LaVar Christensen  
                                 Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove  
                                 Rep. James A. Ferrin  
                                 Rep. Julie Fisher  
                                 Rep. Karen W. Morgan  
                                 Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Excused:        Pres. John Valentine  
                                 Rep. Ron Bigelow

Members Absent:         Rep. Greg Hughes

Staff Present:            R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
                                 Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
                                 Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Oak Norton, Parent  
                                 Brent Moulding, Curriculum Director, USOE  
                                 Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
                                 Rep. LaWanna Lou Shurtliff  
                                 Rep. James R. Gowans  
                                 Rep. Ronda Rudd Melove  
                                 Rep. Kory M. Holdway

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Committee Co-Chair Snow called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

1.     Approval of Minutes - Rep. Fisher moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2006, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Evans, Rep. Adams, Rep. Christensen, and Rep. Urquhart absent at the time of voting.

2. Concluding Budget Issues - Oak Norton, a parent representing Utah children, stated that for the past year he has been researching the math curriculum in Utah. Mr. Norton provided a handout to the Committee detailing his testimony. He stated that he feels that Utah needs to change the core math standards at the State level. Teachers need to give students more content at an earlier age. Mr. Norton asked that a solid framework for math education be adopted in Utah. Committee Co-Chair Stephenson referred to language that would be introduced to the Committee for their consideration for placement in the Appropriations Act. The following is that language:

**53a-17a-152 Mathematics curriculum standards**

(1) Each school district and charter school receiving money under this chapter shall provide mathematics instructions consistent with the mathematics curriculum standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

(2) The State Board of Education shall:

(a) adopt the California kindergarten through grade 12 mathematics content standards and mathematics curriculum framework as the mathematics standards and curriculum framework for Utah; and

(b) create criterion-referenced tests aligned with the standards adopted under Subsection (2)(a) for each grade level by 2009.

R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, stated that funds provided through the regular WPU are also provided for math instruction in schools. Brent Moulding, Curriculum Director, USOE, provided clarification on the math curriculum currently being used in the schools.

Discussion from the Committee members centered around the role of the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the role of the school boards in defining school district math curriculum. Committee Co-Chair Stephenson stated that this issue was brought before this Committee so that math education funding could be included in grades 4-6 math instruction.

**MOTION:** Sen. Evans moved to refer the math education issue to the Education Interim Committee.

The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Adams and Rep. Morgan absent at the time of voting.

**MOTION:** Rep. Cosgrove moved to have the findings of the Interim Committee on the math investigations reported back to this Appropriations Subcommittee.

The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Adams and Rep. Morgan absent at the time of voting.

3. Fiscal Notes Bills - Rep. Moss discussed H.B. 134 Class Size Reduction. This bill modifies the minimum school program by increasing the appropriation for class size reduction. Line 53 of this bill increases the appropriation by \$30 million to target K-3 classroom size to 20 students. Rep. Moss stated that when the bill is presented in Standing Committee, an amendment will be made for an appropriation of \$36,335,440.

Rep. Shurtliff discussed H.B. 68 School Fee Waiver Amendments. This bill allows the State Board of Education to distribute funds to certain school districts impacted by fee waivers. This bill appropriates an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, \$700,000 from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 to the State Board of Education. Rep. Shurtliff stated that a substitute bill will raise the appropriation to \$1.5 million.

Rep. Gowans discussed H.B. 98 Beginning Teacher Enhancements. This bill creates and funds a program to enhance the compensation of beginning teachers and provides money for teacher mentoring programs. This bill appropriates from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 as an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, \$18,000,000 for the Beginning Teacher Compensation Program and \$3,000,000 for Teacher Mentoring Program.

Rep. Menlove discussed H.B. 310 Beginning Teacher Induction. This bill creates and appropriates money for a beginning teacher induction program. This bill appropriates as an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, \$4,200,000 from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 to the State Board of Education for the Beginning Teacher Induction Program. Rep. Menlove referred to a handout entitled "Induction and Turnover" which details national data for new teacher turnover.

Rep. Holdaway discussed H.B. 107 Full-Day Kindergarten. This bill establishes a voluntary full-day kindergarten program with certain funding priorities. This bill appropriates as an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, \$7,000,000 from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 to the State Board of Education.

Rep. Holdaway also discussed H.B. 285 Highly Qualified Teachers. This bill creates a grant program to minimize out-of-pocket expenses of licensed teachers to obtain National Board certification or to take tests to meet federal highly qualified teacher standards. This bill appropriates \$500,000 from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 only, to the State Board of Education.

Minutes of the Joint Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
February 2, 2006  
Page 4

4. Committee Discussion - Committee Co-Chair Stephenson discussed 53A-2-206 Exchange and interstate compact students - Inclusion in attendance count - Annual Report - Requirements for exchange student agencies. This would empower the State Board to make rules establishing standards for student exchange programs. Further, 53A-17a-123 Local Discretionary Block Grant Program - State contribution would require a school district or charter school high school to enroll no fewer than one foreign exchange student for every 500 students in the school district's high schools or the charter high school.

Rep. Bourdeaux discussed the Intervention for Student Success Block Grant. He proposed to separate the Alternative Language Services Program from the block grant into its own item.

Rep. Christensen made a request for a \$30,000 contingency provision for Civic Education as part of the National Conference on Civic Education.

5. Committee Business - Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, referred to Issue Brief Federal Funds. This brief states that a statute requires the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to submit a federal funds request summary to each appropriations subcommittee pursuant to the agencies under their preview. The appropriations subcommittee shall review the federal funds required and may:

- Recommend that the agency accept the federal funds or participate in the federal programs for the fiscal year under consideration.
- Recommend that the agency not accept the federal funds or not participate in the federal programs for the fiscal year under consideration.
- Submit a recommendation of accepted federal funds to the Executive Appropriations Committee.

6. **MOTION:** Sen. Hale moved to adjourn.

Committee Co-Chair Snow adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

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Sen. Howard Stephenson, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Gordon Snow, Committee Co-Chair