

REVISED MINUTES OF THE
Task Force on Learning Standards and Accountability in Public Education
June 12, 2000 - 8:30 a.m. - Room 405 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A Stephenson, Chair
Rep., Jeff Alexander Chair
Sen. Karen Hale
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Loraine Pace
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Kim Burningham
Ila Rose Fife
Jill Kennedy
Linda B. Ogden
Lt. Gov. Olene S. Walker

Members Absent:

Sen. L. Steven Poulton
Rep. John E. Swallow

Staff Present:

Mr. Bryant R. Howe, Research Analyst
Mr. Chet Loftis, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Task Force Business – The minutes of November 15, 1999 were amended.

MOTION: Ms. Linda Ogden moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 1999 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Members of the task force were introduced. Appreciation was expressed to past members and new members were welcomed to the task force.

2. Review of HB 177, Assessing, Reporting, and Evaluating Student Performance -- Bryant R. Howe, Research Analyst, distributed a time line for implementation of assessments, data collection, and reporting systems for the Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS). He explained H.B. 33 and H.B.168, in addition to H.B. 177, are all being implemented by the State Office of Education (SOE) and will affect the reporting and assessment process. He distributed copies of the bills and reviewed the "working definitions." He emphasized that the state has incorporated "content standards," which are part of the core curriculum, but that "performance standards" are being developed. He noted that after the 2000 Legislative General Session discussion of H.B. 177, the schedule for development was delayed by one year from what was originally recommended by the task force. He noted the assessment tools required by the three bills and some of the changes that would be made as the bills are implemented. Mr. Howe explained that in the spring of 2000, every school in the state will have participated in the Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) and that in the 2001 school year, the Stanford Nine (the state's norm-referenced test) will be administered in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11. He also explained that the State Office of Education (SOE) will be piloting the direct writing assessment test and that the direct writing, the 10th-grade basic competency, and the CRT's will be under development during

the upcoming year. He explained the new school district report card law enacted by H.B. 177 that directs the State Board of Education to adopt definitions for “chronic absenteeism” and “school drop outs.” The bill also contains directions for collecting related data.

The task force discussed the possibility of allowing the local school boards the flexibility of giving and counting the scores of either one or two 10th- grade competency tests as required by the laws. They determined to solicit input from the school districts regarding this issue.

Chair Stephenson noted that the original fiscal note on H.B. 177 was \$6.9 million. The task force discussed changes that would have impacted the bill and caused a drop in the fiscal note. They also discussed portions of the \$6.9 million that were associated with previous legislation and were not caused by H.B. 177.

3. Report from State Office of Education on Expenditure Plan for \$3,500,000 for Assessment and Accountability Appropriated in SB 3, Minimum School Program Act Amendments --Barbara Lawrence, Coordinator, Evaluation and Assessment, Utah State Office of Education, assisted by Pat Ogden, Associate Superintendent, State Office of Education, distributed a time line for implementation of assessment and accountability legislation for School Year 2000-01 and the related costs. She noted that the costs for assessment development increase as the technical requirements, which are important to the reliability of the tests, increase. She stated that for the 10th Grade Basic Skills Competency Test the production, retrieval, storage, scoring, and reporting are best conducted by independent contractors. Other test development processes for the CRTs will be developed and produced by independent contractors. However, the scoring and reporting will be done by District Computer Services at the State Office. She reviewed the significant progress that is being made on the performance standards being developed and the required costs associated with that development. She noted that, while the money appropriated for this year will be sufficient, it will not be sufficient for the upcoming years. There are additional costs associated with the development of the system will not be incurred until farther along in the project. Some of them include:

- C Additional funding needed to develop and score the constructed response portion of the Secondary Language Arts CRTs as required by H.B. 177;
- C Compensation for the steering committees formed to develop the assessments, including the direct writing assessment which must be in place by 2001;
- C Costs for developing the mathematic CRT's, which will include both constructed response and multiple choice, and then science and the language arts through the next several years;
- C Funding for revisions and technical analysis of existing tests that will be used until the development of new tests;
- C Funding to pilot the direct writing assessment;

- C Funding for the scoring of the constructed response and direct writing assessment portions of the Core Assessment System; and
- C Funding to develop new forms of the 10th-grade competency test each year to ensure the security of the test.

Dr. Lawrence stated that some of the costs listed on the time line were estimates and actual costs are still forthcoming for administering, providing materials, distributing materials, scoring the tests, producing reports and presenting the results to the schools. She noted that the pilot program to score and validate the writing assessment includes 2000-3000 students for a cost of \$150,000, but would be multiplied by 35,000-40,000 students per grade level. She stated that the State Office of Education received \$550,000 to begin to implement H.B. 33 in Fiscal Year 2000. The allocated funding, along with the \$3.5 million, reflects the initial year funding for H.B. 33 and H.B. 177. She emphasized that the funds were recognized as initial year investments, with the understanding that costs will increase in subsequent years as additional portions of the development and scoring processes are added. She also emphasized that this funding for H.B. 177 will only support the development of the testing process and additional funding will be needed for teacher development and administration of the tests.

The task force discussed the original intent of H.B. 177, which was to hold districts and schools accountable as well as teachers, but that misinformation reached the public during the 1999 Interim and during the 2000 general session. It was mentioned that good public relations is going to be very important this year. Members of the task force expressed concern about last year's process and the amount of funding that was diverted to other issues so this bill was not fully supported. Others expressed concern for other education priorities that they feel need more attention before testing. Sen. Stephenson emphasized the need to make sure the fiscal note on H.B. 177 does not reflect costs associated with previous legislation requirements. Mr. Burningham stated that he feels the task force needs to solicit input from the education community and get their support for the assessment program. He suggested that members of the task force meet with local school boards at their meetings. Rep. Alexander stated that much of what is in H.B. 177 is already in law and nothing was included in the bill, but what was recommended by the education community.

Supt. Pat Ogden suggested that the fiscal analyst's office be reminded to include the unfunded portions of H.B. 177 in the base budget for the next fiscal year.

MOTION: Mr. Burningham moved that the task force direct the legislative fiscal analyst staff to consider funding of H.B. 177 as a top priority and should be added into the base budget at the first level of new money that comes available. The motion passed with Sen. Hale and Rep. Alexander voting in opposition.

Rep. Alexander noted that he could not support the motion because it is the option of the Executive Appropriations Committee to set priorities.

4. Task Force Discussion on Study Plans For 2000 Interim - Mr. Howe reviewed the required study and data collection directions from HB 177. He The committee discussed study plans for the interim.

Ms. Ogden recommended a review of the video or cassette tape on performance standards that members of the task force received during the 1999 interim. She also recommended the task force learn more about the Tennessee value-added system. She explained that Dr. Sanders, inventor of the “value added” assessment system, is coming to Utah on August 4, 2000 and the task force members would be receiving a formal invitation from the Superintendent’s Association to hear him speak

MOTION: Ms. Ogden moved to hold a joint meeting of the Task Force on Learning Standards and Accountability in Public Education with the Superintendent’s Association and the School Boards Association on Aug 4, 2000 to listen to Dr. Bill Sanders and his expertise on value-added assessments. The motion passed unanimously with Lt. Gov. Olene Walker absent for the vote.

The task force discussed the content of H.B. 177 and clarified some issues. They expressed the desire to meet with the education community and include them in task force discussions. They agreed to make the education community aware of the items of study. It was the consensus that the task force meet on the following dates:

July 10 - 8:30 a.m.

July 31 - 8:30 a.m.

August 14 - 8:30 a.m.

August 28 - 8:30 a.m.

Sept 11 - 8:30 a.m.

Sept 25 - 8:30 a.m.

Oct 9 - 8:30 a.m.

Oct 23 - 8:30 a.m.

Nov 13 - 8:30 a.m.

Site visits might be scheduled for members of the task force.

5 Other Business –

MOTION: Ms. Kennedy moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.