

**MINUTES OF THE
STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR PUBLIC AND HIGHER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 21, 2000 - 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. David H. Steele, Co-Chair
Rep. Lloyd Frandsen, Co-Chair
Sen. Joseph Hull
Sen. Howard Stephenson
Rep. Patrice Arent
Rep. Keele Johnson
Pat Eyre
Maria Farrington
Ceclia Foxley
Jill Kennedy
Steven O. Laing
Dolores Riley
Stephen Ronnenkamp
Con Rowley
Phyllis Sorensen

Members Excused:

Jan Ferre'
Val Finlayson
Joyce Gray
David Greene
Sal Jansson
Paul Sybrowsky

Members Absent:

Anthony Morgan

Staff Present:

James Wilson, Associate General Counsel
Wayne Lewis, Research Analyst
Wendy Bangert, Legislative Secretary

1. **Call to Order** - Sen. David Steele called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Steven Laing moved to approve the minutes of April 10, 2000. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Summary List of Committee Proposals** - With committee members participating on laptop computers, Mr. Stew Boyd, Information Technology Specialist at Weber State University, assisted Sen. Steele with a computer program designed to assemble, rank and prioritize responses submitted by committee members about their perceptions of the needs and concerns that should be addressed through the Strategic Planning Committee.

Committee members submitted their responses and the computer program assembled data that identified five proposals as top priorities. Sen. Steele said he would review these issues with the Education Interim Committee.

1. To provide each classroom with a quality teacher who is supported by trained mentors and sustained by adequate funding and strategic uses of resources.
2. To prepare students to possess the necessary basic knowledge and life skills necessary to be a civil, responsible, and contributing citizens in a diverse society.
3. To prepare students for life and to become productive wage earners.

4. To commit to finding and implementing long-term solutions to education needs.
5. To develop more effective methods of identifying and addressing individual student support needs.

Sen. Steele asked the committee to specifically consider ways to implement items one and two from the priority list and propose ways for the education community to acquire a shared focus of these items with the business community.

3. Strategic Plan Report Card - Sen. Steele asked committee members to grade a Strategic Planning Report Card distributed prior to the meeting. The committee prioritized the items on the report card as follows:

1. Personalized student education;
2. School choice programs that give students and parents options to best meet a student's personalized educational needs;
3. Student preparation to achieve success in productive employment or further education;
4. The use of technology to improve teaching and learning processes and for the delivery of educational services;
5. Districts and schools empowered to create their own vision and plans to achieve results consistent with educational excellence;
6. The involvements of educators, parents, and the community at large by having them establish goals and participate in decision-making at the school site;
7. A world class curriculum;
8. Excellent teachers attracted to and maintained in every classroom with recognition, rewards, and compensation provided for their excellence;
9. Ongoing research and development projects promoted at the district and school levels directed at improving public education; and
10. An information retrieval system that provides students, parents, and educators with reliable, useful, and timely data on student progress.

The committee discussed the "report card" exercise and the importance of each item to public education. Committee members discussed the need to define specific terms on the report card so they could be used correctly and consistently by each education committee and task force. Sen. Steele said the chairs will develop a list of ambiguous terms that they will e-mail to committee members. He requested each member return their definitions and feel free to include the definitions of other words definitions they had identified. He felt, by prioritizing, they could identify ways the strategic planning process could be changed or improved.

Mr. Jim Wilson, Associate General Counsel, suggested the committee discuss the objectives of strategic planning with the three education task forces and the Education Interim Committee in order to coordinate the direction of each educational group. Sen. Steele and Rep. Frandsen concurred that the strategic planning committee could help unify the thinking of the legislature about public education.

4. Updates on Task Force Activities - Mr. Wilson briefly reviewed the topics for discussion in the Learning Standards and Assessments Task Force, the Funding of Public Education Task Force, and the Applied Technology Education Task Force.

5. Report on Utah Public Education Funding Summit - Mr. Wayne Lewis, Research Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Council, summarized the proceedings of the Utah Public Education Funding Summit held in May in Salt Lake City. He said that presenters at the summit defined "fiscal adequacy" as the amount of funding required to educate a student, plus a special consideration for additional funds that may be required to educate students with special needs. He explained that there is a shift nationally in funding education through formulae to procedures that fund education from data generated from student outcomes and achievement. He said that the trend across the nation for the allocation of school funding is sensitivity to the needs of the individual school districts and an acknowledgment that educational organizations must become more accountable.

Sen. Steele suggested the next meeting might be held at the Weber Conference Center in Ogden.

6. Adjournment

Sen. Steele adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

