

**MINUTES OF THE
ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TASK FORCE**
Tuesday, September 11, 2001 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 129 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Matt Throckmorton, House Chair
Sen. Paula F. Julander
Sen. Millie M. Peterson
Sen. Carlene Walker
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Marda Dillree
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Ms. Janet A. Cannon
Ms. Joyce W. Richards

Members Excused:

Sen. Dave L. Gladwell
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Gordon E. Snow

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Research Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or contact the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Chair Throckmorton called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Peterson moved to approve the minutes of August 23, 2001. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

2. Teacher Compensation - Career Ladders and Performance-Based Pay

Ms. Wendy Bromley, Jordan Education Association, reviewed a brief history of the career ladder program and how Jordan School District's career ladder program functions. She stated that the program is not what was originally intended, but what it has become is still good. She distributed and reviewed, "Standards and Guidelines for Career Ladders in Education." She noted the positive ways the career ladder program has grown since 1985. She distributed copies of e-mails she received from teachers who are happy with the program and do not want to see it discontinued. She stated that this program allows individual schools to develop programs that can highly impact quality education.

Mr. Kirk Wright, Utah Association of School Superintendents, addressed the career ladder program. Mr. Wright stated that the teachers he talked to within his district gave no negative comments, but indicated how much they appreciate it. He explained how they have leveraged school reform with career ladder money and local funds in his district. He noted that other district superintendents also have positive feelings about it.

Mr. Steve Peterson, Utah Association of School Superintendents, discussed his experience with a merit-pay project that had a negative impact on teacher morale. He suggested that the Legislature not change

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the existing career ladder program, but increase the funding.

Ms. Susan Kuziak, Utah Education Association, noted that the career ladder program has been custom fit for each district as it has evolved to meet each district's needs. She agreed that career ladder money is teacher compensation, so it needs to grow with the economy and the increasing number of teachers. She explained the difference between performance-based compensation and merit pay. Performance-based pay plans judge achievements against a standard, merit pay plans judge achievement against the performance of other teachers. She emphasized that the career ladder program, with its performance-based component, compensates teachers for their demonstration of excellence.

Ms. Bonnie Palmer, Utah School Boards Association, distributed and reviewed comments regarding the benefits of the career ladder program. She encouraged the task force to carefully consider the value of the present structure, noting the opportunities for districts to be creative with their professional development programs. She asked that the three-year approval program be reinstated. She also noted that state oversight has been very helpful so that programs are not designed that are either illegal or inappropriate.

Ms. Linda Alder, State Office of Education, responded that the year-by-year approval was intended to simplify the approval process and allow changes in district career ladder programs to be made more frequently. She agreed to poll the districts to see if that did, in fact, simplify the process for the districts.

3. Driver Education

Mr. Steve Laing and Ms. Gail Johnson, Utah State Office of Education, distributed and reviewed, "Organization, Administration, and Standards," for the Utah driver education programs in Utah high schools. Ms. Johnson indicated that the manual will be revised this year to reflect changes in laws. She noted there are differences in the way schools deliver the two phases of the program: 1) classroom instruction; and 2) behind-the-wheel training. Mr. Laing indicated that some definitions need to be redefined to assure that reporting of driver education costs is standardized. He requested the Legislature to indicate to what degree and specificity it wants reporting and to consider the burden on the districts, if they are asked to participate in detailed reporting on all programs.

Mr. Dee Larsen, Associate General Counsel, reviewed research based on interviews with individuals in western states regarding approaches to driver education. He noted that not all states require driver education or offer driver education as part of the school curriculum. He also reviewed how school-based driver education is financed.

The task force discussed several driver education options. Chair Throckmorton summarized the options as follows: 1) postpone further discussion for a couple of years until sufficiently uniform data has been received from the districts; 2) decouple behind-the-wheel training from classroom instruction; or 3) require the program to be self-funded.

MOTION: Sen. Walker moved to have legislation drafted to prohibit school districts from offering

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behind-the-wheel training. The motion passed with Sen. Julander, Sen. Peterson, Rep. Morgan, Ms. Cannon, and Ms. Richard voting in opposition and Rep. Jones absent for the vote.

Mr. Gardner Jeppson, driver education instructor, Box Elder High School, explained that parents are notified as to what will be taught, and they are encouraged to assist the teacher in teaching their children good driving skills.

4. Core Curriculum

Because of time constraints, this item was not discussed.

5. School Discipline

Because of time constraints, this item was not discussed.

6. Other Business

Chair Throckmorton asked the members to participate in a moment of silence to remember those whose lives were lost in the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The next meetings were scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct 17, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Dillree moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Julander, Sen. Peterson, and Rep. Jones absent for the vote. Chair Throckmorton adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

