

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

October 24, 2001 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 303 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Senate Chair  
Rep. Marda Dillree, House Chair  
Sen. D. Chris Buttars  
Sen. Karen Hale  
Sen. David H. Steele  
Sen. Alicia L. Suazo  
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups  
Sen. Bill Wright  
Rep. Jeff Alexander  
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux  
Rep. Afton B. Bradshaw  
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire  
Rep. Margaret Dayton  
Rep. James A. Ferrin  
Rep. James R. Gowans

Rep. Bradley T. Johnson  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold  
Rep. Loraine T. Pace  
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot  
Rep. LaWanna Shurtliff  
Rep. Matt Throckmorton  
Rep. A. Lamont Tyler

**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**

Rep. Dillree called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2001. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright, Rep. Alexander, Rep. Ferrin, and Rep. Philpot absent for the vote.

**2. Music Programs**

Ms. Susan Ames, Utah Festival Opera Company, explained how music and the Opera Company can enhance and benefit the education of the children of Utah. She distributed the results of a survey about the Opera Company's work with children and reviewed some of the operas school children had written and performed.

**3. Period of Silence**

Mr. Steve Laing, Superintendent of Public Instruction, USOE (Utah State Office of Education),

reviewed how periods of silence have been handled in the schools of Utah following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. He stated that the Supreme Court has ruled that schools may not sponsor prayer, but they may not impede spontaneous, individualized student prayer, either. Schools are free either as a school or a class to observe a moment of silence, if it is done on an individual basis.

#### **4. Needs of English Language Learners**

Ms. Bonnie Morgan, USOE, stated that a task force was formed in June, 2001 to study the needs of English language learners in Utah schools. She introduced members of the task force and turned the time over to three members to report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations made by the task force as reviewed in the document they distributed.

Ms. Sandra Buendia, Salt Lake City School District, presented demographics showing the increasing diversity of English language learners in the schools. She stated that 55 percent of English language learners were born in the United States. She asserted that schools are not able to meet the education needs of English language learners and some students are failing in school. She reviewed consequences realized by intervention from the OCR (Office for Civil Rights) when they find schools not appropriately meeting the educational needs of English language learners.

Ms. Graciela Italiano-Thomas, Chief Executive Director, Centro de la Familia de Utah, reviewed the implications of Utah's changing demographics. She stated that schools need appropriations for programs and professional development focused on English language learners. She emphasized that all educators need instructional skills to appropriately educate English language learners. She stated that in 2005, all students will be required to pass the same high standards in order to graduate.

Ms. Cathy Ortega, Assistant Superintendent, Ogden City School District, reviewed five recommendations, (1) develop an ALS (Alternative Language Services) master plan for the state, (2) allocate \$6 million to be used for program development and implementation, resources, technical services, evaluation, and professional development, (3) move ALS funding from the special populations block grant and reestablish it as a categorical line item, (4) evaluate the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs, and (5) continue the work of the English Language Learners Task Force.

**MOTION:** Rep. Philpot moved to recommend that no action be taken on these recommendations until the Legislature, specifically the Education Standing Committee and the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, have a full understanding of the OCR investigation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Bourdeaux moved to hear a report on the OCR investigation at the next interim committee meeting. The motion passed with Sen. Buttars, Rep. Dayton, Rep. Ferrin, Rep. Newbold, and Rep. Philpot voting in opposition.

## **5. Textbook Needs**

Mr. Patrick Ogden, and Ms. Vicky Dahn, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), distributed and reviewed a report of school districts' textbook needs and supplemental expenditures. They reviewed a form that districts are asked to complete and return to the State Office relating to their textbook expenditures and needs. Ms. Dahn explained her role in calculating textbook and other instructional materials needs. She also reviewed the estimated funding cost per student. Mr. Ogden reviewed the estimated future textbook needs and some options to meet those needs. He recommended providing flexibility in spending state funds so that school districts can determine where they need to spend their allocation.

## **6. Standardized Accounting**

This issue will be discussed at the November 14, 2001 meeting.

## **7. Modified School Week Pilot Program**

This issue will be discussed at the November 14, 2001 meeting.

## **8. Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

## **9. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Shurtliff moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright, Rep. Alexander, Rep. Ferrin, and Rep. Philpot absent for the vote. Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

