

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
May 22, 2002 – 2:00 p.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. Michael G. Waddoups  
Sen. Bill Wright  
Rep. Jeff Alexander  
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux  
Rep. Afton B. Bradshaw  
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire  
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

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Alicia L. Suazo  
Rep. Margaret Dayton

**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 by contacting the committee secretary, Wendy Bangerter, at 538-1032.

**1. Call To Order**

Chair Dillree called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**2. Charter Schools**

Mr. Larsen reviewed the purpose and characteristics of charter schools, which are summarized in "Utah Charter Schools Overview." He noted that the Legislature has authorized the State Board of Education to establish up to 22 charter schools.

Sen. Steele commented that the required independent evaluation of charter schools has been completed and will soon be made available to the Education Interim Committee.

Ms. Steffen explained how charter schools are funded in Utah. The purpose and source of various funds available to charter schools are summarized in "Charter School Funding." She noted that in Utah the value of the weighted pupil unit (WPU) is uniform across grade levels; whereas, in some states the primary grades and high schools receive greater weighting. "State School Finance Programs, Grade Level Weights" shows how some states weight different grade levels. In those states, charter high schools generally receive more state funds on a per pupil basis than charter schools that are elementary or middle schools.

Mr. Kevin Smith, president and CEO, Tuacahn Center for the Arts, and Mr. John Broberg, Tuacahn High School administrator, expressed the need for charter high schools to receive greater funding. Startup funds have enabled the Tuacahn School to operate in its first three years, but those funds will soon discontinue.

Sen. Stephenson explained that schools like Tuacahn have two problems. They receive only local operation and maintenance funds, no capital outlay or debt service funds, which results in charter school students receiving approximately 77 percent of what other public school students in Utah receive. Also, school districts can allocate some of the per pupil funding for elementary and middle school students to high schools to pay for the increased costs of high school students. Charter high schools do not have that advantage.

Ms. Carolyn Sharette, parent, recounted some of her experiences with public and charter schools. She stated that Utah's charter schools are regulated more so than in other states. She asserted that if those regulations were lifted, more entrepreneurs would become interested in establishing charter schools and resources would be better utilized. She explained the benefits of having a state board of charter schools, as exists in some other states. She also noted that Utah charter schools are considered specialty schools, which is not so in other states.

Ms. Karen Derrick, Salt Lake City School Board and Utah School Boards Association, reminded the Committee that the law allows only four percent of a school district's students to be served by a charter school sponsored by the school district. She asked the Committee to consider the financial impacts on a school district if that percentage were increased.

Mr. Larry Shumway, superintendent, Tooele School District, expressed caution in increasing the amount of local funds distributed to charter schools. In the case of Tooele School District, more than half of the local funds are dedicated for capital outlay and debt service.

Mr. Richard Maxfield, education consultant, stated he advises most interested groups not to try to establish a charter school, because high regulation would prohibit them from accomplishing their purpose. They do not have freedom of operation to develop different delivery systems at a lower cost.

### **3. Interfacing of the Utah College of Applied Technology with High Schools**

Dr. Gregory G. Fitch, president, UCAT (Utah College of Applied Technology), briefed the Committee on the implementation of the legislation that created UCAT. Under the legislation, Dr. Fitch noted they are charged with creating partnerships and cannot move forward without the development of high school and business partners. He distributed and reviewed a handout showing enrollment trends over the past three years. Dr. Fitch stated they are working to establish an Associate of Applied Technology degree.

Mr. Bo Hall, Salt Lake-Tooele Applied Technology College, reviewed some of the most recent partnerships and what programs have been created to meet the need for skilled workers in the region. He stated they work closely with the Department of Workforce Services.

Salt Lake-Tooele region school district representatives expressed their views of UCAT.

Supt. Barry Newbold, Jordan School District, distributed and reviewed information regarding Jordan School District's applied technology programs. He suggested that UCAT provide services in the following areas: 1) short-term intensive training; 2) employment-fit custom training; 3) advanced technical training; and 4) high demand courses to accommodate an excess number of students in certain courses.

Supt. Stephen Ronnenkamp, Granite School District, expressed the desire and intent of Granite School District to collaborate with UCAT, but not in the duplication of services. He stated there has been a reduction of services to students in high schools and foresees collaboration being most effective in the areas of: 1) advanced technical training, especially courses with a high cost and limited enrollment in the region; 2) providing meaningful Associate of Applied Technology degrees, which are transferable statewide; and 3) the creation of a high school diploma track. He stated that Granite School District intends to supply as many quality programs to students as possible, but will seek collaboration when needed. He stated the Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College programs, at present, are limited and do not add much to what is provided in the high schools.

Supt. Larry Shumway, Tooele School District, stated that the problem in the applied technology arena for them has not been governance, but the lack of resources to provide the same level of opportunity that is available in other parts of the state.

Supt. Darlene Robles, Salt Lake City School District, stated they look for partnerships, because they cannot provide all that is necessary for their students. She stated that UCAT has not met their high expectations. She stated that next year, they will have no students enrolled in UCAT. She expressed the need for flexible staff among the schools and for space to be able to serve the secondary student, as well as the adult student, as is done in the Davis Applied Technology Center.

Mr. Clayne Poulson, applied technology education director, Murray School District, explained they have only one high school and use the Salt Lake Community College for concurrent enrollment. He said that many students attend programs in Jordan School District's technology centers, as well as in Granite School District. He noted they have a partnership in the IT (information technology) area with the Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College, who employes their IT instructor. He distributed pamphlets about biotechnology and other technical programs.

Mr. Mike Morrelli, applied technology education director with Salt Lake City School District, explained there is no space for the Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College to have staff within their schools to provide programs at the times they are needed.

#### **4. Study Priorities**

The Committee did not discuss this issue.

#### **5. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Rep. Pace moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Dillree adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m. with Sen. Buttars, Sen. Steele, Sen. Waddoups, Sen. Wright, Rep. Alexander, Rep. Bourdeaux, Rep. Philpot, and Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.

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