

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, June 19, 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. 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. James A. Ferrin
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Loraine T. Pace
Rep. LaWanna Shurtliff
Rep. Matt Throckmorton
Rep. A. Lamont Tyler

Members Absent:

Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot

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. Committee Business

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

MOTION: Rep. Shurtliff moved to approve the minutes of the April 24 and May 22, 2002 meetings. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Buttars, Sen. Wright, Rep. Ferrin, and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

2. Reports

A. Pilot Program for Refurbishing Computers for Schools

Dr. Vicky Dahn, Director, Curriculum and Educational Technology, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), summarized school districts' comments and concerns regarding the program for refurbishing computers for schools, as it is operated by inmates at the state prison. She explained that the program has been in existence since 1998, when funds were appropriated to begin the refurbishing of computers to sell to schools. She noted that a high rate of computer failure and a lengthy service turn-around time are two difficulties school districts have experienced.

Mr. David Worthington, director, UCI (Utah Correctional Industries), explained that a variety of computer brands are donated to them, and they need to send away for components and parts to repair computers as they do not stock parts. He noted that 80-90 percent of the computers they receive cannot be refurbished, and they are charged recycling fees to dispose of them. Another difficulty they face is that districts are receiving good pricing from large companies to purchase new computers. He noted that UCI is working to expand business beyond schools to minimize the loss they are experiencing.

B. Teacher Quality

Dr. Gary Carlston, deputy superintendent, USOE, Dr. Phyllis Safman, Utah System of Higher Education, and Dr. Ronald Stanfield, USOE, reviewed the recent Teacher Quality report.

Dr. Safman addressed educator development. She reviewed recommendations to initiate a statewide recruitment campaign to recognize teaching as an honorable profession and encourage high school students to pursue a teaching career through the traditional preparation route. She reviewed alternative routes to licensure. She recommended increasing the number of T. H. Bell loans that are awarded to high school students who are seeking teaching professions.

Dr. Stanfield discussed the federal No Child Left Behind legislation and its requirements to ensure teacher quality. He noted that the bill strongly promotes professional development.

Dr. Carlston addressed teacher supply and demand. He stated that Utah could see some shortages of elementary teachers, but the shortage will not be universal throughout the state. He also reviewed recommendations to strengthen school districts' teacher evaluation systems and accountability measures as a means to improve teacher quality.

C. Transfer of (IT) Information Technology Equipment to Schools

Mr. David Regan, Department of Administrative Services, explained that he has the responsibility to distribute surplus IT equipment that is donated to schools. He noted that the transportation of the surplus IT equipment by truck may contribute to the high rate of failure of the equipment.

3. Proposed Study on FACT (Families, Agencies, and Communities Together and Youth at Risk Program)

Mr. Jonathan Ball, Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, explained that at the request of the Executive Appropriations Committee, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst will be conducting a study of FACT. He reviewed public education's involvement in FACT and asked for input from the Committee regarding the study proposal.

Concern was expressed that FACT is listed in three different state agency budgets. It was recommended that public hearings be held to allow the public to give input on the program.

Ms. Nano Podolsky, Salt Lake City School District FACT coordinator, explained that it has been assumed that after June 30, FACT will cease to exist because of budget cuts, so the study committee will have nothing to study.

Ms. Jan Ferre, Legislative Coalition for Persons with Disabilities, spoke in favor of the FACT program being funded.

Ms. Angela Morgan, Salt Lake Community Action Program and past recipient of FACT, testified of the value FACT for her family.

Ms. Anne Foster, director of children's services, Valley Mental Health, stated that as a fiduciary agent of FACT money, she can testify that the fiscal oversight has been strong in Salt Lake County, and that they have tried to maximize the dollars as much as possible. She explained how beneficial it is to have flexibility in the way services are rendered to clients.

4. Alternative Language Services

Ms. Constance Steffen, Research Analyst, explained that funding for alternative language services (ALS) has been moved into a block grant, so the State Board of Education has repealed its rule directing how state ALS monies must be spent. The USOE continues to administer federal ALS monies.

Ms. Nancy Giraldo, ALS specialist, USOE, stated the two main goals of the federal ALS law are to develop English literacy for academic purposes and to help access the core curriculum. She stated there are 43,299 ALS students in Utah. Approximately \$3 million in federal funds has been allocated to Utah.

Dr. Bonnie Morgan, USOE, clarified that there has to be a state match, because the state cannot supplant federal money. The state has to be able to show they are spending the money in addition to that already appropriated by the state to operate the program.

Ms. Sandra Buendia, ALS coordinator for the Salt Lake City School District, explained that 36 percent of their 24,473, students are English learners. That number increases consistently by two to three percent annually. They have identified 108 languages spoken by students in the district. She stated they currently meet the needs of English learners by integrating English language development into the core curriculum. She described the newcomer programs used to provide a buffer to newcomers to America. She noted that these programs help them meet the requirements for federal money. She stated that Utah does not provide assessments for students in their primary language as is directed in federal law. She emphasized the need to not only assess student's English proficiency development, but also their understanding of the core curriculum. Other critical needs include appropriately trained teachers, as well as materials to make students' learning meaningful.

Mr. Santiago Sandoval, Ogden School District, stated that about 20 percent of their students have been assessed and identified as English learners. They have spent the majority of their efforts in training teachers and getting them endorsed. He noted that they are one of the few districts that require all employees to have an ESL (English as a Second Language) endorsement. He explained that they provide a bilingual program until the student develops adequate proficiency in English. They work to achieve student academic success and to strengthen communication between the family, the student, and the school.

Mr. Dave Adamson, assistant superintendent of program services, Granite School District, distributed and reviewed the program they have developed. He explained that just over 19 percent of their students speak a language other than English in their homes, and that number increases yearly. He reviewed issues that have

resulted from fewer funds being put into the ALS programs. He noted that funding dictates whether they do a pull-out program or an immersion program, which is more effective. He noted that under the federal program, they will be required to report annually on student progress in both English acquisition and on acquisition of the core curriculum.

All of those testifying recommended that funding for ALS should not be included in a block grant. ALS students should be weighted as those students with disabilities. They indicated this could be done without additional resources.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Dillree adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m. with Sen. Stephenson, Sen. Buttars, Sen. Waddoups, Rep. Alexander, Rep. Bradshaw, Rep. Ferrin, Rep. Johnson, and Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.