

**MINUTES OF THE
ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Tuesday, July 16, 2002– 9:00 a.m. – Room 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Matt Throckmorton, House Chair
Sen. Dave L. Gladwell
Sen. Millie M. Peterson
Sen. Carlene Walker
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Marda Dillree
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Gordon E. Snow
Ms. Janet A. Cannon
Ms. Joyce W. Richards

Members Absent:

Sen. Paula F. Julander
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson

Staff Present:

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 Throckmorton called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. He excused Sen. Julander and Rep. Johnson from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Gladwell, Sen. Wright, Rep. Morgan, and Ms. Cannon absent for the vote.

2. Elimination or Modification of Mandates

Rep. Throckmorton requested the task force members to review a list of educators' comments on state mandates, mark the mandates they would like to study, and give or fax the list to staff as soon as possible.

3. Quality Teaching Block Grant

Ms. Linda Mariotti, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Granite School District, addressed S.B. 3, "Minimum School Program Act Amendments." She distributed and reviewed an Individual Professional Learning Plan. She emphasized the importance of professional development in bringing about meaningful changes. She also reviewed the Granite School District Professional Development Plan for Student Achievement and the district's menu of professional development activities. She explained that gaps in teacher knowledge are identified to enhance the professional development plan at the school level. Standards of achievement are set using national and local standards. She suggested that on-going teacher development must consider the diversity of needs.

Sen. Stephenson explained that the budget for this item was reduced during the budget session, but there

is hope that teacher development days may be increased in the future. He noted that high stakes testing works best when teachers have had good professional development.

4. U-PASS Tests

Dr. Barbara Lawrence, Utah State Office of Education, distributed and reviewed an outline of the test development process that has been used since criterion-referenced testing was mandated.

Supt. Steven O. Laing, Utah State Office of Education, reviewed findings related to the implementation of U-PASS (Utah Performance Assessment System for Students). Pilot testing of certain U-PASS tests, including the tenth grade basic skills test, has revealed various flaws. Supt. Laing showed a videotape used in the ninth grade language arts test. He noted that the test had a controversial focus with an ideological bias and explained how that would be mitigated in the future. Mr. Laing emphasized the need to develop a better sense of what basic skills are needed to qualify for high school graduation. He stated that the USOE (Utah State Office of Education) will work to better define basic skills. He emphasized the need to let the core curriculum drive designed assessments, not the assessments drive the curriculum. He stated that the federal No Child Left Behind program requires a system like U-PASS to be in place in order to qualify for federal funding.

Rep. Dave Cox distributed and reviewed "The Irony of U-Pass." He asserted that U-PASS testing and the authority granted under all of the accountability legislation are being used to further the exact opposite agenda from the intended outcome. He distributed part of an email message written by professors of engineering and math at several universities in the state. It compared Utah's math core relating to trigonometry to California's trigonometry curriculum . He distributed "Why Education Experts Resist Effective Practices (And What It Would Take to Make Education More Like Medicine)," which compares education with other professions. Another article, by Frank Allen, was distributed, which claims the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics imposes policies that distort the teaching process and heavily impairs the learning of school mathematics. An e-mail message written by Dr. Wilfried Schmid, Harvard University, Mathematics Department, was distributed . He noted that in California and Massachusetts mathematicians were involved in the final revisions of the state mathematics frameworks. As a result, these frameworks are among the most demanding in the country.

Dr. Lawrence responded to questions regarding the core and how testing materials are written and reviewed. She asked for Legislative help to generate interest in the process of writing assessments.

5. On-line Administration of U-PASS Tests

This item was not discussed.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

The next meeting was scheduled for August 27, 2002 at 1:00 p.m.

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MOTION: Sen. Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Peterson and Rep. Morgan absent for the vote. Chair Throckmorton adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.