

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 21, 2003 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair
Sen. Chris Buttars
Sen. David L. Gladwell
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Dana C. Love
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. LaWanna Shurtliff

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, 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, Glenda Whitney, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to approve the minutes of April 16, 2003. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Harper absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton said that in response to the Committee's authorizing the chairs to form a committee to issue an RFP (request for proposals), pursuant to S.B. 154, "Public Education Amendments," a letter was sent to the Legislative Management Committee requesting funding for three meetings of a nine-member RFP committee. Sen. Hale reported that the Legislative Management Committee approved the funding.

2. Definition of Public Education

Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel, discussed legal issues involved in defining public education.

Supt. Steven O. Laing, State Supt. of Public Instruction, State Office of Education, explained that one of the purposes for defining public education is to set some boundaries and parameters around which Utah can have some expectations of what constitutes the public education system.

Rep. David Ure suggested that the Committee schedule time each month to discuss proposals for defining public education.

Chair Dayton said this agenda item will be discussed during the interim and asked the Committee to submit written comments and recommendations to staff on defining public education.

3. Status of Character and Values Education in Schools

Rep. LaVar Christensen distributed handouts, "H.C.R. 7, Resolution Promoting Character and Citizenship Education," "Character Education 101," and "Eastmont Middle School Agenda Folder." He presented an update of the status of character and values education in the schools. He said a memorandum will be distributed to the Committee at a later time.

Mr. Vern Larsen, State Office of Education, noted that character and values education is mandated by law.

4. Mandates on Schools

Supt. Laing identified four mandates on schools for consideration by the Legislature for repeal or modification.

Chair Dayton asked Supt. Laing to work with staff in preparing proposed legislation for consideration by the Committee.

5. Curriculum Revisions to Develop Writing Skills

Ms. Vicky Dahn, State Office of Education, discussed how the core curriculum is being revised to place greater emphasis on writing skills.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

Sen. Hale asked the chairs to reconsider including the issue of dyslexia as an interim study item. Chair Dayton said the chairs will take the recommendation under consideration.

MOTION: Rep. King moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Gladwell, Rep. Dougall, and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote. Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.