

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 16, 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
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. John Dougall
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 "Lou" Shurtliff

Members Absent:

Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. James R. Gowans

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 9:12 a.m. Rep. Gowans was excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to approve the minutes of June 18, 2003. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Gladwell, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Harper, Rep. Johnson, and Rep. Shurtliff absent for the vote.

2. Charter Schools

Sen. Stephenson provided background information on charter schools. He asked the Committee to examine issues relating to the authorization of charter schools, including reasons why local school boards and the State Board of Education decline to approve charter school applications.

Staff distributed three letters from Mr. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, that were sent to individuals that had been denied approval for charter schools.

Mr. Dave Moss, State Board of Education, explained the application process for charter schools and recommended statutory changes. He said seven applications were received for charter schools and four were approved by the State Board on June 6, 2003.

Ms. Patricia Bradley, Charter Schools Coordinator, Utah State Office of Education, stated that charter schools may receive technical assistance from the State Office. She discussed issues relating to private corporations operating charter schools.

Mr. Jeffrey Herr, Ravenwood Academy and charter school applicant, explained the Ravenwood model and clarified that his corporation is a not-for-profit organization.

Ms. JoDee Sundberg, President, Board of Education, Alpine School District, distributed and read, "Charter School Statement," which explains why the Alpine Board has decided to not approve charter schools.

3. Fee Waivers

This agenda item was not discussed.

4. Local School Board Elections

Rep. David N. Cox asked the Committee to consider whether local school board elections should be held in odd-numbered years instead of even-numbered years.

Ms. Amy Naccarato, Director of Elections, State Elections Office, discussed some complications in changing elections to odd-numbered years.

Ms. Linda G. Lunceford, Weber County Clerk/Auditor, discussed the additional costs in changing elections to odd-numbered years.

Rep. Cox said no draft legislation will be presented at this time.

5. Character and Values Education

Rep. Christensen distributed handouts, "Memorandum," and "53A-6-102(2)(a)," on character and values education. He reviewed the handouts and proposed drafting legislation to adopt the former State Board rule, R277-701, as statute.

Rep. Christensen said a bill will be drafted and brought back for the Committee to review at a later meeting.

6. Defining Public Education

Rep. Ure discussed issues that pertain to defining the core mission of public education.

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved that committee members and others put in writing a definition of public education and give it to staff. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Gladwell, Rep. Dougall, and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

7. Other Items /Adjourn

Rep. Moss distributed an article, "The Write Stuff," *Salt Lake Tribune*, June 13, 2003, for the Committee to review.

Minutes of the Education Interim Committee
July 16, 2003
Page 3

Mr. Rich Kendall distributed a draft letter that will be sent to all legislators regarding an announcement of five regional Education Summit meetings. He said the meetings are the outcome of the recently passed S.B. 154.

MOTION: Rep. Newbold moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m. Sen. Gladwell, Rep. Dougall, and Rep. Johnson were absent for the vote.