

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 – 1:15 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ann Millner, Senate Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, House Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Bruce R. Cutler
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. David E. Lifferth
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Members Absent:

Rep. Steve Eliason
Rep. Justin L. Fawson
Rep. Daniel McCay
Rep. V. Lowry Snow

Staff Present:

Ms. Tiffany A. Stanley, Policy Analyst
Ms. Allyson R. Goldstein, Policy Analyst
Ms. Victoria Ashby, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Rebekah Bradway, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Michael E. Curtis, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Last called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m. Rep. Eliason and Rep. Fawson were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Lifferth moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Urquhart and Rep. Hutchings were absent for the vote.

2. Follow-up on Competency-Based Education

Sen. Millner and Chair Last initiated a follow-up discussion of competency-based education.

MOTION: Sen. Millner moved that the committee create a working group, appointed by the chairs and composed of legislators, representatives of the State Board of Education (board), and representatives from local school districts and charter schools, to meet during the 2016 interim. The working group is tasked with: (1) identifying barriers to expanding personalized, mastery-based education, and determining if removing each barrier would require changes to statute, State Board of Education rule, or local school district policies or practices; (2) identifying other issues and possible solutions to expanding personalized, mastery-based education; and (3) reporting to the committee at the November 2016 meeting with recommendations. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Urquhart and Rep. Hutchings were absent for the vote.

3. Equalization of Per Student Property Tax Revenue Across School Districts

Ms. Goldstein and Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, presented "Equalization of Per Student Property Tax Revenue" and distributed "Property Tax Equalization Programs." They briefed the committee on:

- the reasons the Legislature has chosen to equalize public education funding;
- the statutory programs in place to mitigate differences in per student property tax revenue across districts; and
- the extent to which public education funding is equalized across school districts for operations, maintenance, and capital facilities.

Mr. Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Utah State Board of Education, and Ms. Angie Stallings, Associate Superintendent, Policy and Communication, Utah State Board of Education, provided the board's perspective on equalization programs. They said that the board has not taken an official position, but is generally supportive of equalization and is interested in providing input as legislators develop proposals.

Mr. Terry E. Shoemaker, Superintendent of Schools, Wasatch County School District, provided his perspective on equalization, noting that he generally supports equalization, but noted that local districts would like to work with the Legislature to develop proposals, rather than react to proposals.

Chair Last relinquished the chair to Sen. Millner.

The following representatives from local school districts said they generally support further equalization efforts, with some qualification, and responded to questions from the committee:

- Mr. Richard Clark, Business Administrator, Rich School District
- Mr. Brent Bills, Business Administrator, Washington County School District
- Mr. Rob Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Alpine School District
- Mr. Dale F. Hansen, Director, Business Office, Cache County School District
- Mr. Todd Hauber, Business Administrator, Park City School District

Mr. Hansen distributed a letter from the Cache County School District describing district administrators' support for equalization efforts.

Sen. Fillmore and Sen. Stephenson distributed "Voted & Board Local Levy Programs – State Guarantee," showing the impact of different guarantee levels on districts.

Chair Millner suggested forming a small working group made up of legislators and other stakeholders to study equalization and bring any proposals developed back to the committee.

Chair Millner returned the chair to Rep. Last.

4. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Urquhart and Rep. Hutchings were absent for the vote.

Chair Last adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.