

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 13, 2016 – 12:50 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. Howard A. Stephenson
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Bruce R. Cutler
Rep. Steve Eliason
Rep. Justin L. Fawson
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. David E. Lifferth
Rep. Daniel McCay
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Members Absent:

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Michael E. Noel
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
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 Millner called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Rep. Snow was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. McCay moved to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2016, and June 15, 2016, meetings. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Christensen, Rep. Gibson, Rep. Hutchings, and Rep. Last were absent for the vote.

2. Update on Implementation of the School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act (U.C.A. Title 53A, Chapter 1, Part 12)

Ms. Stanley provided an overview of the School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act, which was enacted through 2015 General Session S.B. 235, "Education Modifications," and requires low-performing schools to take certain actions to improve student performance, including establishing a school turnaround committee and contracting with an independent school turnaround expert to develop and implement a school turnaround plan. Ms. Stanley stated that the first cohort of turnaround schools was designated in the fall of 2015, and these schools completed their planning years in the spring of 2016. She displayed "School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act" to help illustrate the overview and addressed questions from the committee.

Dr. Rich Nye, Acting Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Ms. Sheryl Garner, School Turnaround Education Specialist, Utah State Board of Education, updated the committee on the implementation of the School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act, including implementation of the School Leadership Development Program, which requires the State Board of Education to contract with one or more providers to develop or provide leadership training for school principals and assistant principals.

The committee heard from a panel of administrators from the first cohort of turnaround schools:

- Dr. Bernardo Villar, former Principal, Vae View Elementary School
- Ms. Amber S. Clayton, Principal, Granger Elementary School
- Ms. Kim Schaefer, Principal, Whitehorse High School
- Ms. Diane Nelson, Executive Director, C.S. Lewis Academy

The panelists agreed that their schools are benefitting from working with the school turnaround experts to identify ways to improve student performance, including focusing on aligning instruction to the state standards, increasing parental involvement, using professional learning communities, and using data to inform instruction. Members of the panel highlighted challenges they face, including redundancies in school improvement planning efforts and recruiting and retaining teachers and administrators to turnaround schools. They also spoke to the School Recognition and Rewards Program, a part of the School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act that provides monetary rewards to schools that improve their school grades through school turnaround efforts. The panel responded to questions from the committee.

The committee heard presentations from the following school turnaround experts:

- Dr. Trent E. Kaufman, Partner, Education Direction, and Dr. Hollie Pettersson, Senior Leadership Team, Education Direction – distributed and presented "EdDirection – Transform Your Schools"
- Ms. Johanna Hofmeister, Owner and Chief Executive Officer, Innovations Educational Consulting, Inc., and Ms. Lichelle Watne, Lead Consultant, Innovations Educational Consulting, Inc. – presented "Innovations Educational Consulting, Inc."

The school turnaround experts provided an update on the work they have done with the turnaround schools to date. Dr. Kaufman and Dr. Pettersson reported lessons learned, including that all partner schools have the assets to transform (educators willing to try new things, families with a strong commitment to their children's education, teachers willing to lead and be led, and a principal with the courage to drive improvement efforts). They also reported that their partner schools have experienced high teacher attrition and have been disproportionately impacted by current teacher shortages in Utah.

The following school turnaround experts joined the school turnaround experts listed above and responded to questions from the committee as a panel

- Ms. Babette Moreno, Regional Vice President, Utah and Hawaii, Catapult Learning
- Ms. Kim Tafiti, Director, Partner Implementation, School Improvement Network – distributed "Executive Summary" that described the company's work with the turnaround schools
- Mr. Ryan West, representative, Tetra Analytix

3. Teacher Preparation

The following individuals discussed their participation in a partnership between public education and higher education to address teacher preparation called the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation:

- Dr. Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Ms. Diana Suddreth, Director of Teaching and Learning, Utah State Board of Education
- Dr. Parker C. Fawson, Dean, School of Education, Utah Valley University

Ms. Suddreth and Dr. Fawson presented "Network for Transforming Educator Preparation" and explained that the network was formed to improve student achievement, with particular attention to underserved populations, through effective teacher preparation, licensure, and retention.

4. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Lifferth moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Christensen, Rep. Cutler, and Rep. Gibson were absent for the vote.

Chair Millner adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.