

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 21, 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. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Bruce R. Cutler
Rep. Steve Eliason
Rep. Justin L. Fawson
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. David E. Lifferth
Rep. Daniel McCay

Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. V. Lowry Snow

Members Absent:

Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. Michael E. Noel

Staff Present:

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 1:28 p.m. Rep. Hutchings was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Poulson moved to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dabakis, Sen. Ipson, Sen. Stephenson, Rep. Eliason, Rep. Gibson, and Rep. McCay were absent for the vote.

2. Competency-Based Education

Chair Millner reported on the findings of the competency-based education working group created by the committee in the June meeting. She presented "Barriers to Expanding Mastery Based Learning in Utah" and described the barriers to competency-based education that exist in statute and State Board of Education rules.

MOTION: Sen. Millner moved to open a committee bill file to address an element of the education funding formula that presents a barrier to mastery-based learning. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Eliason, Rep. Gibson, Rep. McCay, Rep. Moss, and Rep. Snow were absent for the vote.

3. Teacher Preparation – Pedagogical Assessments (Draft Legislation)

Sen. Millner presented and reviewed draft legislation "Teacher Pedagogical Assessment" (2017FL-0092/004), which would require teacher candidates to demonstrate classroom teaching ability as a condition for receiving certain levels of licensure.

Ms. Diane Suddreth, Director, Teaching and Learning, Utah State Board of Education, said that the draft legislation "Teacher Pedagogical Assessment" requires teachers to show competency not just in content, but also in teaching, and explained how the concept fits in with the comprehensive work that the State

Board of Education is pursuing through the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation. She said that with multiple pathways to teacher licensure, a teacher performance assessment is fairer than the current system and would ensure that all teachers have pedagogical skills and all students have access to skilled teachers.

Dr. Parker C. Fawson, Dean, School of Education, Utah Valley University, said that Utah Valley University is piloting two clinically based teacher preparation programs, which are based on evidence-based practices for preparing teachers who can improve student performance.

Ms. Suddreth and Dr. Fawson responded to questions from the committee.

4. Equalization of Per Student Property Tax Revenue Across Districts (Draft Legislation)

Sen. Fillmore presented "The Equity Pupil Unit" and distributed draft legislation "School Funding Amendments" (2017FL-0038/008), which would:

- (1) require certain funds to be set aside to increase the amount of funding for the voted and board local levy guarantee programs;
- (2) amend the number of increments for the voted or board local levy for which the state provides a guarantee; and
- (3) increase the value of the guarantee for each increment.

Ms. Ashby reviewed draft legislation "School Funding Amendments."

Sen. Fillmore responded to questions from the committee and described his plan to address differences in per student funding across school districts.

The following individuals gave public comment:

Mr. Terry Shoemaker, Associate Executive Director, Utah School Boards Association, and Executive Director, Utah School Superintendents Association, thanked the committee chairs for the opportunity to participate in discussions about "School Funding Amendments" and other issues. He said that the Utah School Superintendents Association has not taken a position on the bill. He added that the association understands how the bill affects the guarantee programs, but needs more time to study how it would affect future increases in the value of the weighted pupil unit.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Business Administrator, Ogden School District, said he supports Sen. Fillmore's draft legislation "School Funding Amendments," because it makes up for difference in per student revenue across school districts. He also said there is an opportunity cost to the bill, because any funding put into a specific program is money that is not put into increasing the value of the weighted pupil unit. He also said that school districts should be rewarded for their tax efforts.

Mr. Jay Blain, Director, Policy and Research, Utah Education Association, said that he commends Sen. Fillmore on his efforts to provide every student in the state with an equitable education, but described several concerns with the bill. He said that school districts are facing difficulty recruiting and retaining teachers, and the weighted pupil unit is the primary funding source to do so. He added that some school districts would not benefit from the bill for several years. Finally, he said that some districts face difficulties in implementing a board or voted local levy.

Mr. Matthew Erickson, resident, Draper City, said he has concerns with day care and preschool, particularly in Draper City.

After further committee discussion, Sen. Fillmore summarized his presentation on draft legislation "School Funding Amendments" and responded to questions from the committee.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Lifferth moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dabakis, Sen. Ipson, Sen. Stephenson, Rep. Eliason, Rep. Gibson, and Rep. McCay were absent for the vote.

Chair Millner adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.