

MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1998, 2:30 P.M.  
Room 416, State Capitol Building

Members Present:           Sen. Lorin Jones, Chair  
                                  Sen. Leonard Blackham  
                                  Sen. Joseph Hull  
                                  Sen. Craig Peterson  
                                  Sen. David Steele  
                                  Sen. Howard Stephenson

Members Excused:

Members Absent:           Sen. Scott Howell

Staff Present:             Wayne Lewis, Legislative Analyst  
                                  Sheila Ainsworth, Secretary

Others Present:            List of Others Present on File

Committee Chair Lorin Jones called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

1. Report regarding "Utah Tomorrow Review" by Sen. Joseph Hull

Sen. Hull said "Utah Tomorrow" is a strategic planning initiative. It is used by Harvard University as a model in their governmental planning courses and is also used over the United States in futuristic government planning. It is important that the legislature promotes and enhances the goals of education outlined in the Utah Tomorrow Strategic Plan.

Sen. Stephenson asked about the 1995 benchmark figures; he would like to see yearly data rather than figures only every 5 years. Luke Smart of the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget, commented on that question.

Sen. Peterson commented that one of the challenges is getting the latest data; sometimes the cost of obtaining it on a yearly basis is not affordable.

2. S.B. 77 Middle Schools Task Force, by Sen. D. Steele

Sen. Steele said the bill would establish a task force to perform an in-depth study of middle schools issues.

Jerry Peterson, Utah State Office of Education, Con Rowley, Governor's Office, Steve Peterson, School Boards and School Superintendents Associations, Susan Kuziak, Utah Education Association, and Janiel Lyon, PTA spoke favorably for the bill.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hull moved to pass the bill out with a favorable recommendation.

Sen. Stephenson suggested more parents on the task force. He might offer an amendment to that effect on the floor.

The motion passed unanimously with all present voting.

3. S.B. 18 Prohibiting Alcohol in Schools, by Sen. L. McAllister

Sen. LeRay McAllister presented his bill dealing with possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages at school or school-sponsored activities in a facility owned by a school district. It is necessary to add the words "owned or" to make clear that the grounds or school building owned or operated by school districts will not permit the possession or consumption of alcohol. However, when a school district purchases property, anticipating its use as a school, there may be an establishment that sells alcoholic beverages (such as a 7-11). As long as the property is not being used for school purposes, there is an exception in to the alcohol policy.

Mr. Doug Bates, State Office of Education, provided a further description of this bill.

Sen. Craig Peterson asked why the bill provides, on Page 1, Line 25, for a three-year lease since a one-year is more common. Mr. Bates provided an explanation.

**MOTION:** Sen. Peterson moved to move the bill out with a favorable recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously with all present voting in favor of the motion.

4. S.B. 93 Higher Education Presidential Authority, by R. Evans

Sen. Evans presented the bill. It authorizes the president of a higher education institution to appoint professional and support and determine their salaries through a personnel on a classification plan. It also provides that the president may adopt policies for employee sick leave and service recognition.

Sen. Peterson expressed concerns about salaries, benefits and job insecurity/security. Sen. Evans said the bill was permissive, not mandatory. Sen. Hull suggested looking at it on an institutional basis rather than changing the wording. Sen. Evans agreed that it would provide consistency within the organization. Sen. Stephenson said the location of the school and its job market must be reviewed to avoid "leap-frogging". Sen. Evans has not talked to the Board of Regents to get their comments on this bill.

Rep. Hunsaker stated higher education is taking a neutral position on this legislation.

A representative of the Utah Public Employees Assoc. said the association supports this bill and respects each campus's right to set their own policies and guidelines.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hull moved to move the bill out with a favorable recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously with all present voting.

5. S.B. 95 Orderly School Termination Act Amendments by Sen. D. Steele

Sen. Steele presented his bill and said it clarifies and provides consistency in dismissal procedures for career and provisional public school employees and makes certain technical changes.

Doug Bates spoke favorably to the bill. Sen. Steele proposed two amendments. Sen. Jones asked if the employees' rights will be protected and Mr. Bates responded affirmatively. Susan Kuziak, UEA, said she is comfortable with the amendments.

**MOTION:** Sen. Peterson moved to accept the amendments.

The motion passed unanimously with all present voting.

Susan Kuziak described how there is no enforcement of the evaluation provision. Evaluations are necessary to a new teacher's becoming a successful teacher. She proposed her amendments which assure an evaluation process before non-renewal of a teacher's contract. The polling data shows that Utah will need many, many new teachers within the decade; it is necessary that we provide evaluations so that new teachers can become good teachers. Sen. Steele said this bill refers to the termination process and he does not know where Ms. Kuziak's amendment fits.

**MOTION:** Sen. Peterson moved to hold this bill in committee until the next meeting for time to evaluate it.

The motion passed unanimously with all present voting.

**MOTION:** Sen. Steele moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting.

Committee Chair Lorin Jones adjourned the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

Minutes were reported by Sheila Ainsworth, Secretary.

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Sen. Lorin Jones, Chair