

MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1998, 3:00 P.M.
Room 416, State Capitol Building

Members Present: Sen. Lorin Jones, Chair
 Sen. Joseph Hull
 Sen. David Steele
 Sen. Howard Stephenson
 Sen. Scott Howell

Members Excused:

Members Absent: Sen. Craig Peterson
 Sen. Leonard Blackham

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

Others Present: Susan Kuziak, President, UEA
 Con Rowley, Governor's Office
 Judy Larson, USBA
 Paula Plant, PTA
 Scott Bean, Superintendent
 Pat O'Hara, USOE
 Colleen Kennedy, Dean of Education, U of U
 Wes Quinton, Utah Tax Payers Assoc.
 Vicki MacKay, PTA
 Steve Peterson, USBA
 Phyllis Sorensen, UEA

List of Others Present on File

Committee Chair Lorin Jones called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

1. **H.B. 16 Funding Classroom Supplies, R. Bigelow**

Rep. Bigelow presented his bill to the committee. It was amended in the House. It increases the amount from \$3,000,000.00 to \$3,750,000.00 in order to correlate total funds and the amount per school teacher. The intent of the bill is for each teacher is to receive \$150.00. This bill provides for one-time funding.

Susan Kuziak, UEA, Con Rowley, Governor's Office, Judy Larson, USBA, Paula Plant, PTA and Superintendent Bean are in support of this bill. Sen. Jones thanked Rep. Bigelow for sponsoring this legislation; this is so important to the classroom, so many dedicated teachers pay for classroom supplies out of their own pocket. Sen. Stephenson added his support to the bill; he would like to see this fund built into the on-going budget. Sen. Hull said this funding is right for its intended purposes, but it should be appropriated through the proper channels - put it through the districts to the schools then allow the teacher the opportunity to use it. Instead, the public believes the legislature is going to give teachers \$150.00. The public sees it as a raise - and it's not - and teachers are criticized. In his personal experience, he has to purchase classroom supplies out of his own pocket then provide receipts for reimbursement. If there is a need for classroom supplies, then the funds need to be supplied through proper channels.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to pass the bill out with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

2. **H.B. 179 Transportation of Students by School Districts, Rep. K. Johnson**

Rep. Johnson presented his bill. It deals with transportation by school districts. It (1) allows school boards to propose an increase from .002 to .003 level on the amount of taxes they can use to pay for activities travel and purchase school busses, and (2) has an equalization formula which allows participation districts to apply to the State for reimbursement at 85% of the average cost per mile. Rural districts have problems with activity travel; there are fewer students (funding is based upon number of students in the school) and must travel longer distances to activities. This taxing also will help with hazardous travel; many students have been hit by cars since the highway reconstruction.

Mr. Steve Peterson, SSBA, and Mr. Pat O'Hara, USOE, spoke in support of this bill.

MOTION: Sen. Steele moved to pass the bill out with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

3. **H.C.R. 3 Professional Development Programs for Educators Resolution, Rep. K. Johnson**

Rep. Johnson presented his resolution which requests the Joint Liaison Committee to discuss the present teacher certification, teacher in-service training and teacher pre-service training programs. Best practices for in-service would be, for example, helping a teacher get a Master's Degree or an on-going year-long program training teachers to effectively teach reading.

Sen. Jones commented on the importance for professional development. Sen. Hull encouraged funds for additional education if the middle school initiatives are enacted. Sen. Jones asked how many days the typical teacher is out of class for in-service. Superintendent Bean said professional development activities are held after school, Saturdays or in the summer. He is in support of this resolution. Susan Kuziak supports this resolution. Colleen Kennedy, Dean of Education, U of U, is in favor.

MOTION: Sen. Hull moved to pass the bill out with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

MOTION: Sen. Steele moved to have H.C.R. 3 placed on the consent calendar of the Senate. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

4. **HB 7 Computers for Public Schools Pilot Program, by Rep. S. Allen**

Rep. Allen asked Sen. Stephenson to presented the bill to the Committee. Businesses, schools and individuals contribute computers to the Utah Correctional Industries and receive a tax benefit. Prisoners upgrade the computers and schools can buy them for \$100.00. This gives prisoners a highly marketable skill and decreases their chances of returning to prison. He offered an amendment to help make sure there are no negative consequences. In order to make sure the availability of \$100.00 computers does not deter any district from its on-going purchase of full-price computers, causing there to be less computers in the school than there otherwise would have been, in order to get the \$100.00 computer, districts have to continue their effort to buy full-priced computers regularly.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to adopt the amendments to H.B. 7. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

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Wes Quinton, Utah Taxpayers Assoc. said the plan encourages donations and details tax savings. In the future, he hopes this program is expanded to vocational and technical schools.

Vicki MacKay, PTA, Con Rowley, Governor's Office, Superintendent Bean and Mr. Peterson, USBA and Phyllis Sorensen, UEA, spoke in support of the bill. The governor has very strong interest in this program; he has placed \$500,000 in his budget recommendation for this program.

Rep. Allen and Mr. Quinton said the Utah Tax Association is ready to publicize this cause amongst their members, as is the Utah Information Technologies Association, the Detwyler Association and the Business Education Partnership Business Advisory Council.

MOTION: Sen. Steele moved to pass the bill out of committee with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

5. **H. B. 184 Educational Technology Initiative Amendments, by Rep. Tyler**

Rep. Tyler presented his bill which provides a line item appropriation to the state colleges of education to accompany the already-existing appropriations in the State Board of Education to train teachers in the use of technology in the educational area. There are no dollar amounts specified - that is left up to the appropriations committee.

Colleen Kennedy, U of U, and Superintendent Bean are in support of this bill.

MOTION: Sen. Steele moved to pass the bill out of committee with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

MOTION: Sen. Steele moved to have the bill placed on the consent calendar of the Senate. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

6. **Approval of Minutes** - Sen. Steele moved approve the minutes of January 27, 1998. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

7. Sen. Howell said that this year his leadership position is taking more and more time. If he is needed, he will be in his office. If he is not here, he hopes Sen. Jones will understand. Sen. Steele pointed out there is a House rule that indicates that members of leadership need not be counted. There is not a corresponding Senate rule. Would Sen. Howell, Sen. Peterson or Sen. Blackham like to talk to the President about imposing that kind of rule? Four members of leadership are on the committee and it is often difficult to field a quorum.

MOTION: Sen. Howell moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (4-0-3)

Committee Chair Lorin Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Sheila Ainsworth, Secretary.

Sen. Lorin Jones, Chair