

MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE
for MEETING HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1998, 8:30 A.M.
FEBRUARY 4, 1998
Room 416, State Capitol Building

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

Members Excused:

Members Absent: Sen. Craig Peterson
 Sen. Leonard Blackham

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

Others Present: Stephen Ronnenkamp, Superintendent, Granite School District
 Fred R. Worlton, Assistant Superintendent, Jordan School District
 Barbara Smith, Board President, Davis School Board
 Wayne Heaton, Executive Director, GEA
 Steve Peterson, Associate Executive Director/Executive Director of USBA/USSA
 Robert B. Arnold, Granite Board Member, Granite School District
 Paula Plant, Legislative V.P., Utah PTA
 Paul Henderson, Executive Director, AFT/Utah

List of others present on file

Committee Chair Lorin Jones called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

1. **S.B. 13 Creating a Public School District, by Sen. M. Peterson**

Sen. Peterson presented her bill to the Committee which establishes a process whereby a district could be created. She passed out proposed amendments and addressed questions of the Committee.

MOTION: Sen. Hull moved to approve the proposed amendments.

The motion passed unanimously with all present voting.

Sen. Peterson distributed hand-outs which address SAT scores, pupil/teacher ratio, administrative cost per pupil and population with board member representations.

Stephen Ronnenkamp, Superintendent, Granite School District, Fred R. Worlton, Assistant Superintendent, Jordan School District, Barbara Smith, Board President, Davis School Board, Wayne Heaton, Executive Director, GEA, Steve Peterson, Associate Executive Director/Executive Director of USBA/USSA, and Robert B. Arnold, Granite Board Member, Granite School District spoke against the bill. Most expressed concern that the area served currently by Granite District would not be better served by two smaller districts. They felt there is a greater economy of scale in a larger district organization.

MOTION: Sen. Hull moved to pass S.B. 13 as amended out of committee with a favorable recommendation.

Sen. Stephenson commented on his vote and said he believes schools need pressure to bring about improvement. Sen. Steele expressed his opposition to the bill - he doesn't believe that a present school board will not implement one's requests that it is valid to expect a new one will. Sen. Jones expressed his confusion over the opposition to the bill that is coming from those whom Sen. Peterson is trying to help. He believes this debated issue should be on the Senate floor.

Sen. Peterson gave summary remarks on her bill.

A roll call vote was held. The motion passed favorably, 3-1-3, to the Senate floor.

2. H.J.R. 9 Resolution Encouraging School Break for 2002 Olympics, by Rep. Cox

Rep. Cox presented his resolution to the Committee that encourages Utah school districts to arrange for a special recess for students to allow them to participate in the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. He said this event is an educational gold mine and can be scheduled to accommodate students for a few hours or all two weeks.

Sen. Steele says this resolution is a good step, but it does not go far enough. Sen. Stephenson was concerned the students would have less exposure to the Olympics out of school than they would if they were in the classroom because, realistically, few students will attend. Rep. Cox addressed that concern.

Sen. Howell is going to the Olympics in Japan later this week in connection with his business (the trip is not related to his being a member of the Legislature). All children who live in Nagano are out of school for the duration of the Olympics. He will speak to schools boards and related officials there and report to the Committee what their arrangement is and how it worked out.

Paula Plant, PTA, stated the PTA has no opinion. Paul Henderson, Executive Director, AFT/Utah, spoke in support of the resolution.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to pass H.J.R. 9 out of committee with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting. (5-0-2)

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

Committee Chair Lorin Jones adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes were reported by Sheila Ainsworth, Secretary.

Sen. Lorin Jones, Chair