

MINUTES

August 3, 2006

Minutes of the work/study meeting of the State Board of Education held August 3, 2006, at the Utah State Office of Education, Salt Lake City, Utah. Meeting commenced at 10:40 a.m. At the request of Chairman Kim R. Burningham, Vice Chairman Janet A. Cannon presided.

Members present were:

- Chairman Kim R. Burningham
- Vice Chairman Janet A. Cannon
- Member Dixie L. Allen
- Member Tim Beagley
- Member Laurel O. Brown
- Member Mark Cluff
- Member Bill Colbert
- Member Edward A. Dalton
- Member Thomas Gregory
- Member Greg W. Haws
- Member Josh M. Reid
- Member Debra G. Roberts
- Member Richard Sadler
- Member Teresa L. Theurer

Members Randall Mackey, Cyndee Miya, Denis R. Morrill and Marlon O. Snow were excused.

Also present were:

- Superintendent Patti Harrington
- Deputy Superintendent Raymond Timothy
- Associate Superintendent Myron Cottam
- Associate Superintendent Patrick Ogden
- Executive Director, USOR, Don Uchida
- Public Affairs Director Mark Peterson
- Board Secretary Twila B. Affleck

Members of the Press:

- Cecelia Baker, Salt Lake Tribune
- Jennifer Toomer-Cook, Deseret Morning News
- Lynze Wardle, Standard Examiner

Vice Chairman Janet Cannon called the meeting to order and noted that Governor Huntsman is on his way and in the meantime we will take care of some issues to help move the meeting along further.

Vice Chairman Cannon reported that the Utah Board of Regents has recently been reorganized with a new chair and vice chair. With this reorganization two new members of the Board of Regents have been appointed: Josh M. Reid and Marlon O. Snow, replacing Sara Sinclair and Bonnie Jean Beesley.

Vice Chairman Cannon noted that Mr. Reid is from the Cottonwood Heights area. He is an environmental

attorney with the law firm of Parsons Behle & Latimer. Mr. Snow is unable to attend with the short notice since his appointment.

Installation of New Board Members

Chairman Kim R. Burningham issued the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Member Josh M. Reid. He noted Mr. Reid is active in community affairs and currently serves on the Utah Appellate Court Nominating Commission. He formerly worked as a Teaching Fellow at Yale University, where he taught environmental studies.

Mr. Reid expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the State Board of Education. There are exciting issues that correspond between higher and public education and he looks forward to being a liaison between the two systems.

Vice Chairman Cannon reported that Mr. Reid will be assigned to the Law and Policy Committee and Mr. Snow assigned to the Finance Committee.

Board Chairman Report

Member Laurel Brown reported on the activities of the SITLA relative to Tabby Mountain and Little Hole. She reported that the Tabby Mountain area has about 20,000 acres, all contiguous land, it is wooded, and the schools own 25,000 of those acres, Utah State University owns about 2,000, and 1,000 is owned by other agencies. Utah State is in agreement with the Board's position to hold that piece of land. The SITLA Board has agreed that now is not the time to sell that land. They are trying to find out exactly how rare that piece of land is, because they are not sure how many parcels of land that size in the contiguous United States are that close, within an hour and a half, of a major metropolitan area. They have assigned Kay Burton on their staff to research this issue to see if there are any other competitive pieces of property. There are also some issues with the Department of Natural Resources on this parcel of land.

Member Brown reported on the parcel of land at Little Hole on the Green River. The Trust Lands Director had an appraisal done on this piece, but they forgot to check out the ten foot easement on each side of the river that the federal government had so it had to be reappraised. After that appraisal is done and accepted by SITLA it will move forward. She referred to a newspaper article indicating a proposal for one particular group to put a fishing lodge and some cabins on that parcel. That proposal was proprietary and somewhat was made public but SITLA does have more than one proposals given to them on that land. The proposal for the fishing lodge etc. was never one to be close to the river where it could be seen by the public from the river. This will not damage the river and there are federal controls on the outfitters that work on the river. At this point in time no action is being taken on Little Hole.

Member Dixie Allen suggested that the Board not abreact because there is a lot of information coming into the papers about this issue. We need to wait and see what the options and proposals are.

Member Laurel Brown further reported on the APPLE Initiative and the fact that it is felt that the APPLE

bill will not go through this year because of it being an election year. However, Congressman Bishop will try to introduce something in January and they are going to try to get some publicity on it in September through a national syndicated columnist.

Vice Chairman Janet Cannon noted that the APPLE Initiative that Congressman Bishop has put forth addresses a situation where the public education funds in the west are lower than anywhere across the nation. The thought is that it is because of the huge amount of federal land. In 1976 FLPMA, a congressional organization, changed its strategy. They were going to sell all the federal land like they did in other states and when the federal land sold public education was to get five percent of the proceeds from the sale. Then they decided not to sell any more land and we have received nothing. Congressman Bishop's bill would go to congress asking that in lieu of the dollars we were supposed to get from the sale of federal lands that we could choose five percent of the federal lands left in our state and use those to generate income for public education.

Vice Chairman Cannon reported she had attended the CLASS Conference and someone from Congressman Bishop's office was there who provided an update on this legislation.

Chairman Burningham recognized Board Member Ed Dalton on his retirement from the National Energy Foundation after serving there for 30 years. He shared a couple of articles about Member Dalton that appeared in the newspaper as well as the National Energy Foundation relative to awards he has received for the work he has done.

Chairman Burningham reported that there will be a Joint Legislative Meeting on September 20 and 21, September 20 will be a social with the actual meeting being held on September 21, beginning about 8:00 a.m. at the Salt Lake Community College. He reviewed the draft agenda for that meeting. He indicated that further information will be forthcoming but asked that Board Members put this date on their calendar. The meeting will be chaired by Senator Howard Stephenson and Senator Greg Bell.

Chairman Burningham reported that Twila is lining up meetings with legislative leadership as we have held in the past some time this fall. He suggested that this is a really good time to make contact with legislators, some of them to whom you have been assigned and others that are running for election. Anything you can do to help new and old legislators be involved please do so. He reported that in a neighboring district from where he lives an individual just won the primary for the republican position in the legislature. Paul Neuenschwander came to him and requested more information on education funding and he was able to come into the office and with Associate Superintendent Patrick Ogden reviewed educational funding. Anything Board Members can do to help new or potentially new legislators get more involved please do so.

Vice Chairman Cannon reported that when the Law & Policy Committee was reviewing their strategic planning calendar one of the things they felt was very successful was the outreach to legislators. A year ago we invited them to an evening meeting to get to know a little more about public education and how it works, particularly school

finance. She and Chairman Burningham talked about this and feel that it would be well to repeat this activity after the election. We will be inviting new legislators as well as others elected.

Chairman Burningham expressed appreciation to a couple of board members, Tom Gregory and Tim Beagley, who have initiated blogs relative to public education issues.

Chairman Burningham reported that on September 12 the Governor is holding an Education Summit. All legislators will be invited, district superintendents as well as board members. The content will feature a number of the priorities of the board including the teacher quality, intervention discussions, and the Governor's further ideas on tax reform coming out of this meeting and how he intends to stabilize the revenue streams for public education, early childhood, all-day kindergarten, intervention, and other issues. Chairman Burningham noted that both he and Superintendent Harrington have said that now is the time we need to address the funding needs of public education in light of the Utah Foundation's report *Paradox Lost*. Also, in light of the \$351 million "surplus," according to some estimates.

Vice Chairman Janet Cannon reported on the status of the Strategic Planning process. She indicated that she and Chairman Burningham had met to review the strategic plan and on the committee agendas for tomorrow there is a strategic planning item. She requested that each committee look at how they can be addressed in the committee meeting and a time to work into upcoming agendas. She reminded the Board that the Strategic Plan covers four year span, so they are not to feel they need to do each of these items immediately.

Chairman Burningham reported that Leadership will be trying out a slightly new innovation that prior to our leadership meeting on August 15 we will hold a meeting of the committee chairs.

Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.

Vice Chairman Cannon commented that Governor Huntsman has proven himself to be a real friend to public education. He is here today to talk about one of the Board's most pressing concerns, funding the education of Utah school children. She expressed appreciation to the Governor for meeting with the Board.

Governor Huntsman noted that the issue is that our traditional means of funding public education periodically needs to be reviewed and improved because there is no expenditure more important than this.

Governor Huntsman introduced Christine Kearn his Education Deputy, Neil Ashdown, Chief of Staff, and Robert Spendlove, leading economists in the Office of Planning and Budget.

Governor Huntsman commented that anything done in terms of economic or tax policy is going to, in some way, impact funding for education. If we are here to make the argument that there is nothing more important than having a strong wpu and support for education then whatever we do from a public policy standpoint must be consistent with our overall goals together for public education. He wants to make sure that whatever they have on their drawing

board is consistent with the Board and not contrary to the interests of public education.

Governor Huntsman stated that today we have an environment in which our economy is thriving and that allows us to do things like we did earlier this year in providing a record sum for public education. He hoped this would carry over through the next legislative session. The economy is strong due to inexorable global and national trends as well as regional. We have a lot of entrepreneurial zeal that is coming to life in this state and investment that is finding its way to the state that is overall propitious. Year over year job growth is well over 4 percent, which exceeds the nation. To a certain extent we are counter cyclical to what we are seeing nationally which is hobbled, to a certain extent, by high energy prices and interest rates and creeping inflation which are a little disconcerting for those of us who hope to maintain an environment of strong growth. Over the last couple of years we have seen almost 100,000 new jobs created, 54,000 in this last year and in the first five months of this year about 18,000. He questioned if we [all] are providing the opportunities for our kids to move out into that, and will allow them to stay in a state where they and their parents want them to reside. What we are seeing, that pleases him most, is that from a personal income standpoint, we are performing above the national average, when you take factors such as interest payments, appreciation on home values, etc. Right now personal income is above the national average which is about 6 percent and we are about 6.7 percent for this last year. This is important because we have lagged 15 percent below the nation in terms of personal income. This indicator is important because the jobs are being created, and providing a level of income that is higher than we have traditionally.

Governor Huntsman reported that there is an upcoming Education Summit where we will bring stakeholders together from across the state so we can capture the overall goal for public education. From that we want everyone to understand where our state is going from a public education standpoint, what we are capable of doing as a state. The “moto” for the summit would be “Creating Life Long Learners.”

Key to this would be:

1. Early Childhood Education with voluntary full-day kindergarten.
2. Class size reduction for K-3.
3. The need for math and science teachers.
4. UBSCT and questions about high stakes exams and are there other measures of competency that we should be looking at.
5. ELL the need for a level playing field for all of our citizens.

Governor Huntsman indicated that the presentation by Robert Spendlove tries to put into perspective what is happening in our neighborhood and where we are in terms of the snapshot in time, and what they have put on the table as tax reform. He requested that the Board look at this in terms of how it strengthens us for purposes of funding public education longer term. This is still on the drawing board and they welcome input from the Board as well as others.

Robert Spendlove, Leading Economist in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget presented an overview on tax reform. (For complete details, see General Exhibit No. 9948.)

Following the presentation Board Members and the Governor discussed some of the ideas presented as well as asked for assurance that the increases suggested in the future will help education.

Time on Task

Superintendent Harrington presented "Learning: A Matter of Time." (For complete details see General Exhibit No. 9949.)

Following Superintendent Harrington's presentation the Board discussed:

- the concept of time on task
- the need for policies on the use of time that might provide improvement in this area with flexibility, especially in the rural areas
- Funding formulas based on the learning of the student and based on average monthly attendance
- Testing time taken out of instructional time – change testing window
- Making the end of the school year more effective
- Do more with the attendance issue beyond the resolution
 - Statement from the Board urging parents and others that time on task and attendance is important for every child and we urge them not to take them out of school.

Graduation Requirements

Associate Superintendent Myron Cottam presented a new resolution relative to the Graduation Requirements.

The Board discussed the resolution and the modifications to the rule. Suggestions were made for modifications and the resolution and the rule will be presented in the regular board meeting tomorrow for action by the board.

(For complete details of all the materials presented on graduation requirements, see General Exhibit No. 9950.)

State Board of Education 360- Degree Evaluation

John Campbell, HR Services West, lead the Board through the results of the 360 Degree Evaluation done on the Board.

Mr. Campbell presented a summary of the feedback.

The Board discussed the areas of the feedback from others and what changes could be made to address concerns expressed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

