

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Kerby

GUESTS: Karen Echeverria, ISBA; Tracie Bent, SBOE; Marilyn Whitney, SDE
Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Goesling** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Tom Luna introduced **Howard Stephenson**, Former Utah State Senator, to discuss Utah's successful path addressing early literacy.

Mr. Stephenson discussed the use of computer assisted instructional software to get at least 90% of any class at grade level proficiency in a single academic year, if the personalized tools are used with fidelity. He discussed Utah's implementation of reading intervention software and the UPSTART kindergarten readiness program. UPSTART costs the state less than \$800 per child and participants showed up to three times greater growth in literacy than non-participants.

S 1061aa: **Sen. Thayne** presented **S 1061aa**, which allows districts to extend a levy without making it permanent. To participate, a district must have passed a levy for at least 7 consecutive years, then place it on the ballot to allow voters to extend the levy length from 3-10 years without a new vote each year. He noted 69 levies have been run for 7 or more years.

MOTION: **Rep. Goesling** made a motion to send **S 1061aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. McCrostie** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Stephenson** discussed situations when local control is detrimental, such as individual teachers being allowed to opt-out of proven interventions. He discussed the composition of Utah's first UPSTART cohort and the required training for parents.

Anne Brown, Vice President of Education and Business Development, Waterford Institute, discussed the status of an UPSTART pilot program in Idaho.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary