



MINUTES

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

March 26, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Helen Miller,
Chairperson
Representative Richard T. Anderson
Representative Paul A. Bell
Representative Lisa K. Heddens
Representative Rod A. Roberts
Representative Linda L. Upmeyer

Senator Daryl Beall,
Vice Chairperson
Senator Nancy Boettger
Senator James A. Seymour

MEETING IN BRIEF

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- I. **Procedural Business**
- II. **U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy**
- III. **Policy on Gifts and Protocols for Foreign Guests**
- IV. **Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency**



International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

I. Procedural Business

Call to Order. Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. on March 26, 2009, in Room 102 of the Statehouse. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Minutes Approved. A quorum was present. The minutes from the last two meetings on February 26, 2009, and March 19, 2009, were approved by a voice vote.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 2, 2009, at noon in Room 103 of the Statehouse.

II. U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy

Mr. Brice Oakley, representing the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy, introduced Ms. Ann Schodde, the president and chief executive officer of the center, and Ms. Judy Jeffrey, the director of the Department of Education, both of whom explained to Committee members how the state appropriation of \$150,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009 is being used.

Ms. Schodde told the Committee that the center is a national organization and has international advisors; its mission is to help promote, educate, and assist citizens to be global leaders. Ms. Schodde told the Committee that the center now has an Internet site that centralizes the opportunities for Americans to find work internationally for dozens of programs, mostly on a volunteer basis.

Ms. Schodde explained that one of the center's primary goals is to encourage the incorporation of international education in the K-12 curriculum, particularly in identifying necessary global literacy concepts and skills. The center initiated research to find if there were states or programs that had been addressing global education programs and whether they were doing it well. The center found that states need help integrating global education into their K-12 curriculums. Ms. Schodde said that the center developed a model global education institute and requested legislative support in order for Iowa to become a national model.

Director Jeffrey explained the department's involvement with the center's global education program. When the core curriculum was updated, the new concepts included 21st century skills, including the ability to integrate global education skills. Director Jeffrey said that no other state has the center's type of program under its version of 21st century skills. The center has established an international view and program, and the education department has adopted a template for the program based on the core curriculum. Director Jeffrey told the Committee that the cooperative effort is a quality partnership for Iowa students.

Mr. Oakley noted that the center's Iowa Global Education Initiative Task Force is responsible for integrating the global education program with the core curriculum and includes members of all four legislative caucuses and state leaders. Direct interaction takes place between education leaders and the center in the planning of the education program.

Ms. Schodde quoted several statistics that demonstrated the lack of international focus in U.S. schools and a lack of knowledge of geography and global culture among U.S. students. Ms. Schodde said that the center's Internet site has an entire international resource section for K-12



teachers, but that the Internet site still needs to include materials that teachers in the state are required to teach as part of the core curriculum.

Committee members asked Director Jeffrey what the state or department is doing to encourage high school students to become foreign exchange students. Director Jeffrey said exchange programs at the local level encourage students to become foreign exchange students. Ms. Jan Drees, director of education at the center, told the Committee that a portion of the global education program focuses on exchanges for both students and teachers.

III. Policy on Gifts and Protocols for Foreign Guests

Chairperson Miller asked for a discussion from members about the revised gift policy and hosting policy drafts distributed for the meeting.

One member asked to add to the policy a requirement of lowering laptop computer screens when an international visitor is introduced in a chamber. Committee members agreed to this suggestion as an appropriate action.

The Committee also agreed to add the requirement that a ranking member be added as a signer on the gift form.

The Committee members discussed whether the monetary amount should be reviewed in the policy when gifts change as well as prices. It was suggested that monetary levels should be revisited every two years and included in the policy. Also, it was suggested that including the term "approximately" when referring to monetary levels would provide flexibility when needed.

IV. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency

The following materials were distributed in connection with the meeting and are filed with the Legislative Services Agency. The materials may be accessed from the <Additional Information> link on the Committee's Internet site:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=47>.

1. Iowa Global Education Initiative: U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy.
2. Hosting International Visitors at the Iowa General Assembly (Final Draft).
3. International Relations Committee: Gift Policy (Final Draft).
4. Minutes from the March 19, 2009, Meeting of the International Relations Committee.