

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 30, 2017
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive (Mendive), Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Tim Hill, Dept. of Education; Julie Oberle; Misty Swanson, ISBA; Marilyn Whitney, Governors Office.

Chairman VanOrden called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Dr. Duke Pesta, Freedom Project Education, is an English professor from Wisconsin. He explained in his presentation, "Buck the Core", why he is against "Common Core" in the educational system. He presented the debate that "Common Core" has not improved the standard of education for our children. Dr. Pesta said that it has caused a great deal of confusion, and a tremendous increase in the rate of remediation required for students who are entering college, thus forcing the professors to have to concentrate on a high school level of teaching, rather than collegiate. He believes that "Common Core" does not measure the students properly through the standardized college tests given after high school graduation. His solution would be to put the control with the individual states through their own college professors and high school teachers to guide the standard testing that is needed, instead of the one size fits all, Federal Common Core Program.

Tim Hill, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction explained Idaho public schools finance and funding. Public Schools are funded primarily from state general funds, and are supplemented by state dedicated funds, federal funds, and local funds. State general funds are distributed to public schools according to statute and appropriation intent language. Average Daily Attendance(ADA) is calculated from public school data submitted to the State Department of Education on a periodic basis. For funding purposes, there are two calculations of ADA used, from the first day of school through the first Friday in November, and the best 28 weeks of the entire school year. A day of attendance is basically a minimum of two and a half hours for kindergarten students and minimum of four hours for grades 1-12.

Mr. Hill explained that ADA is converted to Support Units. The divisors take the size of the School District's or Charter School's attendance categories into consideration. The larger the ADA, the larger the divisor; the smaller the ADA, the smaller the divisor. In other words, smaller programs will require less ADA to generate a Support Unit, and larger programs will require more ADA to generate a Support Unit. This results in more funding per student for smaller programs, taking into consideration smaller class sizes that still require full-time staffing costs. Support Units are also used to calculate salary and benefit apportionment, and discretionary funds. Staffing is categorized into the areas of Instructional, Pupil Service, Administrative, and Classified.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Ann Tippetts
Secretary