

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, January 10, 2018
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Buckner-Webb
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed the Committee. He welcomed the new page, Ara Omotowa, Idaho Falls, Idaho and invited her to the podium to introduce herself and share her interest and future aspirations.
- Chairman Mortimer** said he is continuing the weekly tradition of reading a poem from the book, *A Heap O'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest. He then read the poem, "Results and Roses."
- RULES BRIEFING:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** outlined to the Committee the process for reviewing the rules. He stated the committee will review the rules from the Office of the State Board of Education (SBE) first and then move to the rules from the State Department of Education (SDE). He said there is a rule regarding seed certification and he would like the Agriculture Committee to review.
- MOTION:** **Chairman Mortimer** asked for unanimous consent to send **Docket No: 08-0501-1701** be sent to the Agriculture Committee for review. There were no objections.
- Chairman Mortimer** explained the letter from former Representative Lyndon Bateman which serves as a reminder of the importance of Idaho Day. Representative Bateman wrote that Idaho history should be one of the priorities of the Legislature.
- DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Mortimer** said prior to this meeting he asked the Committee to answer four specific questions seeking input as to how to make the time spent in Committee meetings better. The four questions were as follows:
- What presentations or subjects would you liked addressed this session?
  - Did you like the format of last year's meetings? What could be changed to make the use of time better?
  - Are there three or four overreaching objectives or goals that you think should govern our discussions this legislative session?
  - If there were three or four things that you could do to enhance student achievement this year, what would they be?

Presentation recommendations were as follows:

- Higher Education Task Force
- Funding Formal update from the Interim Committee
- Latinos in Action - peer mentoring program
- Master Teacher Premiums
- K-3 Literacy
- Mastery Education
- Discretionary Funding for School Districts

Regarding the format of the presentations, the recommendation is presenters consider the following:

- Present a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis
- Presentations need to be more concise and to the point
- Presentations need to have an action step: what policy(s) are they addressing
- Financial discussions should be in more depth

**Chairman Mortimer** stated that he is giving more thought to the presentations and will be more selective of the presentations to be scheduled. He is making sure the information presented is relevant to the work of the Committee.

Committee members reviewed the objectives that they would like to govern the presentations. They would like to hear the following:

- Address the disconnect between K-12 and Higher Education
- Return on the investment on education programs, especially K-3 literacy and career counseling
- Review the education increase in the budget proposal
- Education model that fits the business model
- Address the disconnect with education and business readiness
- Workforce readiness and Career Technical Education
- The use of technology by teacher to enhance learning
- Recruiting and retaining teachers
- School training relevant to business needs

**Senators Crabtree** and **Den Hartog** emphasized the importance of the student. They agreed that programs and budgets are a concern; however, the objective of education should be focused on the children. Committee discussions should be about how the student is achieving and how all children are advancing through the system.

Lastly, the Committee discussed the items they believed would enhance student achievement:

- Ask the student what they would like to learn
- Streamline testing and reporting
- Drug usage in schools
- Teacher recruitment and retention with the Career Ladder
- Flexibility in school choice
- Mastery Based Education
- Career and Technical Education
- Technology in the classroom
- Remediation coursework in colleges and universities
- Return on investment from purchased learning programs
- Career counseling

**Chairman Mortimer** expressed his gratitude to the Committee members for their input. He stated his hope for the Committee is that the meetings are germane to the topics which were specified.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary