

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2018

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 meeting of the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Dwight Johnson**, Administrator, Idaho Career & Technical Education (CTE), explained the seven different CTE programs and their composition. He introduced CTE students in the audience.

Lyndi Loveland, Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), State President, explained her life on an Idaho dairy farm. She said FCCLA is a student organization that prepares students for future careers and provides workforce development skills. She said it has helped her develop her goals for her future career. She praised the opportunities she received from the organization.

Chance Rushman, Idaho SkillsUSA, State President, Timberline High School, Boise, Idaho spoke about his experiences as a student and stated he is a third-year welding student and a first-year precision machinist student. He explained the confidence he has gained through the CTE organizations and coursework. He outlined for the Committee, the college credits he has acquired and his future educational plans.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if his high school experience has prepared him for adulthood. **Mr. Rushman** replied his experiences have been unexpected. He explained the opportunities he experienced through CTE. He believes he has the knowledge to help him move forward into successful career.

PRESENTATION: **Mr. Johnson** said CTE is enthusiastic in preparing Idaho's youth and adults for high-skill, in-demand careers. He explained today's presentation will detail CTE's organizational structure, funding, and how CTE fits in the larger workforce development system in Idaho.

Mr. Johnson said there are two important reasons for CTE's mission: 1.) provide outstanding career opportunities for Idaho students; and 2.) provide the talent pipeline for businesses. He detailed the challenges in filling CTE positions. **Mr. Johnson** reviewed for the Committee the six CTE program areas which provide a broad spectrum of career opportunities. He said there is an image problem associated with CTE programs. He emphasized the importance of applied learning and detailed its impact on students.

Mr. Johnson explained CTE's placement in the State Board of Education's (SBE) organizational structure; in almost all high schools, 17 CTE schools, and six technical colleges. He explained the programs, graduation rates, and the job placement rates. He said there are workforce training centers located at each of the technical colleges. **Mr. Johnson** detailed the salary structure for secondary and postsecondary faculty and explained the CTE funded Statewide initiative trainings for staff.

Mr. Johnson explained the funding made available for on-going incentive funding for high quality agricultural and natural resource programs. He thanked the Committee for passing S 1222, which will allow CTE to establish a program quality initiative for the other CTE programs. **Mr. Johnson** explained where the State and federal government funding sources for programs are allocated. He thanked Governor Otter's Office for identifying workforce development as one of the top two public priorities for Idaho. He explained the industry led Workforce Development Task Force's report and detailed the nine recommendations (Attachment 1).

Vice Chairman Thayn asked what are the costs for the apprenticeship programs and who bears the cost. **Mr. Johnson** replied the hope is the school registered apprenticeships would be designated as programs of study within CTE and would be eligible for general education funding. He said programs partner with businesses and when the student is at the workplace, they are paid wages by the business.

Vice Chairman Thayn said the Boise School District is participating in this program. He asked him to report on their funding source. **Mr. Johnson** replied the Boise School District is receiving funding from the general education fund.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the CTE programs affect the licensing requirements in certain professions. **Mr. Johnson** replied CTE is working with the different licensing boards to ensure specific competencies are being taught and met by their students for licensure.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the skill stacking program from CTE is being marketed to the local business communities. **Mr. Johnson** replied CTE is working with the Idaho Departments of Labor and Commerce to communicate the program to area businesses. He explained a certification program they accomplished with an aeronautics company in north Idaho. He said the hope is eventually companies will tell one another.

PRESENTATION: **Clay Long**, President, Career & Technical Educators of Idaho (CTEI), introduced the CTEI Board members in the audience. He said over the last 18 months CTEI conducted a strategic and long-range planning session and formally adopted the plan. He detailed the three goal areas they identified: 1.) provide quality membership services; 2.) provide dynamic programs; and 3.) ensure organizational stability and growth. **Mr. Long** explained the importance of recruiting and retaining CTE professionals. He said they worked on strategies to help support teachers. He stated they are working with industry leaders to recruit their retired professionals to teach CTE programs (Attachment 2).

Chairman Mortimer stated his enthusiasm regarding the organization. He asked for the history of CTEI. **Mr. Long** explained the organization began in 1974. In the last two years, they have reenergized the organization and are seeking information from CTE teachers as to how they can better help them in their fields. The strategic plan was developed from that information.

PRESENTATION: **Matt Freeman**, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education (SBE) said the intent of the presentation is to relay how the SBE is serving students across the State, supporting educators at all levels, and working hard to develop a well-educated and productive workforce. He spoke about the current appointed SBE Board members and explained the role they serve for the SBE.

Mr. Freeman stated the SBE is charged by the Idaho constitution and Idaho Code with general supervision of the state educational institutions and public school system of the State of Idaho. He explained the role of the SBE support staff.

Mr. Freeman said there are almost 400,000 students enrolled in Idaho public schools, colleges, and universities. He stated almost 63 percent of the General Fund appropriation is dedicated to education (Attachment 3).

He discussed in detail the four main topics the SBE is addressing:

1. K-12 Task Force
 - a. funding for the K-12 Initiative
2. Higher Education Task Force
 - a. system integration consultant
 - b. executive administrator
 - c. degree audit system
3. Idaho's Go-On rate
 - a. graduate projections
 - b. Go-On rate by county
 - c. higher education enrollment numbers
4. Access and Affordability
 - a. tuition
 - b. dual credit enrollment
 - c. Opportunity Scholarship
 - d. 60 percent goal
5. Education as an Economic Imperative
 - a. unemployment rates
 - b. wage rates

Committee members asked questions regarding scholarship application criteria, funding concerns, the Go-On rate, dual credits, advanced placement classes, and the 60 percent goal. All questions were answered to the satisfaction of the Committee.

RS 25940

Relating to Education; Amend. Senator Ward-Engelking presented **RS 25940**. She said this amends a change in the Idaho Code. She said teachers do not receive a buy out for their unused sick leave, but are able to use it to offset the cost of their health insurance. She explained the current legislation at the time of retirement and the proposed legislation would ensure that they get credit for the sick leave in the same way they earned it. She explained the strike out wording and detailed the new wording.

MOTION:

Senator Crabtree moved to send **RS 25940** to print. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

S 1233

Relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Special Assistant for Government Services and Education, Office of the Governor, presented **S 1233**. She said it seeks to clarify the responsibilities and functions of the STEM Action Center Board (Action Center). She explained the Action Center has operated for two years and they have a better idea of how the board functions. This proposed legislation will align the statute with the current actions and functions. It also addresses term for board members. She said the proposed changes were vetted with the current Action Center board members and no concerns were expressed.

Ms. Whitney detailed the changes. She stated it is being clarified that the board is an advisory board. She named the current board members. She said the terms limits for board members is now staggered. There was concern that all the industry members terms would expire at the same time and create a troublesome void. There is added clarification which states the Action Center will engage with other public or government entities. Other changes in the proposed legislation align wording with actual practices.

Chairman Mortimer asked if the legislation addresses the appointment of the director of the Action Center. **Ms. Whitney** replied in the negative. She said Action Center is established in the Office of the Governor. Therefore, those administrators are appointed by the Governor.

Senator Nonini asked if the current Action Center Board discussed the proposed changes. **Dr. Angela Hemingway**, Executive Director, STEM Action Center, replied the Action Center Board had unanimous support for the changes.

MOTION: **Senator Nonini** moved to send **S 1233** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4.53 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary