

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, March 08, 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 Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- H 647** **Relating to School Districts; Amend and Revise Provisions Regarding Evidence Establishing a Local Education Organization Represents a Majority of Professional Employees for Certain Negotiations. Representative Van Orden**, District 29, introduced the **H 647** and stated its purpose is every two-years, local education organizations (LEO) are to provide evidence of representation of 50 percent plus one, to the local board of trustees.
- TESTIMONY:** **Quinn Perry**, Policy and Government Affairs Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), spoke in support of **H 647**. She outlined the process of negotiations between local boards of trustees and LEOs and explained the need for the legislation (Attachment 1).
- DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Mortimer** asked how the school district knew the LEA was representing 50 percent plus one without the list of names. **Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director, ISBA, replied an independent third party counts the votes to determine the 50 percent plus one representation.
- Representative Van Orden** said the proposed legislation came about from a resolution at the ISBA convention. She said the concern needed to be addressed and asked for the Committee's support
- Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if there was any opposition to the legislation. **Representative Van Orden** replied there had been no opposition in the House and she was unaware of any other opposition.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **H 647** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- HCR 49** **Stating Findings of the Legislature and Authorizing to Appoint a Committee to Undertake and Complete a Study of the Changes Needed in order to Implement the Recommendations of the Public School Funding Formula Interim Committee (FFIC).**
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **HCR 49** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Winder** said the appropriation in the fiscal note has already been allocated. He explained this is an ongoing effort to bring forward recommendations. He explained the possible expenditures.

Senator Den Hartog said she has worked on the FFIC and she is hopeful the work will be finished in the upcoming year.

Chairman Mortimer said there is a great need to address the funding formula, as well as the need to put an accountability measure in place. He is hopeful the process will be completed in the next year.

The motion passed by **voice vote**.

H 631

Relating to Higher Education; Amend and Revise Provisions Regarding Residency Requirements. Representative Wendy Horman, District 31, explained the need for **H 631**. She said many Idaho students are lost to surrounding state colleges due to the simpler residency requirements in those states. **H 631** attempts to capture out-of-state students that come into Idaho, at any public or private institution, and provide them opportunities to earn residency status in graduate programs. **Representative Horman** said **H 631** will amend Idaho Code § 33-3717B. She detailed at length the proposed legislation.

Senator Ward-Engelking said she appreciated the timely legislation.

MOTION:

Senator Ward-Engelking moved to send **H 631** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION:

Teacher Evaluations. Christina Linder, Educator Effectiveness Program Manager, State Board of Education (SBE), presented an overview on last year's review of certificated staff evaluations. She detailed the criteria and methods of the teacher review process. **Ms. Linder** stated according to statute, the SBE must conduct an annual review of certified staff evaluations and verify the evaluations are conducted with fidelity to meet the State's framework, which consists of 22 components along with two documented observations (Attachment 2).

Ms. Linder said evidence is reviewed as determined by rule and/or administrative code. She explained how the data is collected from the evaluations, and from administrator and teacher surveys. The evaluations are reviewed by practitioners with verified knowledge of Idaho's evaluation requirements. **Ms. Linder** stated there have been some disagreements regarding how policy has been interpreted and applied.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Den Hartog asked if policy relating to the personnel files had been resolved. **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, replied the issue was resolved by statute, Idaho Code § 33-1004B, which states how personnel information is shared and what must be retained in the personnel file. **Ms. Bent** said law states: all material relevant to their evaluations must be kept in their files. She said the disagreement is about the meaning of the word "all."

Ms. Linder said the findings of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 review showed overall compliance is similar to the FY 2017 review, with a slight increase towards full compliance. The SBE anticipates continued improvements as further clarification is given to administrators and changes in practice continues. She reviewed the outcomes of the administrator and teacher surveys; many indicated the desire for more training. **Ms. Linder** explained the administrator requirements for performing evaluations. She outlined some recommendations for evaluator training.

DISCUSSION:

Vice Chairman Thayn stated he believes the purpose of the evaluations is to improve instruction. He asked if the SBE's has determined if instruction is being improved. **Ms. Linder** replied instruction improvement is determined by student growth and achievement, and that is on the rise.

Senator Guthrie asked if the evaluation process was necessary. **Ms. Linder** replied the evaluations were conducted according to statute and have resulted in evaluation uniformity and consistency across the State.

Senator Ward-Engelking said when the career ladder was put into place, there was a great deal of discussion and disagreement. She stated not all of the 22 components necessarily apply to each teaching position. She said it maybe time to revisit the components.

Chairman Mortimer asked how the evaluators or schools are getting a student-parent component. **Ms. Linder** replied it is often done through parent feedback. For some schools getting feedback can be difficult.

Chairman Mortimer said there is forward progress for teacher evaluations. He stated a critical component to the evaluation is the feedback from parents. He encouraged the development of innovative forms of communication to fulfill that component.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary

Diane James
Assistant Secretary