

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, and Crabtree

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking

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 2:05 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Winder** moved to approve the Minutes of February 26, 2018.
Vice Chairman Thayn seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Den Hartog moved to approve the Minutes of March 1, 2018.
Senator Nonini seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Nonini moved to approve the Minutes of March 5, 2018.
Senator Den Hartog seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Den Hartog moved to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2018.
Vice Chairman Thayn seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Den Hartog moved to approve the Minutes of March 7, 2018.
Senator Nonini seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Guthrie moved to approve the Minutes of March 12, 2018.
Senator Winder seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DISCUSSION: **End of the Year Discussion.** **Chairman Mortimer** said at the start of the Legislative Session, Committee members listed topics they would like to see addressed. He asked the members to report their thoughts on the progress of this year's Committee.

Vice Chairman Thayn stated he liked progress of the division of career technical education (CTE). He was concerned that mastery-based education remained stagnant and there is more to learn. He said technology is being implemented. He asserted he would like more information regarding the progress of K-3 literacy. He said getting more information from data would help understand the progress in these areas.

Chairman Mortimer noted there will be external reviews of K-3 literacy, mastery-based education, and career and college counseling. He said there should be some type of formal report available for the next Legislative Session.

Senator Winder commended Chairman Mortimer for his efforts in proposed legislation and policy changes to improve reading and other student assessments. He encouraged continued work on educational concerns during the interim.

Senator Den Hartog said many positive legislative actions were implemented this year. She stated a great deal of money has been invested in education and it is her hope and expectation that will result in improved outcomes. She spoke about her role on the Interim Funding Formula Committee and is eager for solution. She expressed concern about the legislation that would not be completed. She hopes for the future, help can be directed at the student population that needs additional support.

Senator Crabtree reiterated the adage, "if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it" certainly applies to education. He suggested the loosening of some requirements and being more focused on outcomes: are the goals being achieved. He said he would like higher education to become more of a priority.

Senator Guthrie said he met with teachers in his district. These are the people that do the work. He senses their frustration with new programs, new data gathering, and new accountability measures. He said one of the comments he received was teachers do not get a chance to see if something is going to work before there is a transition to a new program. **Senator Guthrie** stated he is pleased with the relationship between stakeholders and the Legislature; he maintained the relationship is healthier than he has ever remembered.

Chairman Mortimer expressed his appreciation to the Committee for their hard work.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary