

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent of Policy and Communications, State Department of Education (SDE); Brandon Durst, citizen; Tiffany Grant, citizen; Kim Glineski; Maci Glineski, citizen; Julie Oberle Chief Financial Officer SDE; Tim McMurtrey, Deputy Superintendent, Operations SDE; Karlynn Laraway SDE; Lisa Colon Durham, Director, Certification and Professional Standards SDE.

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

H 175: **Superintendent Ybarra** introduced legislation intended to put student needs first by bringing students back to in-person instruction in school. She stated the learning loss and loss of other services have placed students at a disadvantage, the legislation creates a pathway to reopen schools. The legislation provides school districts with the latitude to prioritize what is best for their students at a local level.

Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent of Policy and Communications for the SDE, read through the legislation and changes to language to emphasize knowledge, skills, and uninterrupted education. She stated the legislation will be useful serving students regardless of the type of emergency. Ms. Whitney answered Committee questions that districts have the option but are not mandated to offer in-person instruction.

Brandon Durst spoke in opposition to H 175.

Tiffany Grant and **Kim Glineski** spoke in support of H 175.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to send H 175 to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Superintendent Ybarra addressed Committee questions that the legislation allows districts the flexibility to offer K-12 in-person instruction or online based on district abilities. She stated this legislation addresses the pandemic and future situations which could create barriers to student learning while protecting school district decisions. Sup. Ybarra answered Committee questions that districts have the option but are not mandated to offer in-person instruction.

In answer to Committee questions, **Marilyn Whitney** stated the language of the legislation provided the opportunity for districts to offer music, physical education and art instruction. Ms. Whitney answered Committee questions that districts have the option but are not mandated to offer in-person instruction during inclement weather, building or during other emergencies.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Yamamoto** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 175** for time certain, February 25, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Rep. Toone requested a roll call vote. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 12 AYE, 3 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Vice Chairman Kerby, Reps. Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, Berch, and Chairman Clow. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Ehardt, McCrostie, and Toone.**

RS 28619: **Vice Chairman Kerby** introduced legislation to streamline education, removing bureaucracy. The legislation also supports school accountability measures by adding a commission to provide improvement measure oversight.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 28619. Motion carried by voice vote.**

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Chairman Clow** made a unanimous consent request to extend adjournment beyond 10:50 a.m. There being no objection, the request was granted.

RS 28614: **Rep. Shepherd** introduced legislation to create a teaching certificate specific to the Local Education Authority (LEA) in which they are employed. This creates a path for teacher certification while filling an immediate demand for more teachers.

MOTION: **Rep. Moon** made a motion to introduce **RS 28614. Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Toone** requested she be recorded as voting **NAY**.

The Committee recognized Page **Austin Swing's** service during the first half of the session.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary