

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 06, 2019

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, 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 3:03 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Sherri Ybarra**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education (SDE), said they have updated the report card website to be a friendly way for parents, educators, policymakers and the public to retrieve non-biased performance information about Idaho schools and districts, grades K-12. She said this project took over three years to complete and was approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) in March of 2108 as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Superintendent Ybarra introduced Karlynn Laraway, Director, Assessment and Accountability, SDE, to present the New and Improved Idaho School, District, and State Report Card. **Ms. Laraway** stated data reporting is not a new concept, however, this program is a new in the way which data is presented to the public. She said the website where the program she will be demonstrating can be found is at www.idahoschools.org.

Ms. Laraway said the new report card website is a place where people can learn more information about the schools they are interested in. She gave the Committee a live demonstration of the new website highlighting the following areas: how to find a school, the academic and non-academic indicators of specific schools, and staff and parent engagement. She said the financial tab is still being developed and they are hoping to expand the new report card website to provide additional school information.

Chairman Mortimer thanked Ms. Laraway and Superintendent Ybarra for sharing this incredible information. He hopes parents and others will use this tool to better understand the progress of their school of choice.

RECORDING LINK: To hear the complete ESSA presentation, go to:
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/SEDU/>.

RS 26692 **Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent, Communication and Policy SDE, presented **RS 26692**, Relating to Education; Continuous Improvement Plan (Plan). She said the proposed legislation seeks to eliminate duplicate reporting in the Plans. These plans are created yearly by districts and charter schools to help set student performance goals and then to report the progress of those goals. She said those who helped write the Plan came from the SDE, the SBE, and school administrators, who made recommendations on how to streamline and eliminate duplicate reporting. **Ms. Whitney** said there is no impact to the General Fund.

- MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 26692** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- RS 26697** **Ms. Whitney** presented **RS 26697**, Relating to Education; Mastery Based Education (MBE). She said the proposed legislation represents the next step for the implementation of MBE in Idaho. She explained how it lifts the cap of twenty incubator programs from the statute and allows the SDE to expand the number of school districts and charters to join and participate in the network. She stated the proposed legislation would also allow any district or charter to join the network even if they're not selected to receive that seed money or startup funding.
- Senator Ward-Engelking** expressed her concerns about Joint Appropriations and Funding Committee (JFAC) being able to fund the program. **Ms. Whitney** replied the legislature always has the discretion on what is appropriated to any given program.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **RS 26697** to print. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- RS 26699** **Senator Den Hartog** presented **RS 26699**, Relating to Charter Schools; Certification for School Administrators. She said the proposed legislation would create a new charter school administrator certificate as an alternative to traditional administrator certificates.
- Senator Ward-Engelking** said out of respect for her colleague, she will vote to print the legislation, but will not be supporting it.
- MOTION:** **Senator Crabtree** moved to send **RS 26699** to print. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- RS 26757** **Vice Chairman Thayn** presented **RS 26757**, Relating to Education; School Levies. He explained the supplemental levy process and the process needed for a permanent levy. He stated this proposed legislation is to help districts, who depend greatly on the supplemental levies for operation, to not have to hold elections as often.
- MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 26757** to print. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- RS 26774** **Vice Chairman Thayn** presented **RS 26774**, Relating to Education; School Flexibility. He said the proposed legislation is the culmination of two years of work from a local high school student and it fits well with Idaho's Mastery Based Education approach. He explained the criteria students must meet to qualify for this program.
- MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 26774** to print. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary