

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2019

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Woodward

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 2:04 p.m.

Senator Winder opened with a reading from the book, *A Heap O 'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest, "The Safe Golfer."

H 93 **Senator Lent** introduced Blake Youde, Teach for America (TFA), to present **H 93**, Relating to Education; Nontraditional Educator Preparation.

Mr. Youde detailed the teacher shortage in Idaho and said **H 93** is to help recruit, retain, and train teachers, with the goal for them to supply hard-to-fill teaching positions. He stated this is not a State driven program, instead it allows school districts, at the local level, to enter into agreements with teacher recruitment/preparation organizations to fulfill those positions. **Mr. Youde** explained the funding component would come from the State Department of Education (SDE) and would be a 100 percent matching fund grant. He noted there is also the possibility for funding eligibility with the U.S. Department of Education.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if there has been discussion as to how to recruit, retain, and train teachers using a State program rather than organizations such as TFA. **Mr. Youde** replied TFA is the only organization in Idaho that is currently doing this type of work. He stated the colleges and universities are working to get teachers trained but they are unable to fulfill the needs. He stated the retention trend of teachers in TFA is higher. He said the proposed legislation is about moving teachers into the classroom.

Chairman Mortimer asked if there is a limit to the amount of money approved for any specific teacher. **Mr. Youde** replied in the negative. He explained the recruitment and training process before a teacher is placed into a classroom. He said TFA's cost per teacher is approximately \$12,500.

Chairman Mortimer asked for more explanation regarding the costs to the districts and to the State. **Mr. Youde** explained the matching fund requirement and how the local school districts apply to the SDE for the funds.

TESTIMONY: **Christine Ketterling**, Federal Program and Curriculum Director, Homedale School District, explained that her district is the sixth most impoverished in the state. She explained the hiring process and difficulty the district has in filling its teaching positions. She explained the partnership the district has with TFA and how those hard-to-fill positions have been filled with teachers trained from TFA. **Ms. Ketterling** reported the impact TFA teachers have had on the community and how their ability to process data has helped other teachers to implement programs for growth. She stated the teachers make a two-year commitment to the school district they are serving. She addressed the ability of a district to void a contract if necessary.

Michael Jacobsen, Superintendent, Swan Falls, Idaho, said there are five people in his district who received their certification through a nontraditional route. He explained his experience with TFA and stated the instruction and training helped him to be a better teacher and administrator. He said he uses the TFA as a foundation for innovative teaching.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked what the costs of TFA are to the state. **Mr. Jacobsen** said currently he believes the cost to the State is minimal because of matching funding. He explained the training programs TFA teachers go to during the summer months. He said those costs are covered by TFA and the benefits are experienced in the classrooms. He reminded the Committee that TFA is a tool to recruit teachers and in Idaho they are only focusing on recruitment in the Treasure Valley.

TESTIMONY: **Tony Ashton**, Executive Director, TFA, said if the proposed legislation is approved and the money appropriated to this program, TFA and other institutions that qualify would apply for funding through the SDE. Those funds received from the SDE would only be used for the recruitment, selection, and training of TFA teachers. He said the amount allocated would be based upon the total number of teachers enrolled, and on the requirements/needs of the district.

Senator Den Hartog asked what it costs to recruit and train a teacher in TFA. **Mr. Ashton** replied approximately \$40,000 per teacher for the two-year commitment. Those costs include recruitment, selection, training, certification, and credentialing.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked how much of the \$40,000 is funded by the State. **Mr. Ashton** replied the proposed legislation is written so the State would pay half of the costs.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Mortimer** asked for more clarification regarding the program's funding. **Mr. Youde** replied the proposed legislation asks for one-to-one matching funds. If it costs \$20,000 a year to support a TFA teacher, it would cost the State \$10,000 per year. He explained the one-to-one match is to encourage other teacher training organizations to come to Idaho to help recruit and train new teachers.

Chairman Mortimer said the proposed legislation does not address what agency is to disperse the funds and if there is a yearly limit to the fund amount.

Mr. Youde thanked the Committee for the time to review the proposed legislation. He stated the key to **H 93** is to help get qualified teachers into the classrooms to turn out high-quality students.

Senator Lent said this is a good piece of legislation to benefit our students, yet there is some uncertainty and lack of clarity in **H 93** as to how the funding will take place.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **H 93** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Den Hartog** asked what the amendment would be.

Vice Chairman Thayn suggested they add a statement which would address the costs.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **H 93** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Crabtree** moved to approve the Minutes of January 31, 2019. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Winder moved to approve the Minutes of February 4, 2019. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Den Hartog moved to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2019. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Lent moved to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2019. **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 3:01 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary