

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2020

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the Committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Chairman Clow turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Kerby**.

DOCKET NO. 08-0000-1900: **Rep. Moon** testified **in opposition** to the Idaho Math Content Standards. She expressed concern that voices outside of the Treasure Valley are not being heard. Many of her constituents feel their children do not understand math anymore and the curriculum moves along too quickly.

Vice Chairman Kerby put the Committee at ease at 9:15 am.

Vice Chairman Kerby resumed the meeting at 9:21 am.

Peggy Hoy, Soñia Galaviz, Megan Bell, Sue Darden, Dr. Michelle Carney, Dr. Kelli Rich, Justin Pickens, Nick Channer, Danielle Desjarlais, Chris Stoker, Shelly Wray, Bret Heller and **Jay Larsen** spoke **in support** of the math standards.

They were of the opinion that the new standards are creating lifelong learners and gave teachers tools to hold students accountable for their own learning. Math is hard and the standards are rigorous, and teachers may need to shift how they teach. It was suggested that if there are problems, implementation should be changed rather than the standards. Parents are supportive and the shift to 'why' we do math gives students a more solid foundation. They stated that standards are working and that there is real world context in the teaching. Current standards are giving freedom and flexibility to design instruction based on individual student needs. Some expressed dismay at the illusion of dysfunction and believed it would be better to focus on resources to help the teachers. It was suggested that Idaho does not have the time, expertise or resources to develop their own standards, and there needs to be focus on the way teachers teach, because the standards are correct.

Quinn Perry, Policy and Government Affairs Director, Idaho School Boards Association, wanted to be on the record **in support** of reauthorizing all the standards because striking them will cause disruptions in education.

Kenn Roberts, Fred Birnbaum, Tiffany Ruegner and **Becky Menlove** spoke **in opposition** to the math standards.

They were of the opinion that Idaho's math education is not teaching students real life applications, nor have the standards increased test scores. It was stated that in its ambition to improve rigor, Common Core has overcomplicated the subject and that students shouldn't be experimented on like widgets. They felt that outcomes should matter, instead of procedures. They stated that they aren't in opposition because the standards are too rigorous, but because they are inefficient.

The Committee expressed concern about only hearing how the standards are being taught, not about the standards themselves. However, if the standards are driving the methodology, then they need to be reexamined.

Vice Chairman Kerby turned the gavel over to **Chairman Clow**.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.

Representative Kerby
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary