

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2020

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 Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Angela Hemingway**, Executive Director of the Idaho Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Action Center (Center), shared that STEM job needs are growing much more rapidly than non-STEM jobs. She also shared that a large portion of Center funding serves rural communities and that the skills taught at the Center are directly translatable into career skills. She shared the Center's goals and how they align with the White House STEM Strategic Plan. **Dr. Hemingway** told the Committee how their budget is spent. She went on to tell the Committee about the various programs the Center has in place for educators. She mentioned that the Center is having issues with tracking students who are eligible for a STEM diploma, and assured the Committee that the Center will be working with the Idaho State Board of Education (Board) to define eligibility for the STEM diploma. She went on to share that, for fiscal year 2020, the Center has already nearly reached their \$1 million fundraising goal. She also shared several of the Center's other achievements. **Dr. Hemingway** concluded by inviting the Committee to the multiple upcoming STEM events and competitions (see Attachment 1).

In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Hemingway** said that if the Center had more ongoing funding, it would be able to extend STEM learning opportunities to more individuals.

PRESENTATION: **Sara Scudder**, Career Information Senior Program Manager for the Idaho State Board of Education (Board), introduced herself and Byron Yankey, College and Career Advising Program Manager for the Board. **Mr. Yankey** showed the Next Steps website to the Committee and displayed the current and upcoming features of the website. **Ms. Scudder** explained how the website can help students who are not planning to attend college to have a clear plan for success through the military, apprenticeships, or entering the workforce. **Mr. Yankey** shared some of the programs that Next Steps is using to encourage students to apply for college (see Attachment 2).

DISCUSSION: **Mr. Yankey** responded to Committee questions that the rapidly changing workforce creates a requirement for the Next Step program to expand. **Ms. Scudder** responded to Committee questions by detailing the wide utilization of the Career Information Program's resources. **Mr. Yankey** shared the expansion and success of the College and Career Advising program over the past few years. He then agreed with Committee comments that the program has a long way to go in order to meet the needs of all of the students of Idaho.

PRESENTATION: **Debbie Critchfield**, President of the Idaho State Board of Education (Board), presented on behalf of Tracie Bent of the Board and Marilyn Whitney of the Idaho State Department of Education (Department) and reminded the Committee that the Legislature mandated that the Board and the Department come up with an enrollment data collection process. She shared that the Board and Department had been unable to find an all-encompassing definition of a course for enrollment purposes. **Superintendent Sherri Ybarra** introduced Tim Hill, Associate Deputy Superintendent of Public School Finance for the Department, and Christopher Campbell, Chief Technology Officer of Technology Services for the Department. **Mr. Hill** presented the method for gathering enrollment data from the state's school districts. He proceeded to show the Data Transparency Tool to the Committee and explain how school administrators could use it to understand how the data they submitted to the Department was utilized.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Woodward** moved to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2020. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Shawn Keough to the State Board of Education to the floor with recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Woodward** agreed to sponsor the appointment on the floor.

RS 27404C1 AND RS 27402 **Chairman Mortimer** told the Committee that **RS 27404C1** and **RS 27402** were before the Committee.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 27404C1** and **RS 27402** to print. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary