

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 26, 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 meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Trevor Sparrow**, Program Director for Idaho Youth Challenge Academy (IDYCA), told the Committee that in the seven years since the program's inception, IDYCA has improved their graduation rates. He explained that IDYCA is an accredited residential high school with a quasi-military lifestyle. He then addressed the benefits of the military model that was incorporated. **Mr. Sparrow** shared the successes of the program regarding high school diplomas, GEDs, and high school credits. It was noted that most students of IDYCA are at risk of dropping out of school.
- Bicker Therien**, Principal of IDYCA, said that he has been involved as an educator for 35 years and has not seen anything that has impacted student lives as much as IDYCA. The teaching staff that was hired at the inception of the program are still teaching and are held accountable for the students' learning. **Mr. Therien** said the military model increases the students' chance of success.
- Crystal Cornejo**, a recent graduate of IDYCA, relayed her experience about how the structure helped her raise her GPA from 0.9 to 3.7. Her plans now are to graduate from high school, then join the Army.
- DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Mortimer** inquired about the follow-up program for graduates of IDYCA. **Mr. Sparrow** explained that for a year after graduation, students are paired with a mentor to stick to the post-graduation action plan they created while with IDYCA. **Chairman Mortimer** then asked how IDYCA recruited students. **Mr. Sparrow** responded that graduates of the program are the best recruiters. IDYCA receives approximately 20 letters of interest a day. Graduates provide support for current cadets and help with orientation classes throughout the state. **Senator Winder** asked what the largest challenge was for IDYCA and the reply was maintenance costs, due to the location of the school. **Mr. Sparrow** added that the location was also an asset as there are fewer distractions. **Mr. Therien** shared that testing accountability is an issue for IDYCA as the students are no longer in the school district when they receive test results. **Senator Buckner-Webb** remarked that when she visited IDYCA, the cadets were extremely motivated and excited for the opportunities that IDYCA offered.
- H 395** **Representative Amador** introduced **H 395** and explained that the current statute only allows Lewis Clark State College (LCSC) to offer up to a baccalaureate degree. He stated that LCSC had been approached to offer several nursing certifications which were only offered at the undergraduate level. He then asked Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, President of LCSC, to continue with an explanation of the bill.

Dr. Pemberton explained the bill would allow the State Board of Education to review proposals from LCSC for graduate level classes and programs. LCSC is the nursing education provider for students from McCall to Canada, and this bill would allow LCSC to respond to the needs of that industry. **Dr. Pemberton** said that no new programs could be developed without the express consent of the State Board of Education. She stated that the Legislature sets policy.

Senator Johnson voiced his support of **H 395**. He stated that the Legislature sets policy and compared LCSC's proposal to the development of the engineering program at Boise State University.

Representative Amador thanked the Committee for hearing the bill and said the bill would improve educational opportunities for northern Idaho nurses.

MOTION: **Senator Crabtree** moved to send **H 395** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Johnson will be the floor sponsor.

H 480 **Representative Raymond** told the Committee that the bill creates a seal to be put on the diplomas of students who have reached a certain level of fluency in any of a multitude of world languages. The seal would allow students to showcase their second language proficiency as they apply for post-secondary education or for jobs.

TESTIMONY: **Danyelle Davis**, President of Idaho Association for Teachers of Language and Culture, testified in support of the bill. She stated that 38 other states already have a seal for bilingual graduates and that the seal would be an asset for graduates who had achieved the correct level of proficiency in a second language.

Representative Raymond said he was supportive of the benefits of learning a second language and urged the Committee to send the bill to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **H 480** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Thayn will be the floor sponsor.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Woodward** moved to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2020. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Vice Chairman Thayn moved to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2020. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Winder moved to approve the Minutes of February 4, 2020. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Ward-Engelking moved to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2020. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Buckner-Webb moved to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2020. **Senator Woodward** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Senator Mortimer
Chair
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary

Juanita Budell
Assistant Secretary