

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 19, 2024
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Lincoln Auditorium
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Nichols, Carlson, Herndon, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Den Hartog
- 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 Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:05 p.m.
- PRESENTATION: Data Driven Decisions at Horseshoe Bend Elementary.** **Ryan Cantrell**, Chief Deputy Superintendent, Idaho Department of Education, introduced Cora Larson, Principal of Horseshoe Bend Elementary School. **Ms. Larson** shared about transforming Horseshoe Bend Elementary from a two star school to a National Blue Ribbon School in three years, and explained how this turnaround was accomplished. She described how the school shifted its mindset of blaming low achievement on student circumstances and adopted high expectations for all. She spoke about the importance of using student assessment data to fine-tune instruction and individualize student interventions. She shared about the important work that the paraprofessional team did to support students and advocated for a wage increase for those employees.
- DISCUSSION:** In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Larson** commented on the advantages and disadvantages of the 4-day school week. She stated that she preferred a 5-day school week for optimal student instruction. However, as a school they learned to maximize all instructional time available to them. She added that the 4-day school week allowed her school to recruit and retain high quality teachers who preferred that schedule.
- PRESENTATION: ISBA Day on the Hill Greetings.** **Starr Olsen**, Trustee, Dietrich School District and President, Idaho State Board Association (ISBA), introduced the Day on the Hill for educators and welcomed the 200 school board members, administrators, and guests present. **Mr. Olsen** introduced Dr. Phil Gore, Chief Learning Officer, ISBA.
- PRESENTATION: The Board's Role in Student Achievement.** **Dr. Phil Gore**, Chief Learning Officer, ISBA, shared that the vision at ISBA was to empower local school boards for student success. He explained that the ISBA accomplished this by helping school boards to grow in their knowledge and skills, and to understand the dispositions and actions required to govern and oversee public education for the best possible student outcomes. **Dr. Gore** described key areas of work for school boards to lead and govern for improved student achievement which included goal setting, monitoring student progress, and building public will. He urged that a prescriptive formula not be applied to all school boards and offered that school boards functioned best when they had the autonomy to govern themselves.

PRESENTATION: Demystifying AI: A Quick Look at Past, Present, and Future. **Josh Jones**, President, Quanthub Inc., presented about artificial intelligence (AI) and data science. He spoke about the acceleration in development of generative AI and its impact on education. He gave examples of where AI was used and provided trends and observations about where AI was headed in the future.

DISCUSSION: In response to Committee member questions, **Mr. Jones** shared about the digital citizenship course that Quanthub Inc. offered. He discussed data privacy in both corporate and educational settings.

Senator Lent invited any members of the audience to come forward and to speak about issues important to them. **Jon Rehder**, Superintendent, Cottonwood School District, introduced himself and offered his perspective on school choice legislation.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lisa Stein
Secretary