

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 12, 2012

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:**

**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.

**MINUTES:** **Chairman Goedde** called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM. He reported that he has received the opinion from the Attorney General's office. **Chairman Goedde** passed the gavel to **Vice Chairman Mortimer** who proceeded with further reviews of the rules.

**DOCKET  
08-0202-1101** **Luci Willits** introduced **Docket 08-0202-1101**. The manual that the school district and the department use for operations is available on a CD if a copy is requested. A copy is not provided because it is very extensive. The manual was updated last in 2008. In 2010, the National Congress of School Transportation recommended new standards and those standards were incorporated. **Senator Toryanski** asked if the standards for school buses include a requirement for seat belts and then clarified his question by stating that the answer would not matter for passage of the docket, but that he was just interested in finding out why seat belts cannot be found in school buses, especially when they travel on highways where the speed limit can be 65-75 mph. **Ms. Willits** was not aware of the answer but made note of the request and will get the information to the committee.

**Senator Andreason** spoke next regarding his concerns about school buses busing children of all ages together, creating a variety of problems with bullying, etc. **Ms. Willits** indicated that each district works independent of each other, allowing for staggered routes if necessary (grade school together, high school together, etc.). Smaller districts may not be able to stagger, but the Board continues to work with the districts regarding resolutions to the complaints they receive. **Brad Jensen** with the State Department of Education, Transportation, responded additionally that it is very expensive to outfit all the school buses with seat belts. **Senator Andreason** responded that the expense would be high, but it would be a one time expense that would last many years before needing replacement. He requested whether the Department of Education could provide any information on the cost of what implementing seat belts in school buses would cost and how much the cost of insurance would increase. **Mr. Jensen** will provide that information.

**MOTION:** **Senator Fulcher** moved to approve **Docket 08-0202-1101**. **Senator Malepeai** seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

**DOCKET  
08-0202-1102** **Luci Willits** introduced **Docket 08-0202-1102**. The State Department of Education oversees the accreditation process for the high schools in Idaho. This is a simple name change from "Northwest Association of Accredited Schools," it is now the "Northwest Accreditation Commission."

**MOTION:** **Chairman Goedde** moved to approve **Docket 08-0202-1102**. **Senator Fulcher** seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

**DOCKET  
08-0202-1103**

**Luci Willits** introduced **Docket 08-0202-1103** concerning educator endorsements, including adding wording to clarify foreign language and school psychologist endorsements. **Senator Fulcher** requested clarification regarding the foreign language wording. **Ms. Willits** responded that the change would require those teaching English as a foreign language to go through foreign language courses not English so they have a better understanding of how to teach English as a foreign language. **Chairman Goedde** sought explanation of the school psychologist endorsement. **Christina Linder** with the Department of Education explained that the national certification for school psychologists is more rigorous than is required in the State of Idaho. The real problem was that some were getting their national board certification and then two years later their Idaho certification would come up and while they had done all the work, another renewal had to be paid. This change would alleviate that need.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Fulcher** moved to approve **Docket 08-0202-1103**. **Chairman Goedde** seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

**DOCKET  
08-0202-1104**

**Luci Willits** introduced **Docket 08-0202-1104** concerning interim certificates for in-state educators. Currently, if an out-of-state educator seeking certification in Idaho and who meets their state requirements, is allowed a three year interim certificate while they get Idaho certification. This change would allow in-state teachers who have allowed their certifications to lapse to be granted an interim certificate while they take the proper course work to become re-certified. **Chairman Goedde** asked if it was only educators who were educated in Idaho. **Ms. Willits** responded that the educators did not necessarily have to be educated in Idaho, but they had to have been certified in Idaho in order to teach here.

**MOTION:**

**Senator LeFavour** moved to approve **Docket 08-0202-1104**. **Senator Fulcher** seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

**DOCKET  
08-0202-1105**

**Luci Willits** introduced **Docket 08-0202-1105** concerning streamlining the teacher preparation program approval process so that there is a single national accrediting organization. There would be a policy that within two years the change would need to be implemented. **Vice-Chairman Mortimer** requested clarification on whether or not this would impact students who are already going through their University's teaching program - would they then need to change their course work to get in line with the new national program? **Ms. Linder** took the podium and stated that once a student is in one catalogue, they cannot be forced to take more course work which would hinder their graduation. The next change is that currently institutions have an approval process of seven years, which is too long of time because too many things change in that amount of time. State specific requirements will now be every three years.

**TESTIMONY:**

**Penni Cyr** with the Idaho Education Association wanted to thank the Department of Education for listening to the IEA's concerns. IEA supports the rule as it is written.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Winder** moved to approve **Docket 08-0202-1105**. **Senator Fulcher** seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

**DOCKET  
08-0202-1106**

**Luci Willits** introduced **Docket 08-0202-1106** concerning teacher evaluations. The first part simply was a departmental error from last session. The next is the addition of parental input. Each district can decide how much weight to be given to the parental input and the methods in which parental input is taken. **Senator Winder** asked if this was consistent with the RS from earlier in the week. **Ms. Willits** confirmed they are the same. The next section is the addition of student achievement. Fifty percent of teacher evaluation needs to be based on student achievement and it needs to be based on growth in student achievement as it is determined by the Board of Trustees. The next addition is that all contract employees should be evaluated at least one time annually. The Board received 22 public comments on this rule. They do not believe there are any outstanding issues or any ambiguity as they relate to the comments.

**TESTIMONY**

**Penni Cyr** with the Idaho Education Association stated that the Idaho Education Association brought concerns about application of the language regarding personnel and **Ms. Willits** has committed to defining the terms.

**Senator LeFavour** stated that she has some discomfort with the rule and feels it is counter productive. She will be opposing the rule.

**Senator Andreason** requested clarification to ensure that there is agreement with the Idaho Education Association. **Ms. Willits** stated that there is an agreement once the board defines three different positions/terms and they would come back next year to further define the terms if Idaho Education Association requests.

**Senator Andreason** further asked if the changes were run by the Idaho Education Association. **Ms. Willits** stated the changes were not run by Idaho Education Association.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Winder** moved to approve Docket 08-0202-1106. **Chairman Goedde** seconded the motion. **Senators Malepeai, LeFavour and Andreason** opposed passing the rule. The motion passed.

**Senator Fulcher** made a comment that he appreciates the Idaho Education Association and the Board of Education working together.

**ADJOURN:**

**Vice Chairman Mortimer** returned the gavel to **Chairman Goedde**, who stated he would like to discuss the letter from **Mr. Kane** on Monday, if counsel for the Idaho Education Association is available. **Senator Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 3:54 PM.

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Senator Goedde  
Chairman

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LeAnn South  
Secretary

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Shannon Dearing  
Assistant Secretary